

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting December 13, 2012

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the November 15th Business Meeting made Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** The Board received musical selections from the Flower City School No. 54 Choir.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Howard Eagle spoke about the need for all District employees and members of the leadership team to abide by the Board's Code of Ethics policy.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Kerry Coleman spoke about the need for integrity. Parent Jessenia Aponte spoke about the programming at General Elwell S. Otis School No. 30 that has benefitted students. Community member Jennifer Muniga spoke about services offered by Cameron Community Ministries to students of General Elwell S. Otis School No. 30. Staff member Diane Hamilton spoke in opposition to closing General Elwell S. Otis School No. 30 noting the implementation of *The Leader in Me* program.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation addressing the funding priorities that will be addressed in his proposed budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. He detailed challenges that are faced in the midst of transforming the District, an overview of the District's current budgetary environment, and how he plans to fund the District's priorities while delivering a balanced budget for 2013-14.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on December 4th with the External Auditor Freed Maxick CPAs, to review the results of the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2012. All Board Members received a draft copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and had an opportunity to ask questions and attend the meeting. The Office of Auditor General reviewed the draft CAFR and the concerns communicated to Administration have been addressed in the final version. The Committee seeks Board approval for Resolution No. 2012-13: 379, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2012. These financial results will be submitted to the New York State Education Department after Board approval.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, December 11th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 355 through 366, and 373. The Committee recommends approval of the November Financial Report. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the November Financial. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Reports accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Please note that the Finance Committee received the draft FY2013-14 RCSD Budget Calendar, which is presented here this evening. We will be working to schedule specific dates for the budget deliberation sessions and public hearings, and notify you as soon as this schedule has been finalized. The next regular will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, December 10th, and received a presentation from the Department of Early Childhood regarding Pre-K funding, assessment and benchmarks as related to programs in the Rochester City School District and participating community based organizations (CBOs). The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee is interested in doing more in the area of early childhood education by looking into ways to extend all programs to a full day and also to include more 3 year olds. At present, 3 year olds are only able to participate after BEDS day if seats are left over from 4 year olds. RCSD is capped at the number of 4 year old students that are funded by the State. No State funding is provided for 3 year olds.

Areas of funding needs are transportation, programs for three year olds, more opportunities for full-day programs (6 out of 50 District classrooms are full-day programs.) With the new Common Core Standard and the curriculum requirements that are coming out from New York State Education Department for Pre-K, as well as all grade levels, makes it very important to advocate for full-day programs for the District's Pre-K programs because so much is being required it's hard to fit it all into a 2 ½ hour program. Because of time constraints, the presentation was not able to be completed. And, the Early Childhood Department will complete the presentation at an upcoming ESA Committee meeting. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 14th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 to receive a status report from the by the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board (RJSCB). The Committee was provided a report on business utilization and workforce diversity goals for the Rochester Schools Modernization Program related particularly to No. 50 School, but also included the work being done throughout the program. The report included workforce participation data of minority and women workers and the number of hours worked by each group.

A review of the workforce participation for City of Rochester residency was not provided at this time, but that data is underway, as RJSCB understands the Board's interest and the importance of city residents being involved with this work and have taken steps to begin tracking that participation. Data was also provided detailing the number of Rochester businesses that are being utilized for the program.

The Committee briefly discussed the ongoing problems with Food Service and adopting a Legislative Agenda. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee did not meet in December. Vice President Cruz reviewed two policy proposals, including a proposed revision of Drug-Free Workplace policy (9320) that would

require pre-employment drug testing for all prospective District employees and a proposed revision to the Code of Ethics (2160) that clarifies prohibited conflicts of interest. Vice President Cruz also introduced two additional policy proposals including a new School Closure policy, which delineates the steps required to be taken prior to closing a school and a proposed revision of the Purchasing policy (6700) that reflects recent changes made by the NYS legislature to provide flexibility to districts in awarding purchasing contracts on the basis of “best value” rather than “lowest responsible bidder”. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on Thursday, January 17th, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee met on December 13th to discuss goals, objectives, metrics and targets for 2013-14 fiscal year and the 2011-12 Superintendent Evaluation Tool. The Committee will facilitate the evaluation process and suggested the following schedule to performance assessment: on December 21st completed evaluations are due back from the Board, on January 2nd compiled results will be distributed to the Board, on January 10th the Board will hold an Executive Session to discuss compiled results and adopt compiled results, and on January 15th the Board will hold an Executive Session to present results to Dr. Vargas.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Members of the Student Leadership Congress met to discuss recent efforts to implement best practices, recent outreach events and student engagement projects. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd.

VIII. Resolutions

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2012-13: 328 into Resolution No. 2012-13: 328a and Resolution No. 2012-13: 328b made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 328a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 328b: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Campos dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 330: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 331: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 332-340: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 341: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 342-345: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 346-349: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 350-354: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 355-358: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 359: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 360-366: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 367: Resolution pulled.

2012-13: 368-380: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Vice President Cruz presented a new School Closure policy and proposed revisions to the Purchasing policy as Discussion Items. The School Closure policy establishes a sequence of steps to be followed whenever a school is proposed to be closed. In terms of Purchasing policy (6700), the proposed revisions would allow the District to contract with other government entities (i.e. federal government or political subdivision) and would enable contracts to be awarded on the basis of “best value” rather than “lowest responsible bidder”. “Best value” indicates the lowest price for products or services of a specified quality. This reflects changes made recently by the NYS legislature regarding purchasing.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Vice President Cruz at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

XI. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.