

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
November 21, 2013

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

Vice President White convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Powell.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the October 22nd Business Meeting, November 8th Special Meeting and November 12th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President White, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. Recognition:** None.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.

Commissioner Campos arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Vice President White arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent John Bliss spoke about school choice and the importance of educational options and opportunities afforded to the District's students. Community Member Dr. Gerald Coles spoke about the importance of class size and cited research on student – teacher ratios and their impact on student achievement. Community Member Dan Drmacich spoke about Dr. Vargas's recent initiatives. Staff Member Mary Courtney spoke about recent violent incidents and safety concerns at and around the Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy campus. Community Member Patricia Mannix spoke about Dr. Vargas's recent initiatives.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas briefed the Board on the status of attendance throughout the District; i.e. average daily attendance rates by grade level. He spoke about the importance of attendance and engaging students to promote academic success. Dr. Vargas noted that the absenteeism rates for students in grades K through 3 are highest in the following schools: Lincoln School No. 22, Early Childhood School No. 57, Roberto Clemente School No. 8, Theodore Roosevelt School No. 43, Henry W. Longfellow School No. 36, Flower City School No. 54, Enrico Fermi School No. 17, and George Mather Forbes School No. 4. Dr. Vargas stated that he is working to address chronic absenteeism and its need of the support of District staff and members of the Rochester community.
- VII. Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: No report.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell:

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 14th to consider Resolution No. 2013-14: 330 and 331. The Committee recommends approval of the October 2013 Financial Report, approval of the 1st Quarter Student Activity Funds Report, and acceptance of the Quarterly Change Order Report for July through September 2013. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the abovementioned reports, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee recommends approval of the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution No. 2013-14: 330 and 331 for Educational Facilities.

Committee members are still considering increasing funding for the Rochester Teen Court. Additional funds may be available under the School Violence Prevention Grant, but another proposal is currently being developed for use of these funds. The proposal is due to be completed in the next few weeks, and will also be reviewed in the December Finance Committee meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, November 18th where they received a presentation from Dr. Vargas that *Improving Student Achievement with a Sense of Urgency*. In the presentation, Dr. Vargas outlined a plan to address several key issues facing the District including: the annual budget crisis; student achievement, low performing schools that are hard to manage; lack of viable alternative opportunities for students (i.e CTE); and student behavior as a barrier to achievement. Dr. Vargas stated that he will finalize and deliver three action plans, by March 2014. The first is a District Action Plan to address the key issues outlined in the presentation. The second plan is a Student Achievement Action Plan, addressing the low achievement rates in the district. And finally, a Budget Plan will be created to address the current budget crisis. The committee is looking forward to a final presentation and actions of these new initiatives. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee held the Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, November 9th. The meeting was attended by Federal, State, City and County representatives. The Legislative Breakfast allowed the CIGR committee to review the 2013 Legislative Agenda, answer questions and receive feedback in effort to continuously build a network of supporters and keep current on issues and concerns and its effects on RCSD students. There was information and knowledge gained by having the representatives join us in this setting. We will continue to reach out to many of our local government representatives to ensure continued support of the Board's initiatives. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, November 14th, and the following policies were reviewed: a proposed revision of Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900) in which the suggested revisions are based on concerns and input received from the members of the Parent Advisory Council, the policy proposal is still under review because the Parent Advisory Council would like to specify a timeframe for conducting internal audits of parent engagement activities in the District, and the Chair of the Audit Committee would like to ensure that the Auditor General has greater flexibility in determining the audit schedule based on their risk assessment; a proposed revision of Values Education policy (4311.2) that presents efforts that are under way to strike a balance between recognizing that values do not exist in a vacuum and often compete when applied to a particular

situation, and the need to provide clear guidance to the District in terms of expectations and the values to be upheld, the Committee will continue to discuss this policy in the December meeting; and the Arts Education policy (4320) that will allow the Board to develop a benchmark for arts education based on other local districts in Monroe County and an estimation of the costs involved in implementing the same level of arts in the RCSD curriculum. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th, following the Board Governance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Meliza Campos: No report.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Ms. Gallivan spoke about recent accomplishments of the Student Leadership Congress and their efforts to promote student leadership throughout the District as well as in their communities.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parent Representative Makita Saloane: No report.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 301: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 302-303: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 304-306: No resolutions considered for November.

2013-14: 307: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 308: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 309-313: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 314: No resolution considered for November.

2013-14: 315: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 316-319: No resolutions considered for November.

2013-14: 320-321: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 322: No resolution considered for November.

2013-14: 323-326: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 327-328: Resolutions withdrawn from consideration by Superintendent.

2013-14: 329-330: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 331-332: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 333: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 334: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 335-336: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 337 to remove the language “concur with the recommendation of the Administration, and” made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 337: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Rejected 1-5 with President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Powell dissenting. No vote was captured from Commissioner Adams.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials Policy, No. 4010 to the full Board as a Discussion Item, the policy will be considered by the Board at the December 2013 Business Meeting.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Elliott at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.