

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting of the
Whole

September 13, 2018

MINUTES

Attending:

Commissioners – Commissioner Cynthia Elliott (Chair), President Van White, Vice President Powell, and Commissioners Hallmark, Sheppard and Funchess

District Staff – Barbara Deane Williams (Superintendent), Jaime Aquino (Distinguished Educator), Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller (Deputy Superintendent), Fatimat Reid (Chief of Staff), Karl Kristoff (General Counsel and Committee Liaison), Ruth Turner (Chief of Student Support Services and SEL), Michael Schmidt(Chief of Operations)

Parent Representative – Not in attendance

Board Staff – Kallia Wade

Other- Members of the Advisory Committee on School Climate

Commissioner Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

I. Discussion about the presentation of proposed changes to the Parent & Family Engagement Policy in the Community Forum on October 20th

Commissioner Elliott opened the discussion by highlighting the date of the upcoming community forum. She indicated that the Policy Committee requested the addition of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to the forum agenda. Vice President Powell proposed that the policy discussion would require a 20 minute time commitment. Commissioner Elliott noted that given the weighted topics already on the agenda there is concern that the addition could prove challenging for the event. She admitted to needing more time to further consider the forum agenda before a decision could be made

General Counsel and Committee Liaison, Karl Kristoff, interjected noting his concerns with the policy regulations. He stated several concerns with the draft version of the policy presented. He also indicated that Executive Cabinet had not yet been consulted and had not yet convened to discuss the policy. He proposed that the suggested changes to the policy not be shared with the public until they had been properly vetted. Following this, the Committee discussed the feasibility of placing the draft policy on the District's website for public review and provision of feedback prior to the forum. Commissioner Elliott noted that she would be discussing the logistics of including the Parent Engagement Policy on the forum agenda further with the Policy Committee Chair and with Board staff.

II. Update on the Fall Community Forum

Board staff, Kallia Wade, provided the Committee with logistical updates on the fall community forum planning. Many details remained the same as were provided in the August meeting.

III. School Climate Advisory Committee Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board

The Advisory Committee on School Climate presented recommendations to the Community and Intergovernmental Relations (CIGR) Committee. Recommendations were provided on partnerships, use of data, and atmosphere as a means of improving school climate in the Rochester City School District. As the CIGR Committee engaged in conversation with the Advisory Committee members, Distinguished Educator, Dr. Jaime Aquino, inquired about next steps and expectations for implementation. He also noted that a timeline for this implementation should be drafted.

Given the uncertainty of next steps for the recommendations, President White clarified the process for the utilization of the work of advisory committees. He indicated that the Board would formally receive the recommendations in the next Business Meeting. Following this, the work would be divvied up into the Board's Committees for further review and then recommendations would be made from the committees to the full Board regarding adoption. The CIGR Committee confirmed that no formal vote would be taken regarding the receipt of the Advisory Committee's recommendations until after the Business meeting.

Providing his final thoughts, Dr. Aquino noted that District Administration should first provide the Board with the aforementioned implementation plan as well as a cost analysis for the implementation of each of the recommendations. This way, the Board would be able to make informed decisions regarding adoption. Additionally, this would allow for a more organized and structured means of responding to the community's input. Superintendent Deane-Williams advised that Chief of Student Support Services, Ruth Turner, would hold the responsibility of seeing to the provision of the implementation plan and cost analysis.

In concluding the presentation, the CIGR Committee formally thanked the members of the Advisory Committee and noted special thanks for Board Staff Kallia Wade's involvement in facilitating the group's work. Commissioner Elliot charged the Advisory Committee, counselling the members to remain watchdogs committed to improving school climate in the District and to continue following up on the work already started.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, General Counsel and Committee Liaison Karl Kristoff, suggested adding the Excel Center Initiative as an agenda item for discussion in the October CIGR Committee meeting. This initiative could potentially provide the District with the ability to offer adult education opportunities to complete local diplomas and/or Regents credentials.

Action: Board Staff, Kallia Wade to forward the School Climate Advisory final recommendations to Chief of Staff, Fatimat Reid. Ms. Wade to also follow up with Mr. Kristoff regarding the excel center initiative presentation in the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2018