

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting**  
**September 13, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Attending**

Commissioners – Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioners Mary Adams and Elizabeth Hallmark, and President Van White (arrived at 6:48PM)

District Staff – Fatimat Reid (Chief of Staff) and Lori Baldwin (Director of Safety and Security)

Parent Representative –Felix Jacob

Board Staff –Mia Johnson

Vice President Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:10PM.

**I. Review of Minutes of August 16, 2016 CIGR Meetings**

Motion by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Vote 3-0.

**II. Update Regarding the 2016-17 SRO Contract – Ms. Reid and Ms. Baldwin**

Ms. Baldwin stated that in partnership with Ms. Reid, they spoke with the police department and decided that they need guidance from the Board relative to what they would like to see outlined in the contract related to the Code of Conduct. She stated that there will be a meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> with President White and Commissioner Adams to discuss the contract.

Vice President Elliott expressed concerns around the districtwide implementation of the Code of Conduct. Commissioner Adams stated the Code of Conduct has specific language on law enforcement, and the role and expectation of administrators. She also stated that the law enforcement section was reviewed by the police department. Ms. Adele Bovard, Ms. Baldwin, and lawyers with expertise. Commissioner Adams clarified that the policy is districtwide, but there are some schools who are doing restorative practice, relationship model, and other CTF recommendations.

Vice President Elliott stated that there will be a culture shift to involve administrators in such issues as oppose to the police. Vice President Elliott stated that she planned to meet with Dr. Otuwa to inquire if a forum on the Code of Conduct should occur and to ensure that the Code of Conduct is implemented with integrity prior to a forum. She also commented on uncertainty about the accountability function being in place as of yet.

Commissioner Adams stated that the District must have accountability and the community groups will be speaking. She also stated that the work is on-going.

Commissioner Hallmark stated that the Superintendent should add the Code of Conduct to her timeline. Ms. Reid responded that the Code of Conduct is on the Superintendent's timeline with Dr. Otuwa as lead. She stated that she will work best to incorporate language into the draft SRO contract and then send it to the City of Rochester. She stated that they would argue to keep in as much as possible, but sometimes the City is uncomfortable with including policy in their contract. Commissioner Adams responded that the Code of Conduct is driven by state law and the school district has a right and responsibility to guide how students and their school environment is managed and treated. Ms. Reid suggested having a companion document to accompany the contract.

Vice President Elliott stated that she is against having police officers in school and invest more money into trained SSOs and counselors. Commissioner Adams suggested making a plan to implement such actions over time. Commissioner Hallmark suggested a work session because such a change involves the Policy and Finance Committees and budget changes. Ms. Baldwin stated that such a plan would involve buy in and may need to two years. Mr. Jacobs stated that three years plus may be needed to include buy in from the parents and unions.

Commissioner Hallmark inquired about the number of SROs. Ms. Baldwin responded that there are 12 SROs total in the secondary schools.

Commissioner Adams inquired about the truancy work outlined in the current contract. Ms. Baldwin responded that the truancy work is not occurring because a 12<sup>th</sup> SRO was provided to School No. 58 last school year. She further stated that the truancy work was not effective because most of the students stopped should not have been in school due to suspension.

### **III. CIGR Goals for the 2016-17 School Year**

Vice President Elliott facilitated a discussion around CIGR Goals for the 2016-17 School Year. She described the Legislative Breakfast, Legislative Agenda, and forums on the Code of Conduct, student achievement, and graduation rates. Commissioner Adams suggested a forum on the relationship model and Dr. Joy DeGruy work.

Mr. Jacobs described the issue of programs like Liberty Partnerships with Monroe Community College being underutilized and shared with students and parents. He suggested having a list of programs to provide at the forums to families.

Commissioner Hallmark inquired about the purpose of the Legislative Agenda. Vice President Elliott stated that the purpose of the Legislative Agenda is to present items to the state, local, and federal level. She stated that advocacy can be done through letter sending, the Big 5 Conference, and Lobby Day. She also stated that there is a need to discuss the Legislative Agenda because it has to be approved by October by the

Committee for the November Business Meeting. Commissioner Hallmark suggested prioritizing the Legislative Agenda in accordance to the District goals through work sessions.

As a part of the Legislative Agenda, Commissioner Adams discussed the safety concerns of transporting crude oil by rail, an issue that is raised by parents at the monthly Board Business Meetings. She also described that Rochester has more schools within the blast zone compared to other school districts. She suggested requesting information about the crude oil transport from federal representatives.

Commissioner Adams stated that a desired goal/outcome is having smooth and effective progress for the Facilities Modernization Project (FMP). Vice President Elliott stated she would like a presentation on the MWBE and the delay. She would like a Meeting of the Whole in the near future regarding this update. President White stated that Commissioner Adam's desired goal/outcome may not be accomplishable because there was an attempt to have Vice President Elliott as the Board liaison to the FMP and former Interim Superintendent Cimusz worked hard to maintain an ongoing relationship with the other joint entities. Vice President Elliott suggested that President White with City of Rochester Mayor Warren. Commissioner Adams suggested the FMP Board use a Community Benefit Agreement.

#### **IV. BOE Communications Plan**

Vice President Elliott stated that she working on finalizing a Board Communications Plan in order to share information with the community. President White described that the test parent smart phone app in its current state did not include the Board presence. He stated that the District's Communication Department believes it only works for the Superintendent and expressed a need to work with the Superintendent as a team. Commissioner Hallmark expressed the need to work as a whole group along with the Superintendent through work sessions.

President White described the proposed policy that highlights the technology goals of the Board.

#### **V. Follow-Up**

Motion by Vice President Elliott to adjourn. Adopted 4-0 with concurrence of the Parent Representative. Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.