

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

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

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

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a young audience member selected by President White.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the July 1<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting and July 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.
- III. Recognition:** None.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers.
- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Nygel Wiley, Staff member Sandra Fink, and Community members Isaiah Stewart, Juan Justiniano, Damian Salas, Iliana Justiniano, and Barbara Campbell spoke in opposition to the proposed relocation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9's Boys Academy to the Charlotte High School campus.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the impact of the receivership legislation implemented by the New York State Education Department. He noted that under receivership legislation, "persistently struggling" and "struggling" schools are required to make rapid improvements and achievement gains. In discussing the law, Dr. Vargas spoke about how an appointed receiver will have broad authority to set and manage school improvement plans. The Superintendent will act as a receiver first. If schools do not meet improvement targets within one or two years, the District is required to appoint an outside receiver approved by the State. Dr. Vargas stated that "persistently struggling" schools must show improvement in one year or be taken over by an outside receiver and "struggling" schools have two years to show improvement before outside receivership. Data for improvement targets will be released September 2, 2015. Schools must have public hearings and community engagement teams to involve families and neighborhood stakeholders in executing intervention plans. He noted that the District expects to receive \$17.7 million over two years for School No. 9, Charlotte, East and Monroe, and indicated that no new funds are available to support struggling schools. Dr. Vargas also provided that Board with an overview of the powers and duties of a receiver, timeline for public engagement and intervention planning, and the current accountability status of the District's school.

To support the school improvement strategies, Dr. Vargas mentioned that Central Office staff will use data to drive decisions and guide school plans, select the right school leaders to execute transformation plans, and provide selected leaders with the flexibility and support they need to succeed. He noted that school administrators and teachers should expect to begin to analyze assessments, deliver high-quality instruction to meet students' academic needs, demonstrate growth in ELA and math, and use expanded time to engage and support students. And in partnering with the District's educators, Dr. Vargas urged

the District's families and community to encourage student attendance, proper behavior, completion of course work, and reading outside school to support the District's efforts to improve schools.

In concluding the presentation, Dr. Vargas stated that receivership is not a weapon to punish failing schools, it is instead a tool to help improve achievement more quickly. He intends to use receivership to give our schools the support and flexibility they need to improve performance.

## **VII. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

*Chair Mary Adams:* The Audit Committee did not meet in July 2015. Commissioner Adams made a motion to accept the Board Audit Plan for the 2015-16 fiscal year, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0.

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair Jose Cruz:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 65 through 88. Members of the Finance Committee recommend approval of the Quarterly Change Order Report for April through June 2015. Motion to accept the report made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution 65 for Procurement; and Resolutions 66 through 88 for Educational Facilities. The members of the Finance Committee were pleased to see that a number of resolutions were for contracts with Popli Design Group to develop architectural designs for capital improvement projects that will be carried out in the Summer of 2016. Popli Design Group is a local minority-owned firm, and we welcome their addition to our pool of vendors performing this highly skilled work. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.

### **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

*Chair Malik Evans:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting the Committee reviewed and discussed the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) and the School Comprehensive Educational Plans (SCEP). The links to the SCEPs were sent in June for your review and approval. NYSED continues to create time constraints to complete and submit these plans. Commissioner Evans indicated that the 2015 SCEPs have more detail and are more focused on the needs of the schools with a few that have included input from School Based Planning teams. He stated that a targeted approach customized to the school's need is imperative to guide the schools and move them out of priority status. This would involve NYSED giving sufficient time to create the plans. The Committee is recommending that the President White convey this difficulty in a letter to be sent NYSED that voices the concerns of this Board; indicating that the current SCEP process is objective and hinders the progress and improvement of the schools. The next ESA Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> following the CIGR Committee meeting.

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)**

*Chair Cynthia Elliott:* The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month, but will resume discussion in the August meeting regarding developing a Communications Plan with constituents. A number of suggestions were made in the June CIGR meeting, and the Committee is focusing on creating a framework for informing and engaging stakeholders. Deputy Superintendents Dr. Otuwa and Ms. Bovard and Communications Chief Chip Partner have been invited to attend the upcoming CIGR meeting in August. Committee members would appreciate their input in crafting the Communications Plan, and their suggestions regarding effective strategies for reaching out to different groups of stakeholders. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

## **Policy Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** Policy Committee did not meet during the month of July. The following items will be discussed at the next Committee meeting scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>:

- I. Policy Deliverables due to the Board from Administration:
  - Pathways to High School Success, Policy No. 4090
  - Service Learning, Policy No. 4314.3 (Reported late in March 2015)
  - Health & Safety, Policy No. 8100
  - Small School Units, Policy No. 0220
  - School Improvement Plan, Policy No. 0400
  - Public Information Program, Policy No. 1100
  - Instructional Goals, Policy No. 4000
  - Values Education, Policy No. 4311.2
  - Compensatory Education, Policy No. 4325
- II. Parent Preference/Managed Choice, Policy No. 5153
- III. Code of Conduct, Policy No. 5300

## **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Meliza Campos:** The Board Governance Committee did not meet in the month of July.

## **VIII. Resolutions**

**2015-16: 38:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

**2015-16: 39:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 42:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

**2015-16: 45-59:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**No requests submitted for Resolution No. 40-41, 43-44, 51, 53, and 55 - 58**

**2015-16: 60-64:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2015-16: 65:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 66-86:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 87:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2015-16: 88:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 89-90:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2015-16: 91:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 92-93:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**Motion to postpone Resolution No. 2015-16: 94 was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.**

**2015-16: 95:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 96:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2015-16: 97:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2015-16: 98:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**Motion to postpone Resolution No. 2015-16: 99 was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.**

**2015-16: 100:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** None.

**Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual** made by Vice President Elliott at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

**Commissioner Adams left at 9:10 p.m.**

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Evans at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

**Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual** made by Commissioner Evans at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 10:20 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.