

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting
March 2nd, 2016

MINUTES

Attending:

Commissioners – Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioners Adams, Hallmark, Powell and President White.

District Staff – Fatimat Reid (Chief of Staff)

Parent Representative – Not in attendance

Board Staff – Kallia Wade

Vice President Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:58PM.

I. Review of Minutes of October 19, 2016 CIGR Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2016 Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. Seconded by Commissioners Hallmark and Adams. **Adopted 4-0.** Commissioner Adams pointed to the need to follow up on the crude oil agenda item, noted in the October 2016 minutes. Committee members further discussed concerns raised in the October 2016 meeting about the Bakke crude oil transports through high-density areas near schools in Rochester. It was noted that the Bakke crude oil from hydro-fracking poses a serious threat to the safety of students, community members, and property. A decision was made to make a request for an update on this issue from affiliated U.S Senators and congress members.

Action Item: Commissioner Adams to pursue the drafting of a letter noting the board's stance on the Bakke crude oil issue and its impact on the district

Vice President Elliott noted the need to increase the frequency of the CIGR meeting schedule.

II. Review of the Communications Plan- last updated Sept 2016

A suggestion was made by Vice President Elliott to identify specific priority items within the Communication Plan that need to be addressed with regard to keeping parents, students and community members informed, so that Board members' support could be lent to those efforts. Other suggestions from Commissioners Hallmarks and Adams regarding best practices for garnering public interest in board actions were voiced, and the possibility of hosting town halls was discussed as a viable option. Most notably, Vice President Elliott suggested working with

the PTA and utilizing the robo-call option to communicate more effectively with the district's parents and community members. She also suggested a PACT Meeting to listen to parent concerns. Suggestions also included promoting the Commissioners' corner as well. The committee noted that the Board needed to be more visible.

Board President White arrived at 6:12pm

Commissioner Hallmark suggested splitting the City into quadrants and assigning these between the board members. The Board could then host Town Hall meetings on a more frequent basis—Commissioner Powell also supported by this suggestion.

Action Item: Each Commissioner is to review the Communications plan and provide feedback to district staff Kallia Wade with 3-4 issues/areas to be addressed or prioritized for the school year.

Action Item: Commissioners to pursue addressing and reviewing the Communications plan during the Summer 2017 Retreat.

III. Community Forum Proposal

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee members discussed plans to host a Public Forum before the end of the school year. Suggestions for possible speakers were discussed to be John King, Christopher Emdin, Pedro Noguera, Dr. Bettina Love or Jose Vilson.

Potentially relevant and impactful topics the committee were discussed to be topics surrounding graduation rate and black male achievement. President White suggested looking into the Parent Leadership Training Institute group. He also noted that it was important that the committee select someone who could galvanize the public and that there is follow up after the forum.

Action Item: Board Staff Kallia to compile a speakers list for a potential public forum

IV. Discussion of Governor Cuomo's Proposal for Free Tuition at NYS Colleges

Board Staff Kallia Wade presented a report to the CIGR Committee regarding the Excelsior Scholarship. She provided a summary of the proposal, the benefits, costs/drawbacks and recommendations for whether the committee should support the proposal. The scholarship is targeted to impact eligible families with college-age children, and whose household annual income is \$125,000 or less annually and would cover student's tuition costs by supplementing whatever existing state and federal grant programs contributions. However, this benefit is not a very viable solution to help poor students pay for the extraneous costs outside of tuition that make attending college most difficult. The committee noted that the proposal was not in the best interest of the district and as such should not be supported.

V. Discussion of Governor Cuomo's Proposal for Free Tuition at NYS Colleges

Lastly, the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee reviewed the 2017 Legislative Agenda following Lobby Day on March 1st, 2017, as well as how the district was received given the impending 2017-18 Budget Presentation. The members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee agreed that it was prudent to formally thank the assembly members for meeting with the team on Lobby Day.

Action Item: Board Staff Kallia to work with Commissioner Adams to write a letter in thanks for receiving the district team on Lobby Day.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19PM.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2017