

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting
November 15, 2012

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President Cruz and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Elliott, Powell, and White; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

II. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of the October 24th Business Meeting, November 1st Special Meeting, and November 6th Special Meeting made Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner White absent.

Commissioners Campos arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioners White arrived at 6:45 p.m.

III. Recognition: None.

IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: Community member Judith Davis spoke about the need for all District employees and members of the leadership team to abide by the Board's Code of Conduct policy.

V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item: Staff members Shannon O'Brien and Gabby Lahoda of General Elwell S. Otis School No. 30 spoke about recently implemented programming that has had a positive impact on the academic achievement of students.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation addressing attendance, District-wide graduation data, GPAs by school, PSAT and SAT scores, NYS Grade 3-8 ELA and Math assessments, and the District's action plans to improve overall student performance. Dr. Vargas noted that the District will focus on meeting the needs of our English Language Learner and Students with Disabilities populations, develop a Master Schedule to reflect common planning time, implement a co-teaching instructional model, monitor and maintain Level 3 grade level proficiency, target professional development and design Network Teams to assess and implement data based programming,

**VII. Board Reports:
Audit Committee**

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet during the month of November. However, the Committee received the draft Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for review and comment. The draft CAFR was sent to each Board member and is also available in BoardDocs. All questions and/or comments should be forwarded to the Office Auditor General by Tuesday, November 27th.

The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM. The entire Board is invited to attend, at this meeting the Committee will meet with Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. the External Auditor to review the results of the Financial Audit for the year ended June 30, 2012.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 8th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 309 through 313. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the October Financial. Seconded by Commissioner White. Reports accepted 7-0. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th in Conference Room 1E-134.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, November 5th to receive a presentation from School No. 46 administration regarding its Arts Integration strategies. The principal, along with teachers and parents, from School No. 46, and the District's Executive Director of Visual and Performing Arts, shared the goals of their plan. They demonstrated how art and music can successfully impact students by igniting their imagination, increasing their motivation, increasing academic performance, decreasing disciplinary issues and increasing school pride. The Arts Integration strategies were developed by engaging the School Based Planning Team, PTA members, building staff, parents and Central Office staff. All involved in the decision making process agreed that including Arts Integration strategies in the curriculum would be a positive step for increasing academic performance. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 10th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet since the October Business Meeting. The next CIGR Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, November 8th, and discussed ways to monitor implementation of Board policies, feedback regarding policies requiring deliverables (i.e. Superintendent reports or evaluations), and remaining policies to be considered by the Board. The Policy Committee also reviewed and approved a new School Closure policy and proposed revisions to the Purchasing policy. These two policy proposals are presented in this evening's meeting as Information Items. The School Closure policy establishes a sequence of steps to be followed whenever a school is proposed to be closed. In terms of Purchasing policy (6700), the proposed revisions would allow the District to contract with other government entities (i.e. federal government or political subdivision) and would enable contracts to be awarded on the basis of "best value" rather than "lowest responsible bidder". "Best value" indicates the lowest price for products or services of a specified quality. This reflects changes made recently by the NYS legislature regarding purchasing.

Two policies were introduced in the October Board meeting, and are presented as Discussion Items this evening including proposed revisions of the Drug-Free Workplace policy (9320) to require pre-employment drug testing and a proposed revision of the School District Officer and Employee Ethics policy (2160) to clarify prohibited conflicts of interest, as recommended by the Internal Auditor's Office. Finally, a resolution is before you this evening to approve proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct (5300) prohibiting the use of cell phones and electronic media during NYS assessments, and providing guidelines regarding inventory and storage of student property. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on Thursday, December 6th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee did not since the October Business Meeting. The next Governance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Members of the Student Leadership Congress met with representatives from School Food Services and Transportation to address questions and concerns that have been voiced by students. The next Student Leadership Congress meeting is scheduled for December 19th, where participants will be organizing and distributing toys to students.

Parent Advisory Council

Parent Candice Lucas: The Executive School Based Planning Team met on Wednesday, November 8th to discuss processes and procedures related to the design and implementation of School Based Planning Teams and the need to ensure that all SBPT are fully compliant with the requisite number of members from each constituency. A process was also put in place to ensure accountability for this process and to give OPE the assistance it needs in reaching out to principals. Since the last meeting 46% of elementary schools are in compliance, of the schools that are not in compliance, 33% are in process with at least 1 parent currently serving. Forty seven percent of secondary schools are in compliance, with the remainder of schools operating with at least 1 parent. On November 9th, Willie Robinson (Coordinator of the Office of Parent Engagement) met with parents and community members at the Baobab Cultural Center for a dialogue on Parents and Education. The conversation centered around the importance of parental involvement and engagement at every level of the district structure, The deeper underlying issues and district structure that serve as a barrier to meaningful parental input, and suggestions on how to change the district's culture to truly welcome and value the input of parents.

The Council has is also working to address school food services. Parents from various schools have raised concerns about the quality and quantity of food our children are receiving during the day. Concerns range from the type of food that is served, to the way it is served and how much is available for each child. Many children are still hungry after lunch because the food was not adequate. The Parent Advisory Council is working to establish a Food Service Committee to address these concerns.

Lastly, Candice Lucas was invited to join Superintendent Vargas and Adam Urbanski at the national TIME Collaborative launch event on Monday, December 3rd in Washington D.C. The TIME Collaborative is a new approach on how to give our students more and better learning time. This is a multi-year investment in the development of high-quality expanded learning time schools in five states led by the National Center on Time & Learning and the Ford Foundation.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 287: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 288-289: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 290: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 291-293: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2012-13: 294 into Resolution No. 2012-13: 294 and Resolution No. 2012-13: 294a was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 294: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 294a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 295-298: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 299: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 300: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 301-302: No resolution submitted for November.

2012-13: 303: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 304-307: No resolutions submitted for November.

2012-13: 308-309: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 310: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White abstaining.

2012-13: 311: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 312: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 313: Resolution pulled.

2012-13: 314: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 315: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 316: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2012-13: 317 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 317-325: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 326: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to waive the requirement that written materials to be considered by the Board at a regular business meeting shall be delivered to each Board member no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 327 was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion fails 3-4 with President Evans, Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 326: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Vice President Cruz presented a new School Closure policy and proposed revisions to the Purchasing policy as Information Items. The School Closure policy establishes a sequence of steps to be followed whenever a school is proposed to be closed. In terms of Purchasing policy (6700), the proposed revisions would allow the District to contract with other government entities (i.e. federal government or political subdivision) and would enable contracts to be awarded on the basis of “best value” rather than “lowest responsible bidder”. “Best value” indicates the lowest price for products or services of a specified quality. This reflects changes made recently by the NYS legislature regarding purchasing. He also presented proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics, Policy No. 2160 and proposed revisions to the Drug-Free Workplace, Policy No. 9320 as Discussion Items.

XI. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.