

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

April 28, 2016

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

President White convened the meeting at 6:45 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 March 24th Business Meeting, April 14th Special Meeting, April 14th Budget Hearing and April 23rd Special Meeting was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education recognized the staff and students of the Rochester Pathways to Technology Early College High School (P-Tech) for outstanding achievement. The P-Tech program offers a rigorous curriculum in which students have the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school and apply their knowledge through work-based learning. Students can graduate from the P-Tech program already equipped with an Associate's Degree from Monroe Community College. In fact, half of the students in 10th grade have already completed college-level coursework and earned college credits, and another 34% are expected to earn college credits by the end of this school year. The P-Tech program offers programs in construction trades, digital media, manufacturing and engineering, information technology, and automotive technology.

Students of P-Tech have realized an overall attendance rate of 90%. This year, 65% of the 10th grade students passed the Common Core English Language Assessment, which is usually taken in 11th grade. About a third of these students obtained scores indicating college readiness, although they are just in 10th grade.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Anna Bauroth spoke about the change in school start times noting that students should have been consulted regarding the change. Students Freemonta Strong and U'Nisia Calloway spoke about issues related to school climate and the District's handling of the student disciplinary issues. Parents Myra Williams, Lydia Rodriguez, and Ebony McLarty spoke about the need for the Board to authorize the revised Code of Conduct. Community members Kate Bennett and Howard Eagle spoke about the need for professional development that address race and equity.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Mary Lupien and Catherine Bauroth spoke about the negative effects early school start times could have on student learning. Parent Wendy Low and Community member Neely Kelly urged the Board to consider the dangers associated with trains transporting fossil fuels near the District's schools. Parent Joe Diflore spoke in opposition to the proposed military academy in Rochester. Community members Christina Dandino and Bridget Hurley spoke about the need for adequate resources dedicated to socioemotional supports for District students in the 2016/17 budget. Community members Douglass Noble, Jack Spola, and Rajesh Barnadas spoke in opposition to the proposed military academy in Rochester. Staff members Rachel Dobbs, Andrea Garfield, and Matthew Loomis spoke about issues related to the overcrowding of School No. 4.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Nelms introduced Lia Tinkelman Festenstein who delivered a presentation on the school's plan for addressing the needs of students with disabilities. In the presentation she spoke about support rooms and student reports used to log student progress. Ms. Tinkelman Festenstein noted that representatives from NYSED recently visited the school and reviewed the special education programming and initiatives and were impressed by the strategies and practices implemented by the school's leadership team.

Interim Superintendent Cimusz delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives. She spoke about the Bright Futures Job and Career Fair planned for Tuesday, May 24th. She explained that the job and career fair is aimed at graduating seniors and is sponsored by the FLREDC Educational/Workforce Development group. Ms. Cimusz also spoke about the Smart Schools Bond Act which allows the District to use dedicated resources to procure educational technology and high-tech security, replace temporary classroom space to permanent classroom space, and offer community-wide broadband service. The District's allocation from this legislation is \$47,234,577. With the funding allocation, Ms. Cimusz noted that the District plans to purchase interactive board and projectors for all elementary classrooms and HDTVs and projectors for all secondary classrooms and purchase new computer hardware students and staff. She concluded the presentation by speaking about the District's plans for differentiated professional development to engage educators and share best practices.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 21st to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 676 through 691; 693, 696 and 697. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the March 2016 Financial Report by the Board. Commissioner Cruz made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee also recommends acceptance of the Quarterly Change Order Report from January through March 2016. Commissioner Cruz made a motion to accept the report, 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 676 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 677 through 691 for Facilities; and Resolution 693 for Information Management & Technology
Committee members also reviewed two late-submission resolutions, which are also advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution No. 2015-16: 696 and Resolution No. 2015-16: 697.

In this month's Finance Committee meeting, presentations were given about the Preliminary Smart Schools Bond Act Plan for the District and financing of Phase II of the Facilities Modernization program. A resolution (Resolution No. 2015-16: 693) is presented this evening for your consideration in approving the Preliminary RCSD Smart Schools Investment Plan. This plan includes expansion of wireless connectivity in schools, increasing students' access to computers in the classroom, providing broadband Internet service throughout the Rochester community, replacing portable classrooms, and enhancing security in District buildings. The presentation regarding financing for Phase II of the Facilities Modernization program (FMP) included recommendations regarding the bond issuing authority (COMIDA) based on the fee structure and costs. Members of the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board also discussed projections of local share costs (~\$18M), which are contingent upon a waiver of the maximum cost allowance. This waiver is necessary because eight of the ten projects

exceed the maximum cost allowance established by the State. Approval of the NYS legislature is necessary to obtain the waiver. Payment of the local share of costs would begin in February 2017, and extend for a fifteen-year period. A resolution is presented this evening for your consideration regarding the financing and local share for Phase II of the FMP (Resolution No.2015-16: 691). The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: Members of the ROC the Future K-2 Curriculum Committee joined the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting on Thursday, April 21st, to present their recommendations. This Committee developed criteria to evaluate curricula to meet the learning and developmental needs of young children in the District, primarily focusing on early literacy. Consideration was given to the curricula used by other local school districts, research of best practices, and models of successful urban school practices. The K-2 Curriculum Committee also considered District needs for professional development, parent engagement, assessment, and culturally responsive teaching practice. The main recommendations were to:

- Withdraw the inappropriate elements of the Core Knowledge/EngageNY curriculum gradually;
- Focus on improving and re-introducing the Rochester curriculum;
- Consider using The Essential Skills Inventory developed by Bob Sornson at the Early Learning Foundation to support the revised Rochester curriculum. This guide identifies key skills at each grade level, yet emphasizes teaching the whole child. Extensive professional development would be needed for K-2 teachers, and commitment to a five-year professional development plan would be necessary to ensure the success of the new curriculum.

A one-year pilot program is recommended prior to district-wide implementation.

The full report of the K-2 Curriculum Committee will be presented in the May Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting.

In this month's meeting, the members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee also received information about plans for the closure of Charlotte High School, and placement of the remaining students. There are currently 87 students at Charlotte High School, and 25 of these students are expected to graduate in June. Another 15 students are considered dropouts due to lack of attendance over the last 20 days or reaching the age of 21. The remaining 47 students are likely to transition to All City High School or the Rochester International Academy. All 87 students will be given a placement for 2016-17 to ensure that those still attending after June will have an assigned school for the upcoming school year. The plans for placement of these students considered the impact on the receiving school's accountability status and graduation rate. The details are contained in the presentation on BoardDocs. ESA Committee members recommend approval of the resolution (Resolution No. 2015-16: 694) regarding the plans for closing Charlotte High School, which is presented this evening for your consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, April 19th. The meeting was facilitated by Commissioner Adams during my absence. Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard and Information Technology Officer Annmarie Lehner presented and sought guidance from the Committee regarding next steps for the New York Broadband grant application for the Community Broadband Project for the City of Rochester. If awarded, this program will serve to provide free home internet service to all Rochester residents and offer best in class service to those residents and/or businesses who demand high speed internet service. Ms. Bovard and Ms.

Lehner requested permission and guidance on how to formalize an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Rochester in order to ensure that our Community Broadband initiative is a success. They were advised to work with the RCSD Department of Law to develop an inter-municipal agreement.

Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard presented on the Socio-Economic Integration Grant. Under former NYS Education Commissioner John King, the District was awarded a grant and will establish two pilot programs developing partnerships with Brighton and West Irondequoit. Other opportunities developed through the Urban-Suburban Program is the opportunity for suburban students to apply and attend unique schools/programs in the RCSD including East High School, P-Tech of Rochester, Wilson Commencement-IB Program, Edison Career and Technology High School, School #50 Full Day Pre-K, and Young Men's Leadership Academy. There is limited number of opening for suburban students based on the school/program availability. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee met on both Thursday, April 7, 2016 and Tuesday, April 26, 2016. On April 7th, Dr. Donna Harris and Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias provided the Committee with a revised draft policy for the Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education. The changes to the policy included the following: language around a positive sense of identity; a reflection of early childhood education; and its alignment with existing RCSD policies, Common Core, and the African American Studies curriculum, and NYS standards. The Committee has advanced this amended policy to the full Board as an information item.

Also, during the meeting, the Committee reviewed the Policy Manual and focused on Series 1000: Districtwide Goals as a step towards reviewing and passing the entire manual. On April 26th, the Committee reconvened to discuss and be introduced to the proposed draft Code of Conduct that was collaboratively developed by multiple and diverse stakeholders. The draft Code of Conduct has been advanced to the full Board as an information item. Additional changes are expected for the draft Code of Conduct.

To date, the full Board has the following policies in their various stages to consider:

Action Item - Resolution

- Policy 5420: students with Serious and/or Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

Discussion Item

- Policy 1222: Booster Organizations

Information Item

- Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education
- Policy 5300: Code of Conduct

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Governance Committee convened as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 19th to discuss pathways for the creation of new schools including priority schools and receivership options, school replications, and new pilots. Discussion at the meeting focused on the need to create a structured process for evaluating ideas and the need to devise clear objectives for new school pathways.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will also be convened as a Committee of the Whole to receive a presentation on an online evaluation system for school superintendents, SuperEval, based on an evaluation rubric developed by The New York State Council of School Superintendents.

Commissioner Adams left at 8:00 p.m.

VIII. Resolutions

2015-16: 645: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 648: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 649: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 650-669: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 671-675: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 676-693: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2015-16: 694-705: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

No requests submitted for Resolution No. 636-644, 646, 647, 651-654, 656, 662, 664-668, and 670.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Powell introduced the Multicultural/Global Education Policy and Code of Conduct Policy as Information Items to the full Board. She noted that both policies have been vetted by the Policy Committee and will be discussed at the May Business Meeting. She also presented the Booster Organizations Policy as a Discussion Item. No comments on the proposed policy were made by the commissioners.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:24 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Vice President Elliott at 10:09 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 10:09 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.