

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Special Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2013

### Minutes

**Attendance:** President Evans and Vice President White, and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, and Elliott. Superintendent Bolgen Vargas. Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

I. President Evans convened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.

### III. Resolutions

Vice President White proposed that an additional full-time staff person be added to the Office of Auditor General staff to assist with processing long-term appeals that are forwarded to the Board for consideration. He also recommended that a Freedom School program be implemented at the Enrico Fermi School No. 17. Vice President White suggested that the Freedom School program would operate to effectuate positive social change and promote academic success for all of the students in grades 7 and 8 (approximately 120 students) who attend the school. To create such a program, Vice President White suggested that one (1) Social Worker, one (1) Counselor, and one (1) In-School Suspension teacher be added to the 2013-14 budget to support the program.

President Evans noted that an additional staff person for the Office of Auditor General could be added within the constraints of the Board's current staffing allocation, and it is not necessary to amend the proposed budget to increase the staffing allocation for the Office of Auditor General.

Motion made by Vice President White to amend the proposed 2013-14 budget to implement and support a Freedom School program at the Enrico Fermi School No. 17 with additional program funding in the amount of \$120,000 along with three (3) full-time equivalent positions. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion withdrawn by Vice President White in lieu of receiving additional information in support of the proposal to implement a Freedom School program at the Enrico Fermi School No. 17.

Commissioner Adams expressed concern about the proposed budget's ability to address the social-emotional and behavioral needs of the District's student population. In particular, she noted that School Psychologists are being removed from school buildings and centralized, the School-Wide Positive Behavioral Services is being eliminated, the Center for Youth support services program is being eliminated, and the student support services coordinators in our school buildings are being eliminated. Commissioner Adams suggested that the funding allocated to Technology Coaches (Teacher on Assignment) be redirected to positions that address the social-emotional and behavioral needs of the District's student population; i.e. Student Support Services Coordinators. Commissioner Adams also suggested that the Administration explore the use Title I grant funds to support the referenced programs as they relate to the coordination of services for our student population.

Deputy Superintendent Burrell-Moore stated that Title I monies are to be used for instructional purposes only. Recognizing that student support services are not directly related to instruction, Dr. Burrell-Moore noted that Title I monies cannot be used. Budget Director, Vernon Connors, explained that Title I is restrictive in that the funding can be shifted

Motion made by Commissioner Adams to amend the proposed budget to redirect funding to support the staffing allocation for Technology Coaches to support staff positions that address the social-emotional and behavioral needs of the District's student population. Rejected 2-4 with President Evans, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz, and Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Powell absent.

**2012-13: 627:** Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-13: 627 made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

**IV. Executive Session:** President Evans requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters relating to a specific individual. Motion to enter into executive session made Commissioner Campos and seconded by Vice President White at 7:28 p.m. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

Commissioner White left at 7:30 p.m.

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President White and Commissioner Powell absent 7:43 p.m.

**2012-13: 628:** Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-13: 628 made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President White and Commissioner Powell absent.

**V. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President White and Commissioner Powell absent at 7:45 p.m.