

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
January 28, 2016

Attendance: President White and Vice President Elliott, Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, Hallmark and Powell; Interim Superintendent Linda Cimusz; EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a young audience member.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the December 17th Business Meeting and January 14th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education recognized third-grade student Haven Monk-George from James P.B. Duffy School No. 12 with the “I Believe” award for her character and accomplishments. Haven is enrolled in the HOLA Dual Language program at the school, and is able to speak, read, and write in English and Spanish. She was nominated for the “I Believe” award for her academic achievements and for her courage in approaching challenges, persevering until she has attained mastery of the subject.

Haven credits her teacher, Mayra Tobin, for encouraging her to confront and overcome obstacles. Ms. Tobin has taught at the James P.B. Duffy School No. 12 for the last ten years, with certification as a bilingual teacher and a Master’s degree in Special Education. Ms. Tobin also received the “I Believe” award for her role in inspiring young Haven.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 6:45 p.m.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Trevon Golden and Troy Cordell spoke about how the District’s policies regarding student discipline impact student achievement and school climate. Parent Luis Aponte voiced concern about the District’s policy regarding cell phones. Parent Glenda Rivera spoke about issues regarding special education services; particularly those available to bilingual students. Parents Lachelle Hall and Cynthia Brooks spoke about how the District’s policies regarding student discipline impact student achievement and school climate. Community member Commander Julio Vicente spoke about several issues that impact the overall student achievement of the District.
- VI. **Superintendent’s Report (East High School EPO):** EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms introduced the school’s Freshman Academy Director, Maycanitza Perez and Vice Principal of the Upper School, Rhonda Neal to discuss the programming of the Freshman Academy and the Rochester Youth Culinary Experience. Ms. Perez provided an overview of the targets for 2015-2016 school year. The program’s

targets include an attendance rate of 85% or higher, 75% of 9th graders passing at least 2 Regents exams and earning 5 or more credits, and 85% of students involved in sports or other extracurricular activities. In discussing the targets Ms. Perez mentioned some the ways in which the program planned to target and improve student achievement and the various types of enrichment programs that were offered to students to impact performance on Regents examinations. Ms. Neal introduced the Rochester Youth Culinary Experience (RYCE) to the Board. RYCE is a non-profit endeavor to open a fully functioning, self-sufficient restaurant that will be run by high school students and a management team. Mr. and Mrs. Metras, owners of Salenas Mexican Restaurant and Nox Craft Cocktail in Village Gate, are partnering with East High School to create this opportunity for students. RYCE is designed to teach students to be employable adults with the goal of having a direct impact on students living in impoverished neighborhoods and create a venue for them to earn a living wage and gain employable skills upon graduation. Ms. Neal concluded the presentation by acknowledging the Metras family for their support, guidance, and investment in the students of East High School.

Superintendent's Report: Interim Superintendent Cimusz provided the Board with an overview of the 2015 graduation rates. She noted that the 4-year graduation rate held steady at 51%, the 5-year graduation rate increased to 58%, and the 4-year graduation rate for students with disabilities increased from 18.7% in 2012 to 28.8% in 2015. Ms. Cimusz noted that she and her leadership team have taken steps to implement program improvements at East, Edison, Monroe and Wilson, enhance alternative education programs for over-age and under-credited students, increase use of online credit recovery courses, expand the services for students with disabilities, and continue the focus on effective summer learning programming. She indicated that the District's target for summer programming is to provide learning opportunities for 15,000 students and summer jobs for 500 students. Ms. Cimusz also mentioned that she is working with all secondary schools to support success during Regents testing week and several elementary schools to offer expanded learning opportunities for some of the District's struggling schools. Ms. Cimusz concluded the meeting by mentioning that the planning for Phase 2 of the FMP is underway, and the Board will be asked to approve a revised plan in March to keep projects on schedule.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on January 4th, immediately following the Annual Organizational Meeting to select a Chairperson and perform our annual review of the Audit Committee Charter. The Committee decided that Mary Adams would continue as Audit Committee chairperson for the 2016 year. In addition, Commissioner Evans and Vice President Elliott will continue to serve on the Committee. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the Audit Committee Charter and determined that there are no changes required at this time. The next Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2016. At that meeting we will receive an update from the Office of Auditor General.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on January 21st to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 494 through 504, and 364. Members of the Finance Committee recommend approval of the December 2015 Financial Report, the proposed amendments to the Quarterly Change Order Report for October

through December 2015, and the 2016-17 RCSD Budget calendar, and recommends approval by the full Board in this evening's meeting. A motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Cruz, and seconded by President White. Motion carries 7-0.

The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution 494 for Non-Resident Tuition Rates; Resolution 495 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 496 through 501 for Facilities; and Resolutions 502 through 504 for Other. Resolution No. 2015-16: 364 was referred to the Policy Committee and the Finance Committee in the December 2015 Board Business meeting, and involves consideration of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting requirements to be established for Booster Clubs.

The members of the Finance Committee recommended clarification that the policy is referring to the Board's recognition of Booster Clubs and not to the Board establishing Booster Clubs. This recommendation has been advanced to the members of the Policy Committee, and the Finance Committee would like to review the draft policy after it has been vetted by the Policy Committee.

The next scheduled Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, January 21st, with a very full agenda. Presentations were given regarding: a cost/benefit analysis for implementing Arts Integration in all RCSD elementary schools, a comprehensive overview of the Teaching & Learning Division, and the ways in which the many functions of this division supports students; a plan for providing Social and Emotional Supports and Learning throughout the District; the job descriptions, roles and responsibilities of Parent Liaisons and Home School Assistants and the possibility of combining these two position titles into one unified position for consistency; and a preview of a summer learning video to be released by the District.

In addition, Committee members reviewed three resolutions that are presented for your consideration in this evening's meeting:

- Resolution No. 2015-16: 505 – agreement with The Big Picture Company to provide professional development on structures, practices, and curriculum that are proven to be effective in engaging students.
- Resolution No. 2015-16: 507 – to amend the contract with the Center for Youth to establish a HelpZone and add a Youth Advocate at Edison High School.
- Resolution No. 2015-16: 509 – to establish three Youth Advocates through the Hillside
- Work Scholarship Connection program.

The members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee unanimously approved all three of these resolutions, and advance them to the Board with recommendation in this evening's meeting.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, January 21, 2016. NYS Board of Regent T. Andrew Brown attended and presented on the NYS Board of Regents consideration of project-based assessments and different pathways to graduation. He explained the proposal presented by the NYS Education Department including qualifying for a project-based assessments after failing a Regents exam once or twice and maintaining an attendance rate of 95%. He expressed logistic concerns and does not foresee this being implemented soon. The CIGR Committee will write a letter to the NYS Board Regents about what project-based assessments and different pathways to graduation could look like to benefit students within our district.

Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard provided an update of the Transportation Legislation that recently died in the NYS Assembly without a vote, and her meeting with Jenifer Pyle of the Conference of Big 5 Schools about the possible development of a pilot universal transportation program. During the February CIGR Meeting, there will be a presentation detailing the proposed pilot universal transportation program.

The CIGR Committee established committee goals for 2016: (1) capture significant changes and update the legislative agenda on a regular basis; (2) advocate and increase presence on the federal and state level; (3) increase letter writing on legislative items; (4) serve in the role of creating partner linkages and support the implementation of partnerships and resources; and (5) plan and host forums for various stakeholders. The Committee also advanced the 2016 Legislative Agenda to the Board for full consideration. The February CIGR meeting plans to further discuss the development of a pilot universal transportation program. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2016. The Committee received a presentation from Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, Chief of Curriculum and School Programs, on Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education. She stated that the policy is being adhered to and enforced through the Curriculum Council's review of the curriculum and materials, and the development and enrollment of students of the Pan-African course on every high school campus. She proposed the following recommendations: changing the policy title to "African American Studies" or including policy language that is more inclusive. Dr. Gkourlias will be returning the Policy Committee in March to present on recommendations and policy changes for the Policy 4350.

Ms. Erin Graupman, District Coordinator of Student Health Services, presented a new policy, Students with Serious and/or Life Threatening Medical Condition, for the Committee to consider. The Committee questioned if it should be rolled into the existing Wellness Policy or a part of a separate policy. Ms. Graupman will be returning the Policy Committee in February to present on this policy for the Committee to consider.

The Committee conducted its annual state required review of Policy 5300: Code of Conduct. During the February Policy Committee Meeting, we will revisit the Equal Employment Opportunity data provided

by the Human Capital Initiative Department and to discuss the proposed Board By-Laws, Booster Club policy, and Students with Serious and/or Life Threatening Medical Condition.

The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Governance Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 2016 where they discussed new member orientation, for newly elected Board members, and briefly discussed a proposed retreat.

In discussing the process for on-boarding new commissioners, the Committee reviewed a form titled “What Every Board Member Needs to Know.” The form is intended to serve as a guidebook for newly elected Board members to become acquainted with the school district and the roles and responsibilities of school board stewardship. The Board’s staff is working to compile information to complete the form and will present a draft at the February meeting of the Committee.

The Committee discussed postponing the retreat until June or July. At the upcoming retreat, the Committee proposes the following topics for discussion:

- Determining the group’s collective development needs (What do we do well? What do we need to get better at? How do we improve interpersonal relationships/ communications with one another?).
- Enhancing our working relationship with the Superintendent (How is the communications protocol working? Are there any bottle-necks between the Board and the Superintendent? How do we maintain open lines of communication? In crisis situations?).
- Brainstorming about how to increase effectiveness and efficiency of board meetings.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Resolutions

2015-16: 451: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 458: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

Resolutions were not submitted for Resolution No. 2015-16: 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 459, 460, 461, 470, 480, 483, 484, 485, 486, and 487.

2015-16: 462: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 463-464: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 465: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 466: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 467: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 468-469: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2015-16: 471 made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

2015-16: 472: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 473-479: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 481-482: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 473-479: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 488: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 489-493: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 494-495: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 496-501: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 502: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 503: Resolution withdrawn.

2015-16: 504: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 505-506: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2015-16: 507-508: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 509: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship.

2015-16: 510-515: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. 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 specific individuals made by Commissioner Adams at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 10:13 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 10:23 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.