

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

June 16, 2016

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott, and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, Hallmark, 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 Allegiance to the flag was led by two young audience members selected by President White.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the May 26th Business Meeting, May 31st Special Meeting, May 31st Smart Schools Bond Investment Plan Public Hearing, June 2nd Special Meeting, and June 9th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 8:05 p.m.

III. Recognitions:

The Rochester Board of Education recognized the Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School Chess Team with the Yes We Can Award. The Wilson Chess Team was recognized for their victory in the Upstate New York Interscholastic Chess Tournament this year. The Tournament included teams from schools in a five-county area: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Steuben, and Wayne counties. The Wilson Chess Team bested their opponents in each of the five rounds, competing in the final round against the team from the Brighton School District. The team has won this championship for three of the last four years, and came in fifth in the statewide tournament earlier this year. The following students were recognized: Peter Carter, Theodore Chapman, Samuel Cherin, Webster Kehoe, Son Ngo, Patrick Phillips and Connor Wagner, along with Thomas Mueller, teacher, and Mike Kehoe, volunteer mentor, who coached, inspired and led the team to victory.

Lynn Stanzel, retired Programmer Analyst, was recognized for 50 years of public service with the City of Rochester, Monroe County and the Rochester City School District.

The Teaching and Learning Institute at East High received a proclamation from the Board in recognition of the program's 20th year anniversary. The Teaching and Learning Institute was established in 1996 with the goal of diversifying the teaching faculty at the Rochester City School District, creating an awareness of social justice issues in the community, and empowering students to lead and take action. Daniel and Laura Delehanty along with others were recognized for the program's success and their dedication and continuous service to the Rochester community.

Student winners of the *Rise Up Rochester Poster Contest* were recognized for taking a stand against violence through art work. Winners were presented by Wanda Ridgeway, Serena Cotton, founder and CEO of Roc the Peace, and Reverend Delores Simpson. The winners included: Balerkat Be, Kevin Dala, Lillian Mackmin, Giana V. Nouel, Nurudin Ibrahim, Sarah Singh, Jamaze Trammell, and Edwin Washington. The students will have their artwork placed on a billboard near their school in the fall.

The Association for Teen-Aged Diplomats (ATAD) Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship was presented by Alicia Ward to Zahra Bellucci a 12th grader at SOTA. Zahra was awarded a free diplomat experience to travel to Peru from August 2016 to January 2017. The ATAD is a non-profit organization founded in 1951 to promote cross cultural exchanges for students within Monroe County traveling overseas to and from Rochester. The Gary Simon Scholarship was developed to honor the life and work of Gary Simon who was a teacher that taught at Wilson Magnet High School and provided opportunities to students traveling abroad.

IV. Speakers Addressing and Agenda Item: Students Andie Adkins, Destiny Cowane, Adriana Allen, Nature Henderson, Emma Seratillo-Frank, Finbar Gallivan and Brittany spoke about staffing concerns at Joseph C. Wilson High School, particularly addressing the reassignment of a particular teacher. Student Janetta Cook, Parents Lydia Rodriguez and Kenneth Lewis, and Community members Sallie Williams, Hank Rubin, Beverly Usher and Gayle Harrison thanked the Board, District staff and members of the community who put forth significant efforts in authorized the revised Code of Conduct.

V. Speakers not Addressing an Agenda Item: Parent Mary Lupien spoke about crude oil being transported via railways through the local community. Parents Kelley Davis, Walida Monroe-Sims, and Charles Finley spoke about the students of School No. 1 being displaced and the negative impact it will have on students, families, and staff. Parent Eileen Graham addressed the need for administration to communicate with parents and students. Community members Antoinette Poole, Pech Chhun, Natasha Morrison, and Kyra Louder spoke about staffing concerns at Joseph C. Wilson High School, particularly addressing the reassignment of a particular teacher. Staff members Kristin Annese and Traci Comstock spoke about the students of School No. 1 being displaced and the negative impact it will have on students, families, and staff.

VI. Superintendent's Reports:

Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation to update the Board on average daily attendance data, behavioral data, student empowerment initiatives, academic performance of students, and community partnerships. Dr. Nelms stated that though the school still struggles to improve average daily attendance, he and his team have realized gains in the attendance at all grade levels particularly with seventh-graders and new ninth-graders. In presenting data on student behavior, Dr. Nelms noted that the administration has worked to reduce the number of incidents resulting in short-term, long-term, and in-school suspensions and referrals to alternative programs. As a result of their efforts, the total number of suspensions has decreased from 2,541 during the 2014/15 school year to 895 incidents during the 2015/16 school year. Dr. Nelms also spoke of student empowerment initiatives that have been implemented including training in restorative practices by Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PIRI).

Approximately 17 scholars were training by PIRI to facilitate mediations with their peers. In addressing the academic performance of students, Dr. Nelms highlighted the completion status and NYS Regents examination of the 2013 cohort. He presented data indicating that 16.2% of graduated and active scholars have passed 3 or more Regents exams and have at least 11.5 credits; 33.2% of graduated and active scholars have passed 2 or more Regents exams and have at least 11.5 credits; and 49.8% of graduated and active scholars have at least 11.5 credits. In addressing students with disabilities, Dr. Nelms indicated that 18.3% of the school's enrollment is comprised of students with disabilities. In concluding the presentation, Dr. Nelms spoke of the Having Opportunities for Motivation Engagement and Support (HOMES) program which is a partnership with Hillside that began during the second marking period to address new grade 9 students with a focus on attendance, social emotional needs and family engagement.

Interim Superintendent Cimusz delivered a presentation that updated that Board on initiatives and programming that occurred in June and those scheduled over the summer months. She recognized Jerome Underwood, Ricky Frazier, the Office of Parent Engagement and District staff members who participated in the annual Family Affair in the Park program to make the event successful for more than 3,000 students and family members. Ms. Cimusz indicated that she attended the annual Urban League of Rochester Black Scholar celebration where 125 District students were recognized for academic achievement, 40 more students this year than 2015 Black Scholar class. In addressing summer learning programs, she stated that more than 11,000 students are enrolled in more than 50 programs with transportation being provided for students in grades K-8, and secondary programming taking place at East High School, School of the Arts, World of Inquiry, and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy.

Ms. Cimusz thanked the Board for authorizing the 2016-17 District budget, which was approved by City Council on June 14th and calls for an \$865 million spending plan to maintain most programs and services and offers an increased amount of expanded learning time and summer learning opportunities, increased investment in special education, more social and emotional supports, and receivership and priority school funding. Ms. Cimusz also noted that a bill supporting legislation for Phase 2 of Rochester's school modernization program, an amendment to Chapter 416 of the Laws of 2007, was recently authorized by the State legislature. She noted that this authorization will benefit the families and staff members of the District. In concluding her presentation she stated that the District received a \$700,000 School Violence Prevention Program Grant that will create safer, more supportive learning environments with more social-emotional supports. The funding supports three elementary schools, School No. 8, School No. 19, and School No. 28, and five secondary schools including Edison High School, Integrated Arts and Technology High School, Vanguard High School and Northeast and Northwest College Preparatory High Schools.

Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report submitted, the next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for July 19, 2016 at 5:45 p.m.

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 9th to consider Resolution

Nos. 2015-16: 815 through 837, and 850 through 852; all of the reviewed resolutions were advanced to the full Board with recommendation. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the May 2016 Financial Report by the Board. Motion to approve the report was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell, motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: On Thursday, June 9th, the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met to discuss: adoption of a new textbook for a new Financial Algebra course (Resolution No. 2015-16: 849), an update regarding PreK and the Rochester Preschool Parenting Program, and an update regarding Student Suspension in RCSD Secondary Schools. The Director of the Math Department, Jeff Mikols, gave a presentation about a new Financial Algebra elective to be offered to students beginning in the 2016-17 school year. The new Financial Algebra course is intended to respond to students' need for content that is relevant and engaging, and to aid their understanding of personal finance, money management, budgeting, debt, interest compounding, taxes, and savings/investment. Numerous studies have shown that members of the African American and Hispanic community have the greatest need for this knowledge, but do not typically receive this as part of their education. The emphasis of the course would be on applying skills obtained in algebra and geometry to real-world situations in life and business. The proposed textbook was piloted at All City High School, and the author is a NYS teacher who has taught the course. Mr. Mikols reported that he is collaborating with the Director of Bilingual Education to develop the course content so that it is accessible to ELL students. The members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee unanimously approved the resolution to adopt the recommended textbook, and advance this resolution to the Board with recommendation (Resolution No. 2015-16: 849).

An update was also provided to Committee members regarding the District's PreK program. Dr. Robin Hooper reported that the NYS Education Department and NYS Education Commissioner are considering consolidating many different PreK grants and providing a flat rate of \$10K per child to all districts. This would represent a 30% reduction in funding, which would devastate the District's PreK programs. The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee decided to refer this issue to the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee for consideration and inclusion in the Legislative Agenda.

In addition, an analysis was performed to examine the percentage of PreK students attending a program outside of their zone. The findings showed that approximately 34% of PreK students in community- based programs and 25% in RCSD programs are from outside the zone. Dr. Hooper explained that parents tend to choose PreK programs based on convenience of hours, proximity to work or child care, and previous relationships with the school, teacher or principal. There was considerable discussion about the importance of engaging parents at the PreK level and sustaining these relationships as their child advances through school. A recent survey showed that parents rate District PreK programs very highly in terms of meeting their child's needs, teaching quality, and overall program quality. A small but significant percentage of parents felt that there are not enough Parent-Teacher Conferences (13%) and that they do not have anyone to talk to about their problems (17%). It was reported that the survey results have been quite consistent over the last twelve years.

The members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee also received a presentation about student suspension in the District at the secondary level. Ms. Flanagan examined data from the SPA data warehouse to obtain three different indicators: the percentage of students suspended in each school; the number of suspensions per student; and the extent to which reported incidents were in the “Other Disruptive Incidents” category. This category is not based on specific student behavior, and can include a range of infractions from serious to relatively minor. The “Other Disruptive Incidents” category presents the greatest opportunity for school staff to exercise discretion and subjectivity, which affects students’ perceptions of school climate and fair treatment. In light of the analysis, Ms. Flanagan recommended continued monitoring of student suspension in each school, and additional information about the types of behaviors included in the “Other Disruptive Incidents” category. Committee members also requested that Ms. Flanagan examine In-School Suspension versus Out-Of-School Suspension for each of the RCSD secondary schools.

The next ESA Committee Meeting is Thursday, August 18th, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, June 7th. Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard and Director of Security Operations Lori Baldwin presented on a resolution related the 2016-17 School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement. The Committee agreed that the language of the resolution should be changed from “authorized to enter into an Agreement” to “authorized to enter into negotiation” prior to advancing it to the full Board. The Committee further discussed the following items: the 2016-17 SRO Agreement updated to be consistent with the proposed Code of Conduct. There was a brief explanation of the Rochester Police Department’s concerns regarding the proposed Code of Conduct. Vice President Elliott requested that those concerns be forwarded to the Board to review prior to the vote of the proposed Code of Conduct, the presence of police in the schools, the implementation, vision, and intent of the help zones in schools to ensure that they are true resources for students, the SROs’ appearance before parent groups as outlined in the current SRO agreement. It was decided that the SRO Agreement will be brought back before the CIGR Committee after negotiations.

The CIGR Committee plans to host a community forum regarding the implementation of the proposed Code of Conduct tentatively scheduled in September. The CIGR Committee is currently planning a forum to introduce the new Superintendent to the community in July and August. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee did not meet during the month of June. In lieu of the Policy Committee, Commissioner Powell chaired the Public Hearing for the new draft Code of Conduct where the Board obtained input from parents, staff, students, and community members. To date, the full Board has the following policies in their various stages to consider: Policy No. 4350: Multicultural/Global Education and Policy No. 1400: Code of Conduct. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 14th at 5:30

p.m.

Board Governance committee

Chair Elizabeth hallmark: The Board Governance Committee convened a Committee of the Whole meeting on June 7th to discuss *SuperEval*, an online evaluation tool for school superintendents, staff evaluations, and a proposed date for an upcoming retreat. The Committee continued discussion of *SuperEval*, an online evaluation system for school superintendents. At the meeting it was decided that the Board would purchase the evaluation tool. In discussing staff evaluations, the Committee requested that the Board's direct reports, the Clerk, Auditor General, and Supervising Claims Auditor, submit self-evaluations by Friday, June 24th. The self-evaluations and evaluations will assess performance for the current fiscal year. The Board has decided to two retreats over the coming months; Saturday, June 18th with the out-going interim superintendent and July 26th with the incoming superintendent. The next meeting of the Committee has not been scheduled.

President's Report

Board President Van Henri White:

President White spoke about the 2016 superintendent search and selection process, recent travels to NSBA's Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute, visits with the Teaching and Learning Institute at East High School, meeting with the Great Schools 4 All organization, and a meeting with President Joel Seligman and NYS Regent Wade Norwood regarding the Educational Partnership Organization at East High School.

In discussing NSBA's Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute, President White indicated that Commissioner Powell also attended the conference and together they attended many seminars and lobbied elected officials and their staff. He stated that earlier in the week he attended the Teaching and Learning Institute's annual recognition ceremony and commended the organization for their success in preparing teachers of tomorrow for the past 20 years. President White indicated that he also met with the Great Schools 4 All organization where they discussed the concept of magnet or breakthrough schools. In concluding his report, President White stated that he recently met with President Seligman and Regent Norwood to discuss the progress and challenges at East High School with the University of Rochester as the EPO and how the Board of Education and the leaders at the University could continue to support the growth and development of this unprecedented and transformative model. In this regard, President White stated that exciting discussions are underway to create a "pipeline" for District elementary school students to enroll in the newly reformed East High School.

Commissioner Evans joined the meeting via video conference at 9:30 p.m.

VII. Resolutions:

2015-16: 781-784: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 786-787: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 788-789: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 792: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 795: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 796: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting

2015-16: 797- 800: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 802- 804: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 808: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 810-814: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting

2015-16: 815: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 816: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 817: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 818: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 819: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 820: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 821: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 822-835: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President

Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 836: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 837-839: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 841-855: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 856: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.

2015-16: 856a: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 857-858: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 860: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0

2015-16: 861-864: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0

No requests submitted for Resolution No. 775-780, 785, 790-791, 793-794, 801, 805-807, 809, 840, and 859.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None

Commissioner Evans left at 10:00 p.m.

IX. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Cruz at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to enter into open session was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Adams at 11:37 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Adams at 11:40 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.