

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 16, 2012

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President Cruz, and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Powell, and White; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Interim Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the January 26th Business Meeting made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Genesis Silva addressed the importance of physical education and spoke in opposition to proposed cuts in the District's physical education programming. Parents Howard Eagle and Cynthia Middleton spoke in opposition to the proposed alternative education program. Community member Edward Goolsby spoke in opposition to the proposed alternative education program. Staff member Mark Friedman spoke in opposition to the proposed alternative education program.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Aria Camaione-Lind addressed the importance of physical education and spoke in opposition to proposed cuts in the District's physical education programming. Student Dyniste Ely addressed the importance of physical education and spoke in opposition to proposed cuts in the District's physical education programming. Community member Shawn Toth addressed the importance of physical education and spoke in opposition to proposed cuts in the District's physical education programming. Staff member Victoria Rothwell addressed the importance of physical education and spoke in opposition to proposed cuts in the District's physical education programming.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas recognized Nationally Board Certified Teachers, including Daniel Delehanty, Alexandra Johnson, Kelle Little and Kimberly Michels. Dr. Vargas mentioned the progress that the District has made in developing a plan for teacher and administrator evaluation processes. He also presented the Board with student achievement results from the second marking period, and asked the Board to provide specific direction for the alternative school program.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Thursday, February 9th, to review the Audit Committee Charter, as well as several draft policies including an Audit Committee Policy, Internal Auditor Policy, External Independent Auditor Policy and a Claims Auditor Policy. Although formal policies are not required, we believe these policies should be included in the Board Policy Manual.

The Audit Committee forwarded these policies with recommendation to Commissioner Cruz for Policy Committee and Board consideration. The Committee also received an update on the Office of Auditor General. The Audit team is starting numerous school-based audits for the remainder of the school year.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 9th to consider resolutions. The Committee recommends approval of the January 2012 Financial Report and the Quarterly Student Activity Report. President Evans requested a motion to accept the January 2012 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. President Evans requested a motion to accept the Quarterly Student Activity Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. The Committee also recommends approval of the procurement and supply, educational facilities, and the information management and technology resolutions. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 15th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee has not met since the January 2012 Business Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee has not met since the January 2012 Business Meeting.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, February 9th to discuss:

- information to be provided to the Board for review regarding tenure resolutions;
- a draft Recruiting and Hiring policy to offer incentives for employees to reside in the District;
- plans for obtaining crime data to serve as a basis for identifying specific areas in which students are to receive expanded transportation services

In addition, a presentation was given regarding changes planned in student promotion and retention practices. The changes are intended to facilitate early intervention and develop a targeted intervention plan to address academic challenges experienced by elementary school students (K-8). Development of the plan will involve multiple stakeholders, particularly parents, to ensure that students' needs are met and that there is consistency in addressing students' challenges. Retention will be considered as a last resort if this is determined to be in the best interest of the student.

Policy Committee members recommended that the proposed changes include a provision for retaining students if this is at the request of their parent or guardian. The concern was that if there is a serious question about a student's readiness to move on to the next grade level, automatic promotion may only lead to retention later on and the student has lost that much more time.

With regard to information provided to the Board for consideration of tenure resolutions, data will be provided as to:

- employee ratings on performance evaluations
- number of days of unexcused absences

- disciplinary actions

This information will be provided by HCI in an accessible matrix/spreadsheet for each employee recommended for tenure at the upcoming Board meeting. Any questions or concerns that Board members may have regarding employees recommended for tenure would be addressed in Executive Session prior to the Board meeting.

The Policy Committee has also been considering various incentives that may be provided to employees for residing in the District. A draft Recruiting and Hiring policy was presented which would establish hiring preference for candidates with “urban experience” in working or volunteering in an urban environment for at least 3 years prior to the date of hire. In addition, the proposed policy would expand on an existing program through the City of Rochester which offers up to \$3K for employees purchasing a home in the City. This is an employer-sponsored homeownership initiative, and the City will match the amount of funds provided by the District (up to \$3K).

Committee members plan to continue examining these initiatives to ensure that provisions are included to prevent abuse of incentives and to explore other options for encouraging employees to reside in the District.

Policy Committee members also discussed plans for obtaining additional crime data to use as a basis for delineating specific areas that pose the most serious threat to student safety. This issue has also been referred to the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee to consider amending NYS Education Law in the legislative agenda. Currently, the law enables districts to establish “child safety zones” based on evidence of hazards in these areas. Districts can expand transportation services to all students within these zones, regardless of the distance to school, and obtain NYS reimbursement. However, the law does not apply to large urban districts and there is no provision for expanding transportation for the safety of these students. In addition, the Committee decided to contact the Office of the Big Five and the New York State School Boards Association to request that they consider placing this on their legislative agendas.

In this evening’s meeting, a number of resolutions are presented to adopt new or revised policies regarding Special Education. These policies are needed to address legal requirements, and to clarify parents’ rights and the process for students to receive academic support and intervention, remain in the general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible, and obtain the services they need to maximize their potential. With the adoption of these policies, the Policy Manual will be completely updated in terms of addressing legal mandates.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee has not met since the January 2012 Business Meeting,

Student Representative Report: Ms. Gallivan spoke about her recent visit to Buffalo, NY to encourage the Buffalo Public Schools Board of Education and community to appoint a student representative to the school board. She announced that the next meeting of the Student Leadership Congress will be held on Wednesday, March 21st. At the upcoming meeting, SLC will meet with School Chiefs to receive information on the similarities and differences between the school zones.

Parent Council Report: Ms. Candice Lucas, President of the Parent Council, reported that Dr. Vargas recently presented the All-City High School Program to the Council. Ms. Lucas noted that the Council could not support the proposal at this time due to the proposal’s lack of parent engagement. She the

upcoming Title I Conference, scheduled for May 19th, where theme will be health and wellness for students and families.

VIII. Resolutions

2011-12: 520-534: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2011-12: 535-539: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2011-12: 540-544: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2011-12: 545-552: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2011-12: 553: Motion to adopt was made by White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Motion to table Resolution No. 2011-12: 553 made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Tabled 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2011-12: 554-602: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. President Evans requested a **motion to enter into executive session** to discuss personnel matters related to a specific individual. Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 8:52 p.m.

XII. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:42 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:45 p.m.