

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

June 20, 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 Campos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the May 23rd Business Meeting made by Commissioner Campos and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** The American Teen Age Diplomats (ATAD) Scholarship Award was presented, Scholar Athletes were recognized and RISE UP Rochester poster contest participants and winners were announced.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on 2012 graduation rates, comparing the District's performance and progress to that of other urban school districts throughout the state . He referenced graduation rates across subgroups (i.e. African American students, Hispanic students, White students, Students with Disabilities, Limited English Proficiency students, and Economically Disadvantaged students). Dr. Vargas highlighted growth and decline across the subgroups and briefly discussed strategies that are being implemented throughout the District to improve student performance.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: No report.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell:

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 13th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 728 through 750. The Committee recommends approval of the May 2013 Financial Report and the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution 728 through 733 for Procurement; Resolutions 734 through 747 for Educational Facilities; Resolution 748 for Information Management & Technology; and Resolutions 749 and 750 for Other. Motion to accept the May 2013 Financial Report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Reports accepted 7-0. In addition, the members of the Finance Committee reviewed a late-submission resolution regarding a proposed agreement with the Rochester Public Library to hire 11 RCSD students as Literacy Aides for the summer. The Finance Committee also considered a resolution presented by Commissioner Adams to terminate the District's involvement in the District – Charter Compact. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18th, immediately following the Policy Committee meeting.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, June 10th, to receive a presentation from representatives from Monarch Teaching Technologies, Inc. Their presentation focused on their vizZle program which is a web-based program that includes an online library of interactive lessons created specifically for students with special needs. The program creates cooperative social networks at home and school. The Monarch presentation was for informational purposes only. The presentation, in no way, was to indicate that the Board or the District had an interest in purchasing licenses for the program at this time.

The Committee also received an update for All City High School. The presentation outlined the current All City High enrollment by grade, attendance by grade level and the number of students by cohort year and grade. The presentation also included credit accrual and Regents results, GPA and student enrollment by cohort; and the January 2013 Regents comparisons. The Committee will be receiving a presentation regarding the District's comprehensive plans for meeting student social/emotional/behavioral needs at next month's meeting. I'd like to extend an invitation to all Board Members to attend the meeting. ext month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 15th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. The Committee further discussed the Draft 2013 Legislative Agenda and continued to refine it with hopes to present the draft agenda to the Board for approval at the July Business Meeting. Also with regards to the 2013 Legislative Agenda, the Committee discussed possible dates to host the Legislative Breakfast in October. Representatives from the federal, state and city governments will be invited to attend. The Administration presented an update on the transportation legislation in regards to the legislation being cost neutral between the State and the Rochester City School District by reducing the number of routes. The Committee invited staff from the Office of Parent Engagement to discuss its plans for hosting a forum for parents that includes providing information on the Common Core Standards. The Committee decided that because the Office of Parent Engagement has already begun planning for this event, the CIGR Committee will collaborate with them on this effort instead of moving forward with its own plans to host forums as previously planned. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee considered several policy proposals in their June 13th meeting, including: a revision of Values Education policy (4315.1), an Amended Teachers' Evaluation policy (0330) that will apply to all staff and contain a reference/web address for NYSED APPR requirements, a School-Based Planning Teams policy (2265): additional work is needed to examine current legal requirements, and the extent to which local districts are afforded discretion in framing this policy, equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials (4010): the Committee is considering whether this policy is necessary, as these issues are typically discussed as part of the budget process. There is considerable overlap among these policies, and having one comprehensive policy in place would make this information much more accessible and comprehensible. For instance, the Arts Education policy (4320) is under consideration for removing obsolete references. Additional work will be done to examine current NYS standards to ensure that these are reflected in the policy.

In addition, quite a few proposed policies were advanced to the Board last month and are presented in this evening's meeting as Discussion Items:

- Proposed revision of the Safe Schools policy (8135) to incorporate provisions for notifying parents when an employee's conduct may have jeopardized student safety. The members of the Committee have obtained input from parent groups, law enforcement, and District staff in developing this policy revision to ensure that there is a balance between protecting child safety, keeping the integrity of the investigative process, addressing parents' concerns, and preserving individual rights.
- Proposed revision of the Code of Conduct (5300) to clarify that the same minimum standards of behavior apply to Board members as to District staff and students.
- Proposed Credential Options for Students with Disabilities policy (4222), which provides guidelines as to the ways in which students with disabilities can earn a high school diploma. This policy is legally mandated to ensure that these students have similar opportunities for earning a diploma as all other students.
- Proposed revision of the Student Individual Education Plan (IEP): Development and Provision policy (4209) to provide electronic access to a student's IEP to teachers and service providers. Recent changes in State law allow districts to use electronic means to provide the IEP to educational and service providers working with the student.
- Proposed revision of Appointment and Training of Members of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) policy (4207) to require attendance of a parent representative to CSE meetings only when requested by the parent at least 72 hours in advance. This proposed policy change also reflects recent changes to NYS law.
- Proposed revision of the Child Abuse and Maltreatment policy (5460) to remove the requirement for the Superintendent to provide a report to the Board every two years. In light of the numerous reporting requirements in these situations, this additional requirement did not seem necessary.
- Proposed revision of the following policies to finalize the process of updating the Policy Manual. Most of these proposed changes are quite minor in nature, involving clarifying language and/or removing obsolete references:, including: Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Schools (1150), Public Use of School Facilities (1500), District Policy Against Harassment of Students or Employees (1510), Gifts to School Personnel (1810), Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents (1925), and Electioneering in Schools (2120.1).

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for July 18th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on June 13th to discuss the Board Self-Assessment Tool, upcoming retreat agendas and scheduling, and the quarterly Superintendent evaluations. The Committee discussed using the accepted Board self-assessment questionnaire by the Board's committees, rather than the full Board, to assess our progress and effectiveness in meeting the needs the District and stakeholders. The Committee reviewed the draft 2013-14 calendar of Board Business and committee meetings and is forwarding the calendar with recommendation to the full Board for acceptance. Motion to accept the 2013-14 calendar was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. The calendar was accepted 7-0. At the April Business Meeting the Board accepted the following meeting dates for the Superintendent's 2012-13 quarterly evaluations: August 29th, November 12th, and February 25th. These meetings have been added to the Board's calendar as Special Meetings to convene into Executive Session to discuss the employment of a particular person. In preparation for the August 29th discussion, I have requested that Dr. Vargas present information to support the objectives, metrics, and targets presented in his 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives document, which has been formerly accepted by the Board.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: The Student Leadership Congress met in June to discuss student service projects for the proposed 2013-14 budget and community involvement initiatives and opportunities for students to participate in community service.

Parent Advisory Council

Parent Representative Candice Lucas: The PAC received continued discussions on the proposed Parent Report Cards, hosted Maranne McDade-Clay in discussion of a new assessment tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the Board's meetings. Ms. Lucas also noted that most of the District's schools are in compliance with have the necessary amount of parent involvement in School Based Planning Teams. She recognized the Office of Parent Engagement and announced the in-coming President of the Parent Advisory Council.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 697-700: No resolutions submitted for June.

2012-13: 701A: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 701B: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 702-703: No resolutions submitted for June.

2012-13: 704-705: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 706-711: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2012-13: 712 to withdraw Shawn Cropo, Jeffrey Wujcik, and Mark Crispino from consideration made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 712: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President White and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2012-13: 713: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2012-13: 714: No resolutions submitted for June.

2012-13: 715: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 716: No resolutions submitted for June.

2012-13: 717-718: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 719-727: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 728-733: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 734-747: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 748: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 749-750: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 751: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 752-758: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2012-13: 759 to direct the Superintendent to reconcile Appendix A of the Superintendent Employee Group's Rules and Regulations to coincide with current assignments and the adopted 2013-2014 budget made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2012-13: 759-762: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 763: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

- IX. Unfinished Business:** Commissioner Elliott requested the reinstatement of the Human Resources Committee. She suggested that the reinstated Committee work to ensure that our students have access to the best teachers, administrators and support staff by assuming an active role in reviewing issues related to diversity including: guiding the development, review and authorization of personnel policies and procedures to increase recruitment and support of the District's racial and cultural diverse staff; monitoring the District's recruitment and retention human capital management practices and strategies; and reviewing recruitment and retention data detailing the demographics of District applicants and hires. Additionally, Commissioner Elliott proposed that the Committee monitor the administration of the District's compensation philosophy and programs for all staff; review and approve strategies for attracting, developing and motivating all staff; review and approve the appointment and performance of all staff and their compensation, including salary and other incentives; and review, consider and approve collective bargaining agreements including economic provisions and other elements necessary to permit

the implementation of the terms of these agreements. President Evans referred the consideration of the reinstatement of the committee to the Board Governance Committee meeting for review.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the following items as Discussion Items: revision to Safe Schools policy (8135), revision of the Code of Conduct (5300), revision of Child Abuse and Maltreatment policy (5460), Policy for Students with Disabilities to Earn a High School Diploma (4222), revision of Student Individual Education Plan (IEP): Development and Provision policy (4209), revision of Appointment and Training of Members of Committee on Special Education policy (4207); revision of Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Schools policy (1150), revision of Public Use of School Facilities policy (1500), revision of District Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (1510), revision of Gifts to School Personnel policy (1810), revision of Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents policy (1925), and a revision of Electioneering in Schools policy (2120.1).

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.