

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting November 20, 2014

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott, and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Evans.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the October 23rd Business Meeting and October 30th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.
- III. **Recognition:** President White presented the *Yes We Can Award* to Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25. The School realized great gains in terms of student growth and academic achievement in Math and ELA.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Shirley Thompson offered apologetic remarks to the Board for a misunderstanding concerning advocacy for parents of bilingual and Spanish speaking parents. Staff member John Gabriel brought members of the School of the Arts choir and asked the Board and members for the community support in funding an upcoming trip to the Heritage Music Festival in Boston, MA.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Adele Bovard delivered a brief presentation highlighting extended day programming and progress made in reducing summer learning loss. She noted that the District has instituted more and better summer learning programs, enhanced summer of reading programming in 2014, and engaged the Rochester community in learning opportunities for all District students.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet during the month of November. Commissioner Adams presented the draft Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Board review and comment. She noted that all questions and comments should be forwarded to the Auditor General for response by Wednesday, November 26, 2014. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. The entire Board is invited to attend. At the meeting, the Board will be joined by Freed Maxick, CPAs, P.C., the External Auditor, to review the results of the Financial Audit for the year ended June 30, 2014.

Finance Committee
Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 13th to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 310 through 313. The Committee recommends approval of the October 2014 Financial Report and the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the reports, Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Motion carries 7-0. The following

resolutions were also reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 310 and 311 for Procurement & Supply; Resolution 312 for Educational Facilities; and Resolution 313 for Other. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11th, at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: On Tuesday, November 18, 2014, the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee received a presentation from the Administration on the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) and School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) for Schools #8, 9, 22 and 34. The DCIP and SCEPs were provided to full Board for review and will be part of Resolution: 2014-15- 320 for consideration tonight. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not hold their regular monthly meeting in November because the focus was on the annual Legislative Breakfast, which was held on Saturday, November 15th. The Board was joined by approximately 30 attendees for the Legislative Breakfast, including representatives from Senator Gillibrand's office, Congresswoman Slaughter's office, and Governor Cuomo's office. Allen Williams, Director of Special Projects with the City of Rochester, gave a presentation about the Mayor's Early Childhood Education Initiative and this stimulated a lively discussion about the importance of an enriched environment in a child's early years, ways to engage parents and families early in the child's life, and the impact of day care subsidies on families.

Dave Seeley, Senior Advisor to NYS Assemblyman Joe Morelle, discussed the Assemblyman's initiative with The Children's Agenda to convene stakeholders in early childhood education to consolidate their agenda and present a more powerful, unified platform. The Child Policy Council will be meeting to discuss their preliminary agenda, and Assemblyman Morelle's office can be contacted for further information. Monroe County Legislator Cynthia Kaleh described the County's early childhood intervention programs to screen and identify children with disabilities, and suggested that the District collaborate with the Nurse-Family Partnership to provide a seamless transition from the home into the school system. Tom Richards also presented an overview of the Facilities Modernization Program, accomplishments to date, and plans for the near future. The dialog that ensued touched on improvements in infrastructure to facilitate use of technology in the classroom to accommodate 21st century instructional methods, enable flexibility to adjust to future educational needs and structures, improvements in the safety and security of buildings, and conveying the value placed on education in our community. City Council Vice President Dana Miller noted that the items on the 2014-15 Legislative Agenda pertaining to the City are well within the realm of accomplishing. He stated that the City would like to collaborate with the District on a number of initiatives, particularly the Facilities Modernization Program and Career & Technical Education.

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee will follow up on a number of the suggestions presented in the Legislative Breakfast:

- Work with staff in Senator Gillibrand's office to identify ways to advocate for a federal waiver to enable ELL students to take an alternative assessment, rather than the standard ELA exam.
- Obtain further information about Parent Leadership training offered through The Children's Agenda to promote parents' literacy

- Explore opportunities to connect with the Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP) to provide constructive feedback to teachers in early grades (e.g. K-3)
- Advocate for raising reimbursement rates for service providers involved in early intervention services because the current rates are so low that there is a shortage.
- Follow through in collaborating with the City of Rochester by providing unique identifiers for each student to enable monitoring of progress over time and to evaluate program effectiveness
- Identify ways to facilitate communication with parents in direct, comprehensible ways that are meaningful to them
- Obtain information about the system used by the NYS Department of Transportation to track the location and specific aspects of the infrastructure to improve planning for projects and minimize the use of change orders
- Obtain further information about the “All Children are Equal Act” formula from Congresswoman Slaughter’s office

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Thursday, November 13th, the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss the following: Policy 5500, Student Records and Privacy, policies requiring deliverables from Superintendent, and the Concussion Management policy submitted by General Counsel, Ed Lopez and presented by Carlos Cotto, Executive Director of Physical Education, Athletics and Health. The District has a concussion management process in place for the past three years. It includes preventive measures for all students, impact testing and staff training. Mr. Cotto will submit data for the fall 2014 of the number of concussions and how they were treated. This policy is submitted as an informational item for the full Board to review. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on November 13th to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation Process and Performance Objectives, the Board’s governing Bylaws Policy, and the Board Staff Evaluations. The Committee discussed the Superintendent evaluation process, including the evaluation tool and performance objectives. We recommended that the evaluation tool, as reviewed, be advanced to the full Board for review tonight and acceptance at the October Business Meeting. Commissioner Campos made a motion to accept the evaluation tool for use in the 2013-14 Superintendent’s Evaluation Process. Commissioner Cruz seconded the motion, motion carries 7-0.

In discussing the Bylaws, the Committee requests that the full Board review the current policy and identify areas of opportunity. Please note, the Bylaws were recently amended in July 28, 2011 pursuant to Resolution No. 2011-12: 102. The Committee will continue discussion of the Bylaws at its December meeting, in hopes of proposing revisions to the Policy Committee (or full Board) in January 2015. Please forward suggested revisions to me by Friday, December 5th.

The Committee proposes that annual evaluations be completed for all of the Board's direct reports - earlier in the week you received the evaluation tools. Please complete the evaluations and submit them to Jacqueline Morgan by Friday, December 19th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th following the Finance and Policy Committee meetings.

VIII. Resolutions

2014-15: 285: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 286-306: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 307: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 308: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship.

2014-15: 309: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 310-312: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 313-320: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 322: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 323-327: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: None.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 8:12 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

XI. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams at 9:20 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.