

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

April 25, 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 6:35 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Cruz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the March 28th Business Meeting and the April 16th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Powell absent.
- III. **Recognition:** None.

Commissioner Campos arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Taariq Cleveland, Lyndon Lowenstien, Felix Schneider, Daimarelys Lara, Luul Jeylani, Olivia Arnett and Nicole O'Hare spoke about the proposed budget reductions and consequential academic programming changes. Community Member Jacqueline Cady spoke about the importance and need for increased Universal Pre-Kindergarten funding to better support the District's student population. Community Member Sara Yaworsky presented the Board with a petition and spoke in opposition to closing elementary schools, particularly the Lincoln School No. 44. Community Member Doug Klick spoke in opposition to proposed programming changes to the School Without Walls Academy. Community Members John Curran and John Boutet spoke in opposition to relocating the Dr. Walter Cooper Academy, School No. 10.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Powell arrived at 7:25 p.m.

- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Meghan Reddington, James Denegall, Zakena Dixon-Byrd, Jeremy Hawk, Molly Cypers, Connie Ross, Greta Niu, Dagmar Kaufmann, Gary Earnahan, Elizabeth Guminski, Molly Gildea, Michelle Homan, Jill Traver, Alexis Stubbe, Julit Sullivan, Monica Devine-Haley, Evan Lowenstein, Elizabeth Crony John Tarasuk, Sharon Wilkerson, Scott Shimick, Kristen Mack-Perry, and Fred Tanksley spoke about the proposed budget reductions and consequential academic programming changes, including music programming, changes to alternative academic programming (i.e. Expeditionary Learning), enrichment services at Francis Parker School No. 23, and student support centers and coordinators. Community Member Sherry Crumity spoke about the proposed cuts to student support centers and coordinators and the adverse effects the proposed reductions will have on student learning. Staff Member Gina Specksgoor spoke about the Code of Ethics policy and requested that the Board consider educational materials authored by staff of the District. Staff Members Javier Cardona, Nancy Brackmann, Michele McCortney, Gayle Harrison, Angela Mullally, and Helen Boehm-Morelli spoke in opposition to proposed reductions to the school psychologists' workforce. Staff Member Alison Skvarla spoke about the benefits of music programming.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the recently released NYSED 2011-12 Report Cards. He mentioned that the 2011-12 report cards on District and school performance are available on the New York State Education Department website. Dr. Vargas highlighted the point that the report cards contain 2012 assessment results, attendance, and other data that have been published previously. By compiling the information in one place for easy analysis and comparison, the document makes the data an actionable tool for our work to assess school performance and improve student achievement. He noted that the data supports our strategies to target instruction to the Common Core curriculum, expand learning time so that students can meet the standards, and work aggressively to boost literacy by ensuring that all students read well by third grade.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, April 9th to discuss the Inter-Municipal Financial Audit RFP between the City of Rochester and their related entities, the Rochester Joint School Construction Board and the District. Three proposals were received and considered in the RFP process. The Committee discussed the vendor proposals and discussed the evaluation process and ratings in each category. The Audit Committee recommends Freed Maxick, CPAs as the CAFR Auditor for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013 through June 30, 2015 with two optional one year extensions for 2016 and 2017. The Committee is seeking Board approval for Resolution No. 2012-13: 621, which appoints Freed Maxick as the District Auditor for another term. The Committee also received a brief update on Office of Auditor General activities including the State Comptroller's Credit Recovery Audit, Board Suspension Appeal Process and the OAG Suspension Audit.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 18th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 595 through 613. The Committee recommends approval of the following resolutions: Resolution No. 2012-13: 595 through 612. The Finance Committee was unable to make a recommendation on Resolution No. 2012-13: 613 in this meeting because the information was not complete in terms of the facilities or schools involved in the amendment to the Facilities Modernization Plan (FMP). The Committee recommends approval of the March 2013 Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report; motion to approve made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President White. Reports accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, April 15th, to receive a presentation on eLearning Course Materials. The Administration was requested to attend the meeting to provide information on the proposed Florida Virtual School licensing purchase. Once the license is purchased, the curriculum content will be modified to make it Rochester City School District specific for our students. The Administration gave an overview of Rochester eLearning. The following programming is contained in the District's eLearning space: Credit recovery, Virtual Advanced Placement, Regents prep courses, Professional Development, Common Core Curriculum, and Smart board lessons. The District will be offering four virtual AP courses next school year as well as two foreign language virtual classes. All RCSD secondary school students will have the opportunity to take these online courses. The Committee recommends Resolution No. 2012-13: 543 to be advanced to the Board for approval.

The Committee also received a short presentation from Alisha Ward from the State University of New York regarding the Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) program. ATTAIN is a statewide technology based employment initiative funded by the New York State Legislature. ATTAIN provides communities access to new technologies, education and technology training. This is offered at Baden St. along with other locations across the state. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 13th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month. The next CIGR Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee meeting was held on Thursday, April 18th, to discuss several important policy proposals including, proposed revision of the Safe Schools policy (8135), proposed Staff Evaluation policy to incorporate APPR requirements, possible revision of the Values Education policy (4311.2), revision of Medicaid Compliance policy (8600), revision of Student Attendance and Withdrawal policy (5100), and the School Uniform policy (5320).

The Committee is reviewing the last set of policies remaining for updating the Policy Manual. In the May Policy Committee meeting, the Committee will review and approve proposed revisions to 13 policies that we hope to advance to the Board for consideration. After that point, 71 policies remain to be reviewed to complete update of the Manual. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 16th, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on April 18th to discuss the upcoming retreat agendas and scheduling and the Quarterly Superintendent Evaluations. The last scheduled retreat had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the District's 1st Annual Latino Parent Conference. The Committee has proposed dates for the next retreat and will forward new dates to the full Board as soon as possible. In discussing quarterly evaluations of the superintendent's performance, the Committee has not received any opposition to the suggested dates for the Superintendent's 2012-13 quarterly evaluations: May 30th; August 29th; November 12th; and February 25th. The Committee agreed that these dates should be added to the Board's calendar as Special Meetings to convene into Executive Session to discuss the employment of a particular person. The District's General Counsel Edwin Lopez-Soto has confirmed that the self-assessment tool is an internal document used to assess the Board's progress and effectiveness in meeting the needs the District and stakeholders, and is therefore not subject to Freedom of Information Law requests. The Committee discussed the importance for self-evaluation tools and suggested that the Board 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. The next Board Governance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: The Student Leadership Congress met on April 17th to discuss priorities for the proposed 2013-14 budget and community involvement initiatives and opportunities for students to participate in community service. The SLC also recognized the significant support that the District has provided in sending students to Washington, DC to participate in civic engagement activities and announced the *Celebration of the Arts Program* to raise funding to support the student trip.

Parent Advisory Council

Parent Representative Candice Lucas: The PAC received continued discussions on the proposed Parent Report Cards, hosted Commissioner Cruz in discussions about the Board's role in contract negotiations, and discussed the proposed 2013-14 budget. In reviewing the Superintendent's proposed 2013-14 budget the PAC expressed concerns about staffing reductions and programming changes and cuts (i.e. Center for Youth). The next PAC Informational Meeting is scheduled for April 29th at 6:00p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 566: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 567-571: No resolutions submitted for April.

2012-13: 572: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 573: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 574-578: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 579: No resolution submitted for April.

2012-13: 580: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 581-582: No resolutions submitted for April.

2012-13: 583: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 584-588: No resolutions submitted for April.

2012-13: 589-592: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 593: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 594: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 595-598: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 599-600: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 601-612: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 613 made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner Cruz dissenting.

2012-13: 614: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams abstaining due to professional relationships.

2012-13: 615-624: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 625: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans abstaining due to professional relationships.

2012-13: 626: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to remove Resolution No. 2012-13: 543 from the table made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2012-13: 543: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 545 made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 549: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Rejected 0-7 with all Commissioners dissenting.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:41 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

Commissioner Powell left at 10:41 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Cruz at 10:50 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:51 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.