

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

May 26, 2011

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept the minutes** of the April 28<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting, May 6<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, May 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and May 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized the Jr. Lego League and FIRST Lego League of Frank Fowler Dow School No. 52. The participating students are in grades 1-6, and were recognized for their involvement in the program which aims to create a life-long desire and passion for learning and excitement in the areas of math and science.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Elexus Buntley, Christopher Santiago, Breanna O'Neal and Samantha Samuel spoke in opposition to the proposed restructuring of John Marshall High School. Student Lisette Eckel-Monroe spoke in support of the Montessori Academy School No. 53. Parents Harriet Fisher, Roodlene Daniel, Scott Stamper, Bridget Monroe and Kirstin Pryor spoke in support of the Montessori Academy School No. 53. Community member Ellie Kellerhouse spoke in support of the Montessori Academy School No. 53. Community member Elaine Francesco spoke about the proposed school portfolio plan.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Gloria Sabastro spoke in opposition to the AVID budget reductions and the relocation of the language assessment center. Community member Rachel Dobbs spoke in opposition to the 2011/12 budget reductions. Staff member Donna Richardson presented a proposal for a business school program for high school students. Staff members Karen Bailey, Francine Martella, Samuel Simpson, Liz Hanan, Marisa DeMario, Elizabeth Ristow and Alicia Messenger spoke in opposition to the 2011/12 budget reductions.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas thanked the Board for appointing him to serve as the district's superintendent during this time of transition/
- VII. **President's Report:** President Evans began by announcing that the meeting is broadcast on RCTV-15 until 8:30 p.m., after 8:30 p.m., viewers can continue watching on our website, [www.rcsdk12.org](http://www.rcsdk12.org).

President Evans then joined Dr. Vargas in recognizing employees from the Finance, Payroll and HCI Departments for their role in accomplishing a successful upgrade of our PeopleSoft HCM application. The project encompassed 13 months of planning, implementing, testing, documenting and training to accomplish the goals of streamlining the District's business processes, implementing enhancements to

ensure more accurate data management & reporting, and preparing the system for future enhanced functionalities.

## **VIII. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

*Chair Allen Williams:* The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. All Board Members were invited to attend. The Committee met with Freed, Maxick and Battaglia, the Board's External Auditors to review the plan for the Independent Financial Audit for the year ending June 30, 2011. The Committee discussed the External Auditors' findings and management actions from the 2010 Audit. The Committee was updated on the proposed Internal Audit Report Policy that was reviewed by the Policy Committee. Members of the Audit Committee expressed concern that the proposed policy was not formally reviewed by the Audit Committee before discussion at a Policy Committee Meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolutions No. 2010-11: 798-807 and the April 2011 Financial Report. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the April 2011 Financial Report. A motion to accept the April 2011 Financial Report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White, the report was accepted 7-0.

The Finance Committee also reviewed and approved a proposed policy regarding the Fund Balance based on guidelines provided by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. This policy proposal has been advanced to the Policy Committee for consideration in their June meeting.

The next regular Finance Committee will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

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

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to review Resolution No. 833: Formal submission of the Career in Technical Education program approval applications being provided to SED for the following programs. Beverly Gushue, Director of Career and Technical Education, provided copies of the completed applications and walked the committee through a blank copy to allow the committee to follow the application process. The committee then had the opportunity to speak with the principals, teachers and students from each of the programs. The committee also reviewed Resolution 831 which addressed the merging the BEDs code for the Montessori Academy at Franklin into the BEDs code for Dr. Freddie Thomas High School in 2011 and relocating the Montessori Academy at Franklin to the Dr. Freddie Thomas facility. Mary Doyle, Chief of School Innovation, gave a presentation supporting the resolution. Along with Ms. Doyle in support of the resolution were parents and teachers who vigorously voice their support and reasons why they viewed relocating the program to the Dr. Freddie Thomas facility, and why they view the Montessori Program as being successful. Resolution 831 is being advanced to the Board without recommendation.

The Office of School Innovations presented some suggested names to the committee for the new all-boys school and for the new program for students new to the country. Because the committee felt that some of the names were too generic and wanted to have the Board to also consider personalizing the school names, the committee requested that the administration, as well as commissioners suggest other names for the two schools. The suggested names for the all-boys school were Leadership Academy for Young Men, Leadership Preparatory Academy for Young Men; and for the program for students new to the country were Rochester International Academy, Rochester International Center, Albert Einstein Newcomer Academy and Albert Einstein International Academy.

The committee requested that the Board provide other names to be considered in addition to the names submitted by the administration prior to this evening's Business Meeting. A survey was created to allow each commissioner an opportunity to weigh in with their selection for the school names. After receiving six responses from the Board, the most selected names for the new schools were The Leadership Academy for Young Men and the Rochester International Academy.

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. The Committee will meet to receive an update on high quality school choice.

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, and discussed issues related to students gathering at the Liberty Pole, debriefing of the Student Health Forum, and Board support for Senator Flanagan's legislation that considers teacher performance rather than seniority when addressing the academic needs of students and operational needs school districts. The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee will convene in July at a date to be determined.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Jose Cruz:** The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and reviewed and approved a number of policies including a new Fingerprinting policy, a new Videoconferencing policy, a new Internal Audit Reports policy and revisions to the Board By-Laws.

Members of the Policy Committee also reviewed a draft revision of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy and a new accompanying regulation. The Committee has decided to hold off on advancing the proposed policy to allow additional time to gather input from constituent groups. It is expected that the revised policy and the regulation will be implemented at the start of the school year in September.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Melisza Campos:** The Board Governance Committee met Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the upcoming Board Retreat, planning for the 2011 Community Reach-Out Event, and communications with Board Staff. The Board Governance Committee suggested that a retreat be scheduled for Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> (8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) to discuss Board goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year, expectations for the interim and permanent Superintendent (and superintendent search process), and any pending issues for the Board as the governing body of the District. In addition to the meeting date referenced above, the Board Governance committee suggested that the Board hold quarterly retreats throughout the academic year. The Committee began to plan the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Reach-Out" event that is designed to provide parents and members of the community an opportunity to speak with representatives from all of the District's department (in an informal setting). The Committee suggests that the event be scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>. Board Staff will begin to coordinate with members of the Administration to ensure that this year's event is a success. The Committee will assume the lead in staff communications and will begin to host quarterly meetings to better communications between the Board and support staff.

**Student Representative Report:** NONE

**Motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m.** made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

## **IX. Resolutions**

**2010-11: 779:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 780-781:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 782:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 783:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 784-785:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 786-788:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 789:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 790-793:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 794:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 795-797:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 798:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 799:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 800-804:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2010-11: 805-808:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2010-11: 809:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2010-11: 810:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 811:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 812:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 813:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with President Evans, Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott abstaining due to professional and familial relationship.

**2010-11: 814:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 815-816:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 817:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 818-819:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 820:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 821:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 822-823:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 824:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 825:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 826-829:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 830-831:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 832:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 833-845:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 846:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 847:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans abstaining.

**2010-11: 848-851:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**X. Unfinished Business:** None.

**XI. New Business:** Vice President Cruz introduced several policies as Information Items, including the Fingerprinting and Criminal Record Check Policy and Regulation, Videoconferencing Policy, and a revision to the Board Bylaws. Vice President Cruz noted that all of the above-mentioned policies have been vetted by the Policy Committee and are being forward to the full Board for review. Vice President Cruz then presented several other policies to the full Board as Discussion Items, including the Student Records and Privacy Policy, Security Breach and Notification Policy, Acceptable Use of the District Network Policy and a revision to the Internet Policy; no comments were made by the Board.

**XII.** President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**XIII.** 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 Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White, adopted 7-0 at 10:09 p.m..

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz, adopted 7-0 at 10:30 p.m.

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 Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White, adopted 7-0 at 10:35 p.m..

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz, adopted 7-0 at 11:05 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.