

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 26, 2015

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott and Commissioners Campos, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Student Representative Unique Fair-Smith; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Christiana Otuwa; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

- I. President White selected a student from School Without Walls to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the January 22nd Business Meeting, January 22nd True North Charter School Hearing, January 29th Special Meeting and February 10th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized 11th grade student Kyrren Love for his outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service to fellow students at the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Besides being an active member of the track team, Kyrren participates in the Elevate Club to provide academic assistance to students and also serves as a mentor to a younger student in the school. Kyrren identified his teacher, Mr. Chanthadeth Oyphanith, as his inspiration because of Mr. Oyphanith's way of organizing instruction while also allowing students to conduct portions of the lessons. In this way, students are invested in their own learning while developing enhanced leadership skills. For his role in encouraging Kyrren's leadership and love of learning, the Board also recognized Mr. Oyphanith with an "I Believe" award.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Thomas Cuyler addressed the Board regarding the importance of the vocational training and programming for youth.
- V. **Speakers on other that Agenda Items:** Parent Elizabeth Laidlaw spoke about the need to address poverty in the Rochester community and asked for support in local efforts to address impoverished schools and students. Parents Ricardo Adams, Beverly Usher, Dr. Doris Meadows, and John Laing advocated for the Board to allow Lincoln Park School No. 44. Staff member Selene Bissanti spoke about the Making a Connection Academy program which is designed to serve refugee students in the Rochester community. Staff members Sandra Jordan and Larry Ellison spoke about the need for effective leadership and management of the City School District.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** In Dr. Vargas's absence, Dr. Christiana Otuwa delivered a presentation to update the Board on how the District is working to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. In the presentation she highlighted the social emotional supports and specialized services for students with disabilities. Dr. Otuwa outlined the types of disabilities and special education programs and

services in the District. She stated that the District has been sanctioned by state and federal regulators regarding the poor results for students with disabilities. As a result the District has developed a five-year improvement plan to incorporate recommendations from State and Council audits that will improve achievement. The goals of the improvement plan are to offer more services that meet specific needs of students with disabilities, improve the quality of Individualized Education Programs, and offer high-quality career and technical education programs. In discussing improvement strategies, Dr. Otuwa spoke about how the District will implement integrated co-teaching classes and consultant teacher classes and other expanded program options for students with disabilities.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee, Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. The next Audit Committee is on Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:45 p.m.

Finance Committee, Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 19th to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 485 through 494, and 502 through 504. The Committee recommends approval of the following amendments to the 2014-15 RCSD Budget: amend 2014-15 General Fund to reflect a net decrease of \$610,543, amend 2014-15 Special Aid Fund to reflect an increase of \$4,773,469 in grant revenue, 2014-15 School Food Service Fund – No change, and amend 2014-15 RCSD Budget to reflect an overall net increase of \$4,162,926 in revenue. Members of the Finance Committee also recommend approval of the January 2015 Financial Report. The 2nd Quarter Student Activity Funds Report was also reviewed by the Committee and recommended for approval. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 489 through 494, and 502 through 504 for Educational Facilities. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th, following the Board Governance and Policy Committee meetings. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the January 2015 Financial Report and recently issued 2nd Quarter Student Activity Funds Report, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent. The budget process will officially begin next month, with the Superintendent presenting his proposed 2015-16 RCSD Budget on Monday, March 23rd, at 6:00 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17th. The Committee received a presentation on the proposed Special Education redesign. The Committee considered the redesign of special education and will continue to monitor the progress, anticipating it will improve the graduation outcomes for students. The Committee also discussed suspension and discipline audit updates on the 31 areas that were part of the audit finding, including Districtwide policies and procedures and the development of the Student Behavior Resource Manual that standardizes the process, procedures and forms; long-term hearing office compliance with State regulated guidelines; timeliness of suspensions and disciplines with Deputy Superintendent included in the daily process; and monitoring of suspensions and disciplines accurate data driving decisions. The next ESAC meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee conducted a Meeting of the Whole on Tuesday, February 10th, to discuss ways that the District can prevent or mitigate incidents in the community involving students. The meeting was attended by Rochester Police Chief Mike Ciminelli, Lieutenant Mike Perkowski and Sergeant Nelson Soto of the Rochester Police Department, and Mike Schmidt, RCSD Chief of School Operations, and Wayne Kittelberger, RCSD Transportation Director. In December

2014, the Mayor authorized additional police officers to patrol the Transit Center to monitor activity and examine procedures to improve safety in the future.

There was support and agreement among District staff for requiring students to wear their bus passes so that they visible, collaborating more closely with RTS and RPD to assist in identifying individual students responsible for causing problems, and sanctioning these students through a range of measures. Concerns were expressed about assigning SSOs to team with police officers downtown due to potential legal liability issues and cost considerations. General Counsel Ed Lopez-Soto has issued a memo to Board members regarding the liability issues. As an alternative to deploying SSOs to assist with safety at the Transit Center, suggestions were made to utilize volunteers (e.g. clergy on patrol, parents and members of the Parent Advisory Council, and community volunteers). RPD Police Chief Ciminelli offered to meet with prospective volunteers, developing a schedule, and providing training.

The March CIGR meeting will include an update as to the status of these initiatives to improve Transit Center safety. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee, Chair Willa Powell: On Thursday, February 19th the Policy Committee met and discussed the required policy deliverables from the Superintendent. There are a total of 23 required reports due to the Board. The Administration has delivered 20 reports. The Committee discussed the reports that were not delivered and action to address the missing reports. The Committee reviewed Student Records and Privacy, Policy No. 5500 regarding the addition of electronic mail addresses and photographs to “student directory information” which will be released to various organizations unless parents or students actively instruct the district not to release information. The Committee also considered specific changes to address school district’s decision to share personally identifiable student information with outside data dashboard operators or associated infrastructures. The Committee has decided on explicit language to address these concerns and has agreed on the correct language to present in the policy. The Committee has advanced the Professional Services Policy No. 6741 and the Concussion Management Policy No 5420 to the Board for consideration. These policies were discussion items at the January 22, Business Meeting. Policy No. 6741 will adjust the timing requirements of RFIs and RFPs (for service contracts \$100,000 or greater) from “required at least once every three years or following the expiration of an existing contract’s term, whichever is greater” to “required prior to the expiration of an existing contract’s term.” Policy No. 5420 is a new policy that provides clear direction and preventive measures on concussion management to ensure that a student’s needs are properly addressed and managed with the upmost urgency and best practices. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th.

Board Governance Committee, Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on January 29th and again on February 19th to discuss: a proposed reorganization of the Board’s Administrative Team, and the Board’s governing Bylaws Policy. Given the fiscal state of the District and the needs of students and families, the Board has taken steps to reorganize and reduce the resources needed to fulfill our responsibilities. In doing so, the Committee has proposed a reorganization of the Board’s Administrative team to better support the Board in or endeavors to elevate District-wide social justice, equity and diversity goals and priorities and developing strategic planning to advance innovative, effective and authentic instruction. This new structure is proposed in effort to better support the Board and the students, families and staff of the Rochester City School District. A motion to approve the proposed reorganization was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Resolutions

2014-15: 458-459: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

Resolutions were withdrawn for Resolutions 2014-15: 460, 461, 463, 464, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, and 479.

2014-15: 462: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 465-466: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams absent with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 467-470: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 480-484: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 485-488: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 489-495: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 496-499: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 500: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 501: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 502-504: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 505-506: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 507: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2014-15: 508-513: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: None

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Campos at 9:57 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Campos at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

XI. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.