

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting December 18, 2014

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Student Representative Unique Fair-Smith; Superintendent Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

- I. President White selected a student, Anthony Smith, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the November 20th Business Meeting and December 11th Special Meeting made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized Anthony Smith, a student of Dr. Charles T. Lunsford STEM Academy, School No. 19 for his academic achievement and character. Anthony has been on the Honor Roll for the past two years and has recently received the “Break Through Award” from the Metro Council for “Teen Potential” for participation in the City’s THRIVE, “Teens Helping to Reinvent Identity, Values and Empowerment,” Program. The program provides teens with necessary supports and opportunities to prepare for successful adulthood. Anthony was also nominated and awarded the opportunity to participate in a college tour through THRIVE in June. The Board recognizes the achievement and promise personified by Anthony.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Karen Fox spoke in support of a proposed plan to engage an Educational Partnership Organization to manage East High School. Community member Joel Seligman recognized the Board and members of the District’s Administration for their efforts in developing educational options and opportunities for students of the East High School community.
- V. **Speakers on other that Agenda Items:** Community member Ana Casserly spoke about the need to enhance the District’s specialized services and programming. Community member Beverly Usher spoke about the need to provide elementary school choices for residents of the 19th Ward neighborhood.
- VI. **Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the proposed 2015-16 budget for the District. In the presentation he highlighted the ways in which he proposes to improve student achievement while maintaining stability for students, families, and staff with the elimination of the structural budget gap. Dr. Vargas detailed the trends of shrinking enrollment, personnel reductions, charter school enrollment, facility capacity and proposed school closures. In doing so, he spoke about recent practices to restrict per diem substitutes for Central Office vacancies, make mid-year adjustments to school budgets, restrict hiring for non-classroom vacancies, and limit travel funded through the General Fund.

In delivering the presentation, Dr. Vargas noted that the following key considerations have been made in developing the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year:

- Funding academic priorities with more and better learning time, reading by third grade, and instructional excellence;
- Improving secondary schools with the University of Rochester's management of East HS, the expansion of Joseph C. Wilson's International Baccalaureate program, the redesign of the Edison Technology Campus to provide new and improved career paths for educational opportunities for students, and increased support for the Young Men's Leadership Academy;
- Continuation of the Facility Modernization Program; and
- Closure of low performing schools and investing in schools showing good or improving performance.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee, Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on December 2nd with the External Auditor Freed Maxick CPAs, to review the results of the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2014. 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, which was sent to all Board members last week. The Committee is seeking Board approval for Resolution No. 2014-15: 381, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2014. 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 Thursday, December 11th to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 355 through 365, 369, 370, 379, and 380. Resolution No. 2014-15: 379 was to request COMIDA to issue bonds to finance the two remaining projects to be completed in Phase 1 of the FMP: School No. 12 and Monroe High School. This resolution was approved by the Board in the Special Meeting held on December 11th. The Committee recommends approval of the November 2014 Financial Report. The Committee also recommends approval of the following amendments to the 2014-15 RCSD Budget. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent. Members of the Finance Committee also reviewed the general timeline for the 2015-16 RCSD budget process, and further detail regarding public hearings and Board budget deliberation sessions will be provided in January. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15th, following the Policy and Board Governance Committee Meetings.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, Chair Malik Evans: The December Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting was cancelled due to the need to hold a special meeting. The next Excellence is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2014. The January agenda will include an update on the graduation rates for 2014-15. This is an update to the September 2014 presentation from the Administration that will answer the following questions to gauge how well we are increasing the graduation rates of our students: how many students are in the 2011 cohort, how many students are on target to graduate, what is being accomplished to keep them on track, and what is being done to help students who are not on track. The agenda will also include a presentation on UNITE Rochester's Education Committee initiatives and proposal.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet in December, but began planning for next year. On the agenda for the Committee's January meeting is a review and discussion of feedback from the Legislative Breakfast, update regarding school climate, discussion and development of Communications Strategy, and an update on items on the Legislative Agenda (in light of the feedback received in the Legislative Breakfast).

In addition, an editorial article was composed and submitted to the Democrat & Chronicle to describe the collaborative work being done among legislators and policymakers on behalf of the children in our District, with the annual Legislative Breakfast being a prime example.

Vice President Elliott plans to meet more frequently with Rochester area legislators in Albany and Washington DC in the future to advocate for the needs of our students and their families. She will travel to Albany at the end of February for the New York State School Boards Association Lobby Days.

The next meeting of the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee will be on Tuesday, January 13th, at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee, Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee meeting was cancelled this month to accommodate the Special Meeting held on Thursday, December 11th. The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Thursday January 15th. We will continue the following items from previous meetings: Policy 5500 Student's Record & Privacy Policy, Policy 4324.1 Day Care Policy, replacement of Board Policy 1510 District Policy Prohibiting Discrimination or Harassment of Students or Employees. The Committee continues to receive required policy deliverables from the Superintendent. This month the Committee received most of the requirements due for December. Deliverables received for December will be reviewed by the Committee and discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee, Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee did not meet in December. The following items will be added to the agenda of the next Committee meeting: the Superintendent Evaluation Process and Performance Objectives, the Board's governing Bylaws Policy, and the Board Staff Evaluations. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Resolutions

2014-15: 329-347: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent

No resolutions submitted for Resolution Nos: 2014-15: 331, 332, 333, 341, 343, 344, 345, 346, 348, and 349.

2014-15: 350-353: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 354: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship, Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 355-358: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 359: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 360-368: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 369: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 370-374: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 375: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 376: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 377: Resolution withdrawn.

2014-15: 378: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 379: Resolution adopted at Special Meeting on December 11, 2014.

2014-15: 380: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 381: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 382: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 383-390: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2014-15: 388: Resolution withdrawn.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

- X. New Business:** For tonight's meeting the Policy Committee is presenting two Discussion items for considerations. Both were previously were informational items for the November's business meeting. The two policies for discussion are Policy 5220 NYS Concussion Management and Policy 6741 Professional Services Contracting. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th.
- XI.** President White announced that the next meeting of the Board would be the Organizational Meeting scheduled for Friday, January 2, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. and the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent at 8:45 p.m.