

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting December 16, 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 6:00 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Elliott.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the November 21st Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Elizabeth Laidlaw advocated for social-emotional supports particularly social workers. Community member Hilda Rosario Escher sought support from the District to assist with meeting the needs of Latino students by creating a holistic support system for families. Community member Lori Thomas spoke about Dr. Vargas' presentation calling for increased standardized curriculum and area colleges to manage schools. Staff member Fayne Winter spoke about the need for transportation for all afterschool activities including non-athletic teams and clubs.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the proposed 2014-15 budget priorities and trends, assumptions and projections, and strategies to fund achievement and close the structural budget gap. He spoke about initiatives to allow colleges to manage some of the District's schools, revitalizing CTE programming, engaging the community to improve student behavior, and eliminating summer learning loss for Pre-K-3 students to promote academic success. Dr. Vargas noted that the 2014-15 budget process will effectively maintain stability for students, families and staff, expand support for educational priorities, improve transparency, and end the structural budget gap. Dr. Vargas stated that he is working to address, with the support of District staff and members of the Rochester community, the following areas in effort to fund student achievement: improved Special Education services, expanded summer school for Pre-K – 3rd grade, full-day Pre-K for most or all students, neighborhood schools, kindergarten in all non-citywide schools, increased professional development and data analysis tools to improve instruction, expanded learning time for up to 7 additional schools, and increased offerings of art, music, sports, extracurricular activities.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on December 3rd with the External Auditor Freed Maxick CPAs, to review the results of the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2013. 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 is seeking Board approval for Resolution No. 2013-14: 390, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2013. These financial results will be submitted to the New York State Education Department after Board approval.

In addition, there is an outstanding Audit Committee request for the Board to receive monthly and year to date suspension information to increase Board visibility. Specifically, the Committee has requested monthly reporting to communicate the number of in-school, out of school, and afterschool school suspensions monthly and school year to date.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell:

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, December 12th to consider Resolution No. 2013-14: 366 through 382 and recommends approval for all of the reviewed resolutions. The Committee recommends approval of the November 2013 Financial Report. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the abovementioned reports, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

Members of the Finance Committee also voted unanimously to add \$15K in funding for the Agreement with the Center for Youth in support of the Rochester Teen Court. Committee members approved amending Resolution No. 2013-14: 68 for additional funding, and advance this resolution to the Board for consideration with recommendation. I would now like to seek a motion to remove this resolution from the table.

The Draft 2014-15 Budget Calendar was also presented in this month's Finance Committee meeting, and I have proposed changes to some of the dates because of conflicts with standing Board committee meetings. The Draft Budget Calendar and proposed changes are contained in your packet, and the final calendar will be approved in January. I would like to hear from my colleagues in terms of the suitability of the proposed schedule for deliberations on the proposed 2014-15 RCSD Budget. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, December 9th. A presentation on the Teaching and Learning Institute was delivered by two teachers from East High School. A parent, previous students currently working in the District, and three professors from local colleges provided an overview of their experience with the program. The program currently located at East High School is a program designed to attract students who are interested in careers in education and leadership. There are currently 80 students in the program. The program is diverse and accepts all students regardless of their academic background and programming.

The program is currently seeking the Boards support on three items: official recognition as a teacher's recruitment program, open recruitment and availability for all students in the RSCD, and additional funding for two additional full time educator positions. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, December 10th. We reviewed information from the 2013 Legislative Breakfast that was held on November 9th. The Legislative Breakfast provided direction on how to best advocate for state-level support of Legislative Agenda items, for example being on the Governors radar prior to budget deliberations. The committee will continue to review the minutes from the Legislative Breakfast in upcoming committee meetings as we look at creating a 2014 Legislative Agenda.

The Committee continued to discuss the school suspension policy and the need for it to be less punitive. We continue to discuss and review alternative models, many that are community based. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee convened two meetings this month: a Meeting of the Whole on December 5th, and a regular monthly meeting on December 12th. The Committee Meeting of the Whole was held specifically to discuss issues related to student suspension. A number of issues have come to light and require further examination, particularly given the gravity of the implications for students, parents, and staff. These concerns will continue to be addressed through a series of Committee Meetings of the Whole, and the next meeting will be scheduled in January. The initial focus will be to develop a comprehensive, holistic vision for the District with regard to student discipline, and then determining the specific components that must be put into place to realize this vision.

In the monthly Policy Committee meeting on December 12th, the following policy proposals were discussed:

- Review of the Major Achievement Program (MAP) policy (4350) – Beverly Burrell-Moore and Vicky Ramos provided information and recommendations for updating this policy, as it is quite outdated and requires substantial revision in view of Common Core standards. The Policy Committee will continue to discuss options for updating this policy in the January meeting.
- Proposed Revision of Preschool Education Programs policy (4320.5) – Robin Hooper presented recommendations for updating this policy based on current criteria for evaluating applications from community-based providers, and application of the Common Core curriculum in early childhood education. The proposed revisions were approved unanimously by the members of the Policy Committee, and have been advanced for your consideration in this evening's meeting as an Information Item.

In addition, amendments to the Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials policy (4010) are also presented for your vote this evening. The changes to this policy simply remove a redundant requirement for the Superintendent to provide an annual report to the New York State Education Department and to the Board. Instead, the revised policy allows the Superintendent to prepare one annual report to the State Education Department that is to be shared with the Board, along with any comments/findings by the Education Department. (Resolution No. 2013-14: 388).

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Thursday, December 12th to discuss the 2012-13 Evaluation Process for the Board's staff, the proposed Personnel Committee and upcoming retreats for the District's Leadership Team. The Committee recommended that the full Board be reminded to complete the Board's staff evaluations and submit completed evaluations to Jacquie Morgan of the Board office for compilation. The Committee proposed that staff evaluations be delivered in early-January. Commissioner Elliott attended the Committee meeting to discuss reinstating the District's personnel committee. She stated that a standing Board committee dedicated to addressing the District's employment needs and processes and procedures is needed to ensure that resources are properly aligned and allocated to meet the needs of our students. Members of the Committee mentioned

that there are existing Committees of the Board whose responsibilities could be extended to fulfill the intent of the proposed personnel committee. The Committee asked for a detailed charge for the personnel committee, and will continue discussion of the proposal in upcoming meetings.

In discussing the upcoming retreats, the Committee discussed suggested facilitators. Suggested facilitators will be invited to an upcoming Committee meeting to discuss the Leadership Team's objectives for the retreats. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th following the Finance Committee and Policy Committee meetings.

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: Ms. Saloane provided the Board with an overview of issues and concerns expressed by parents. She noted that parents are concerned about the violence occurring inside and outside schools (including gang related activities), processes for communicating to parents the acts of violence that occurs outside/near schools, the new format for the School Choice Expo, how changes to the SIG grant for Wilson were submitted to the state without appropriate parent input, and issues with extended day programming.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 338: Resolution withdrawn from consideration.

2013-14: 339-348: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2013-14: 349 into Resolution No. 2013-14: 349a and Resolution No. 2013-14: 349b made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 349a: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Rejected 0-7 with President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz, Commissioner Elliott, and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2013-14: 349b: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 350-359: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 360-365: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2013-14: 366-369: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 370-382: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 383: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 384: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioners Campos abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship.

2013-14: 385-386: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 387: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2013-14: 388-390: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 391: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Rejected 1-6 with President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz, and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2013-14: 392-396: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the Preschool Education Programs Policy No. 4320.5 to the full Board as an Information Item, the policy is scheduled to be considered by the Board at the February 2014 Business Meeting.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:20 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:39 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.