

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Business Meeting  
April 23, 2015

**Attendance:** President White, Vice President Elliott and Adams, Campos, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Student Representative Unique Fair-Smith; Superintendent Dr. Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. President White selected a student from the audience to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the March 26<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting, April 9<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing, and April 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized members of the Youth Council on Instructional Improvement (YCII) advisory body with the *I Believe* award for their efforts. The Board created the YCII to employ the talents, resources, and interests of the District's student body to assist in developing the programs needed for the maintenance of quality education in schools. The YCII worked to represent student's rights, needs and issues by providing input into curriculum design, input on teacher evaluations, solutions around issues of school climate, input on behavioral issues and discipline, and input on community building practices.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member John Boutet urged the Board to adopt Resolution No. 2014-15: 619 to maintain a school in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward community to meet the needs of area students and families. Staff member Jennifer Laird spoke about the need to keep Lincoln Park School No. 44 open to meet the needs of the students and families in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward community.
- V. **Speakers on other that Agenda Items:** Student Olga Martinez spoke about the importance of psychologists in school settings. Students Nina Nykonchuk, Desmond Herbert, Timothy Holt, Keneshia Gaines, and Rosanna Figueroa spoke about the value of the OACES program. Student Gloria Sabastro and Parents Anna Casserly, Myrna Gonzalez, and Tahiana Bernal urged the Board to address the needs of English language learners and students with students with disabilities. Staff members Gloria LaJuett, Latoya Manon, Tara Ramirez, and Erica Lange-Geyer spoke about the need to include staff in the planning of the All City Program. Staff member Aimee Rinere, Michele McCortney, Patricia Prusak, and Gloria Johnson-Hovey spoke about the importance of psychologists in school settings. Staff members Robert Shaver, Greg Finch, Greg Newton, Cindy Dumas, Dan Dreyer, Todd Klafehn, and Joseph Horton spoke about the value of the OACES program. Staff member Mary Ann Bailey spoke about integrated co-teaching classrooms and the District's specialized services programming. Staff member Margaret Sargent spoke in opposition to the proposed reduction in school instructors. Staff member Janice Kriegal urged the Board to reinstate the Director of Assessment position.

**VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the District's efforts to address summer learning loss. He highlighted the District's Summer Reading Book Campaign, noting that all current k-2 students will be given 10 books to read over the summer. Dr. Vargas stated that five books will be pre-selected by building librarians and the ELA department to ensure that students receive a blend of fiction and non-fiction books, including award-winning literature. And, five books will be selected by student based on their personal interests during a school-based book fair. He added that Spanish and Spanish/English books will be available for students to select at appropriate schools.

## **VII. Board Reports**

***Student Leadership Congress, Board Representative Unique Fair-Smith:*** The Council met on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to continue discussion on the development of forums calling for student input on issues related to student safety, particularly at the RGRTA Transit Center; teen pregnancy prevention; and the need for textbooks and other resources for students.

***Audit Committee, Chair Mary Adams:*** The Audit Committee did not meet since the March Business Meeting.

***Finance Committee, Chair Jose Cruz:*** The Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 596 through 612. Members of the Finance Committee recommend approval of the March 2015 Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report. Commissioner Campos made a motion to accept the March 2015 Financial Report, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0. The Finance Committee advanced to the Board with recommendation all of the considered resolutions. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> following the Policy Committee.

***Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, Chair Malik Evans:*** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet since the March Business Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> following the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. The agenda will include an overview of Extended Day Learning and a presentation of schools that may qualify to be in Receivership.

***Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chair Cynthia Elliott:*** The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month because several Committee members were ill and a quorum could not be obtained. The Committee will take up the agenda items planned for this month in the May meeting. Next month's meeting will include a number of speakers to present information regarding effective strategies for advancing different items on the Legislative Agenda, including:

- Kathleen Saville, Grants Director – discuss ways in which Board members can advocate for grants at the federal and state level
- Erin Graupman, Director of the Health-E-Access Program – provide information about this telemedicine program, the impact on students' health and attendance, and program needs.

- Anne Marie Healey, Nurse Leader in Pediatric Telemedicine, University of Rochester Medical Center – discuss the Health-E-Access program from the perspective of a health care practitioner and community partner

The Committee will also continue discussion of initiatives to improve safety downtown at the Transit Center. Lori Baldwin and Barbara Goldammer have been invited to attend to speak about options for offering alternate placements for students who have been disruptive. The next CIGR meeting is Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

***Policy Committee, Chair Willa Powell:*** The Policy Committee did not meet since the March Business Meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting: is scheduled for Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The agenda will include consideration of Policy 0100 (formerly 1510) District Policy or Harassment of Students or Employees to the Board as a resolution. The agenda will also include review of the administration's deliverable of Policy 1900 Parent & Family Engagement.

***Board Governance Committee, Chair Melisza Campos:*** The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the March Business Meeting.

## **Resolutions**

**2014-15: 573:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 577:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 580:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 581-584:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

**The following resolutions were not submitted for consideration: Resolution No. 2014-15: 572, 574, 575, 576, 578, 579, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, and 593.**

**2014-15: 594-596:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 597-600:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 601:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 602-612:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 613-617:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**The following resolutions were withdrawn: Resolution No. 2014-15: 615, 616, and 618.**

**2014-15: 619:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Cruz dissenting.

**2014-15: 620:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 4-3 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

**2014-15: 621-626:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:** None.

**IX. New Business:** Commissioner Powell presented the District Policy Prohibiting Discrimination or Harassment of Students of Employees, No. 0100 to the full Board as a discussion item.

**X. Motion to enter into executive session** to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Powell at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 10:24 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

The Board received a presentation a proposed process for granting tenure to the District's teachers and administrators.

**Motion to enter into executive session** to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Powell at 10:34 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 10:43 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

**XI. Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams at 10:43 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.