

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Business Meeting**  
**May 28, 2015**

**Attendance:** President White, and Adams, Campos, Cruz, 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 April 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting and May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized the principal and staff of Louis Cerulli School No. 34 with the *Yes We Can* for their significant transformation and related performance and growth. The school has become a model of transformation not only for the Rochester City School District, but for the New York State Education Department and other schools and districts within the state. Prior to the 2013-14 academic year, School No. 34 was identified as a persistently failing school based on NYS ELA and Mathematics performance metrics. In September 2014, under the instructional leadership of newly hired, established and proven Principal, Dr. Carmine Peluso, School No. 34 began its dramatic turnaround. This school's transformation is evidenced in the immediate shift to a positive, strength-based culture that remains an effective learning environment for all students. Current data and related performance, positive behavioral, attendance, parent participation, and newly established student course selection trend has contributed to the significant and sustained turnaround of the school. School No. 34 has become one of the highest performing schools in the District by maintaining a relentless focus on our mission, goals, and Core Academic Priorities of assuring that every child is provided the resources necessary to ensure they are Reading by Third Grade, and sustaining equitable access to More and Better Learning Time.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Tyrone Kelly spoke in favor of the proposed appointment of the candidate for Edison Career and Technical High School principalship. Community member Lori Thomas spoke about the need to address the needs of students and families of the District.
- V. **Speakers on other that Agenda Items:** Students Gabrielle Crockett, Chase Oula, Kaylynn Brown, Lakeya Quinn and Kathryn Henriquez urged the Board to consider revising the Code of Conduct Policy, especially as it relates to student suspension and behavior. Parents Gloria Sabater, Franshely Diaz, Yamitza Diaz, Myrna Gonzalez, and Tahiana Bernal urged the Board to consider revising the Code of Conduct Policy, especially as it relates to student suspension and behavior. Community member Sally Williams urged the Board to consider revising the Code of Conduct Policy, especially as it relates to student suspension and behavior. Parent Gloria Sabastro provided a statement that was presented by a community member that spoke about the Director of Bilingual Studies. Community

member Ana Casserly thanked the Board for their support in addressing the needs of bilingual students and families.

**VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the District's efforts in May 2015, including preparation for commencement ceremonies and celebrations. He highlighted an upcoming job fair, designed to provide employment opportunities for recent graduations. Dr. Vargas also spoke about efforts of community partners to recognize and engage District students during the summer months.

**VII. Board Reports**

***Audit Committee, Chair Mary Adams:*** The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> with Freed Maxick, the Board's External Auditor, to review the Audit Plan for the financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2015. The Committee discussed the plan and reviewed the timelines for receiving the audit results. Preliminary Fieldwork has already started and the final audit work will take place in Fall 2015. The Committee is planning to meet with Freed Maxick on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:45PM to review the final results of the 2015 Rochester City School District Audit. All Board members are invited to attend. The Committee also received a brief status update on the work of the Office of Auditor General. Commissioner Adams made a motion to for the Board to accept the following reports for posting to the District website: the External Education Follow Up Review, the Charter School Tuition Audit, and the Charlotte Student Activity Funds Audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell, ad carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

***Finance Committee, Chair Jose Cruz:*** The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 656 through 664. The Committee also reviewed Resolution 671 for an agreement with the Rochester Public Library to hire RCSD students as Literacy/Library Aides for the summer. This resolution has also been advanced to the Board with recommendation. Members of the Finance Committee recommend approval of the April 2015 Financial Report. Commissioner Campos made a motion to accept the April 2015 Financial Report, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent. 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, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

***Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, Chair Malik Evans:*** No report presented.

***Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chair Cynthia Elliott:*** No report presented.

***Policy Committee, Chair Willa Powell:*** The Policy Committee did not meet since the April Business Meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting: is scheduled for Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 April Business Meeting.

## **Resolutions**

**2014-15: 629:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 630-640a:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 640b:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 641-650:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**The following resolutions were not submitted for consideration: Resolution No. 2014-15: 631, 632, 635, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, and 650.**

**2014-15: 651-653:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**Motion to separate Resolution No. 2014-15: 653 in to Resolution No. 2014-15: 653 and Resolution No. 2014-15: 653a. Made by Commissioner Adams seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.**

**Motion to postpone the consideration of Resolution No. 2014-15: 653a made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.**

**2014-15: 654:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 655:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 656:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 657:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 658-671:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 672:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Campos abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**2014-15: 673-688:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans 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 8:53 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

**XI. Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.