

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 14, 2013

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Elliott, and Powell; 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 January 24th Business Meeting, January 31st Special Meeting, and the February 5th Special Meeting made by Vice President White and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** None. The Board's Black History Month Observance Annual Ceremony was held prior to the Business Meeting.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Davon Hardy spoke about the proposed termination of an employee. Students Asia Serrant, Lyric Alston, Daniel Aponte and Thomas Aponte spoke in opposition to the proposed closure of the General Elwell S. Otis, School No. 30 program. Student Jissel Aponte spoke about the proposed termination of an employee and spoke in opposition to the proposed closure of the General Elwell S. Otis, School No. 30 program.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Fred Tanksley spoke about the need to notify parents and guardians, in a timely manner, of situations that raise significant concerns for student safety. Parent Jessenia Aponte spoke in opposition to the proposed closure of the General Elwell S. Otis, School No. 30 program and the proposed termination of an employee. Parent Howard Eagle spoke in opposition to proposed termination of an employee. Community Member Brianna Cromartie spoke in opposition to the proposed termination of an employee. Staff Members Shannon O'Brien and Gabrielle Lahoda spoke in opposition to the proposed closure of the General Elwell S. Otis, School No. 30 program. Staff Members Stephen Sickles, Randy Rudolph, Brett Crandall, Nancy McGrath, Marie Pallot, Michael Yawn, and LeDell Giles spoke about the proposed termination of an employee. Staff Members Alison Skvarla and Mary Sanchez spoke about the proposed master scheduling and its anticipated impact on student learning.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on expanded learning opportunities and the RocRead initiative. He highlighted benefits of expanded learning opportunities including the implementation of rigorous academics, engaging enrichment activities, individual supports, project-based learning, community partnerships and health and wellness enhancements. Dr. Vargas also detailed the sources of funding and schools that are receiving or are slated to receive expanded learning programming for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Funding for expanded learning will come from a variety of sources including School Improvement Grants, 21st Century Community Learning Center, and the School Innovation Fund. Dr. Vargas noted that the schools that will benefit from the proposed programming include School No. 17, Monroe High School, School No. 3, School No. 45, School No. 19, School No. 10, School No. 9, School No. 34, Northeast College Preparatory High School, School No. 23 and School No. 46. In discussing the RocRead initiative, Dr. Vargas spoke about the

expectations of the program, participating community partners and program results from December 2011 through December 2012.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 7:20 p.m.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on February 12th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 465 through 474, with the exception of Resolution No. 2012-13: 467 and Resolution No. 2012-13: 472. The Committee recommends approval of the January 2013 Financial Report, Quarterly Change Order Report, and Quarterly Student Activity Fund Reports. Motion to accept the reports made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, February 11th, to receive a status report from the African and African American Department. The Committee discussed the department's historically Black College and University Tour. This tour is sponsored in collaboration with the Hillside Work Scholarship Program. Seven of our students will participate in the tour. The Committee discussed the work of the Freedom Schools and ways to incorporate some of that work into the district's professional development. Following the release of the Schott Report, the department formed a committee of African-American and Latino males in leadership and other necessary district personnel and community members to develop a set of established goals to increase the graduation rate of Black and Latino boys by 10% by August 2014.

The Committee also received a status update regarding the Youth in Transition Initiative. The Committee received a progress report on this initiative in February 2012 and was asked to come back to the committee with its findings because this was a new initiative. This initiative was developed to coordinate a cross-systems transition and support for high risk children and youth re-entering the Rochester City School District from justice and mental health treatment agencies to improve their success in school and in the community. The primary focus of Youth in Transition is to re-engage students who are dis-enrolled from the district and returning from long term alternatives in justice or mental health treatment. The transitioned students are between the ages of 13-19, and are in grades between 8th and 12th, with one student in a GED program.

The areas of improvement since the initiation of this initiative are in the tracking of students in Chancery, a uniform system for communicating discharges and placements and professional development. Uniform processes for communicating placements have been established including putting protocols in place with the residential placement agencies for student tracking and pre-discharge, communication of placements on a weekly basis, visits to sites to discuss areas of improvement. Students are now able to have access to a variety of options and approaches to allow them to receive Rochester City School District credits in the five core courses and four AP courses. They also have access to regents prep courses. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, February 12th. The Committee discussed the feasibility of having a discussion with local legislators to develop legislation around a regional legislative approach for direct entry into trade unions for students who have completed all academic and trade requirements graduating from the Robert Brown High School of Construction and Design. The Committee also discussed finding ways to have these students employed by non-union companies who are looking for the skills that these students have acquired in order to gain the experience that unions require.

Reports requested by the Committee prepared by Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board (RJSCB) were reviewed that detailed total hours worked by the minority and women workforce, professional and construction services and the workforce participation goals. We will be requesting further reports that provide data that is relevant and was not provided such as total city residents working on the project and the number of people hired from the ROHR program and the City of Rochester workforce participation. The Committee is beginning work on the 2013 Legislative Agenda and plans to have a draft crafted in the near future for the Board's review. The committee will be working jointly with the Superintendent to ensure that the district's legislative concerns are being considered and included.

The Committee revisited the problems regarding food service. Meetings with the Food Service Department will be reconvening to discuss the concerns of all stakeholders. The next Committee meeting will be held on March 12th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, January 17th, and discussed a number of policy proposals that have been advanced this evening as Information Items: Revision of Medicaid Compliance policy (8600), Revision of Student Attendance and Withdrawal policy (5100), and the School Uniform policy (5320). In last month's Business meeting, proposed revisions to the District Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (1510) were presented as an Information Item. These revisions are in response to relatively minor compliance issues cited by the NYS Medicaid Inspector General, and the District has been given a deadline of March 14th to have them in place. Therefore, I would like to make a motion to waive the requirements of the Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies (2410) to allow the proposed revisions to the District Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (1510) to be considered for discussion and for adoption in this evening's meeting. The Policy Committee also reviewed proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct, specifically with regard to standards for Board members. The intent is to make sure that the Code is clear that Board members are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct as students and District staff. This policy proposal will be reviewed again in the March meeting, as further changes were suggested. Another issue addressed by the Committee this month involves notifying parents when a District employee's actions have potentially jeopardized the safety of a student. A number of community members spoke at the meeting to express their concerns, and the Committee wants to take a bit more time because of the sensitivity and legal implications involved. The Policy Committee will address this issue again in the March meeting.

The Policy Committee is also in the process of reviewing policies requiring "deliverables" (i.e. evaluations and/or reports) from the Administration to determine the specific information necessary for monitoring policy implementation, but without creating an undue administrative burden. We have requested feedback from the Administration regarding the specific reports and data elements currently available for each of these policies, as well as suggestions for consolidating reporting requirements. We look forward to hearing their response, and will review this in March. To complete the process of

updating the Policy Manual, the Policy Committee will also examine each of the remaining policies to determine the need for revision and identify opportunities to consolidate policies to make the Manual more user-friendly. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on February 7th to discuss the following topics: goals, objectives, metrics and targets presented by Dr. Vargas; upcoming retreat agendas and scheduling, superintendent evaluation process and quarterly superintendent evaluations, and Board self-evaluations.

The Committee discussed the Superintendent's goals, objectives, metrics and targets for the 2012-13 fiscal year and the process that the Superintendent and members of the Administrative team used in developing the goals, objectives, metrics and targets. The goals presented by Dr. Vargas are as follows: Student Achievement and Growth; Parental, Family and Community Involvement; Communication/Customer Service; Effective and Efficient Allocation of Resources; and Management Systems. The Committee asked that Dr. Vargas report on progress achieved against the accepted 2012-13 Goals, Objectives, Metrics and Targets quarterly.

The Committee discussed the proposed evaluation tool for the Superintendent's annual performance appraisal. The tool serves to assess performance in financial management, human resources management, organizational effectiveness, communication and collaboration, community involvement and partnerships, and personal characteristics. The tool also calls for quarterly meetings with the Superintendent to discuss progress and opportunities for improvement.

The Committee suggested the following dates for the Superintendent's 2012-13 quarterly evaluations: May 30th; August 29th; November 12th; and February 25th.

The Committee also discussed the need for self-evaluation tools and suggested that the Board will begin to engage in assessment following Business Meetings on overall performance and accomplishments over the past month of meetings focusing on how members of the Board have collectively served the District's families and met our Leadership Team Commitments.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: No report.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 439: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 440: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 441-446: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 442: No resolution submitted for February.

2012-13: 447: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 448-456: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 450: No resolution submitted for February.

2012-13: 452: No resolution submitted for February.

2012-13: 454-455: No resolutions submitted for February.

2012-13: 457-460: No resolutions submitted for February.

2012-13: 461-462: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 463: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 464: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 465-468: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 467: No resolution submitted for February.

2012-13: 469: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 470-471: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 472: No resolution submitted for February.

2012-13: 473-474: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 475-476: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 477-487: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 486: No resolution submitted for February.

Consideration of Tabled Resolution No: 2012-13: 433

2012-13: 433: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented a revision to the Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (Resolution No. 2012-13: 477) and asked for a Motion to suspend the Board Bylaws, Policy No. 2300 which calls for written materials to be submitted to the Board for consideration no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to a Business Meeting made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries without objection.

Resolution No. 2012-13: 477: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:31 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

Commissioner Elliott left at 9:50 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Vice President White at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

XII. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cruz at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.