

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

### Minutes

October 28, 2010

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President Campos and Commissioners Cruz, Elliott, Powell, White and Williams; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Deputy Superintendent of Operations John Scanlan; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting and October 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Student Recognition:** NONE
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Ernest Green voiced concerns about the District's facilities modernization plan. Mr. Green spoke against the reconfiguration of the School of the Arts, based on the school's current curriculum and programming, as proposed by the plan.

**Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Yolanda Green spoke against the District's current transportation practices, noting that the current transportation practices pose safety and security risks for the District's students. Parent and Staff Member Cuevas Walker spoke about the prevalence of violence and poor academic achievement in the District's schools and asked that the District considering infusing prayer in curriculum and programming.

- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Deputy Superintendent John Scanlan recognized the District's community partners who assisted in offering the largest-ever Summer School Program for students, including Math and Science Camps, College Academies, and seminars to keep students engaged in summer learning. Summer 2010 Partners that were recognized are as follows: Gary Mervis, Wendy Blaier Mervis, Joseph Martino, Tim Cottrell, Luiz Perez, Lynn Gatto, Karen Iglesia, William Lammela, Diane Spang, Michelle Allevato, Eulas Boyd, Delmonize Smith, Susan Preston Norman and Joan Hoffman.
- VI. **President's Report:** President Evans announced that the Board has been working diligently to engage our key stakeholders including parents, students and members of our community. The Board's commitment to the community has been evidenced by recent outreach events including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reach-Out and the Building Our Businesses Together seminar, which was aimed at providing contractors with information on conducting business with the Rochester City School District. President Evans acknowledged members of the Board, Vice President Campos and Commissioner Elliott, and members of the Administration for their coordination of the events. He announced upcoming meetings of the Board and the District's Technology Expo, which will provide the Board with a hands-on view of the technology that the District invests in to meet the needs of our students.

## **VII. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

*Chair Allen Williams:* The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Committee received an audit timing schedule and status update on the work performed by the Office of Auditor General. The Committee also discussed the CAFR Auditor, performed by Freed, Maxick and Battaglia who are completing their third year as the Board's external auditor. The Board anticipates receiving a draft CAFR for the period ending on June 30, 2010 on November 12<sup>th</sup> for Board review and comments.

The Committee is also evaluating and considering several policies that were suggested by the Policy Committee. These policies include an Audit Committee Policy, Internal Auditor Policy, Claims Auditor Policy and an External Auditor policy. The Committee will review and provide feedback on these policies for action at an upcoming Audit Committee meeting.

The next Audit Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All Board Members are encouraged to attend as we will be meeting with Freed, Maxick and Battaglia to discuss the results of their audit and the CAFR. In addition, as required by the Fiscal Accountability Legislation, we will enter into Executive Session with the CAFR auditor for a confidential discussion.

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> to consider Resolutions 2010-11: 318 through 325, 338 through 339. The Committee recommends that all of the reviewed resolutions be forwarded to the full Board for approval. The Finance Committee also reviewed the September 2010 Finance Reports. President Evans requested a motion to accept the September 2010 Finance Reports. Motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. The September 2010 Finance Reports were accepted 7-0. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, following the Policy Committee meeting.

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

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> to receive a report on how the money is being spent for the Teaching American History Grant from the Social Studies Department. The Community Education Task Force also gave a presentation regarding grant money, and presented suggestions for how it should be used to include parents in the professional development training. The Committee also received an update regarding the African and African-American Studies curriculum. A discussion of the Schott Report was also on the agenda, however, it was decided to have this discussion at the November meeting. The next Excellence in Student Achievement will be held on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

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

*Chair Cynthia Elliott:* The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Policy Committee**

*Chair Jose Cruz:* The Policy Committee met on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and addressed a draft proposal to revise and update the Parent Involvement (Policy No. 1900) and a review of the Code of Conduct (Policy No. 5300) as required by law. Charles Johnson, General Counsel, provided an overview of a policy proposal being developed regarding professional services contracts, which would establish dollar thresholds for competitive bidding and allow flexibility through an authorization process when exceptions are needed to meet business needs. Mr. Johnson also provided data regarding the number of

small contracts that eventually have to be submitted to the Board for approval because the \$25K threshold for annual expenses has been exceeded. Finally, the Policy Committee received a report regarding establishing a policy to formalize relationships between the District and community agencies in the Student and Family Support Centers.

A number of policies are being presented for the Board's consideration in the meeting this evening in the form of resolutions to adopt policy revisions, including Budget (Policy No. 6110), Budget Adoption (Policy No. 6130) and Investments (Policy No. 6240). The New Financial Accountability (Policy No. 6000) that delineates the various ways in which the Board exercises oversight of the District, from the Code of Ethics to various audit functions is being presented as a discussion item. And, the following policies are being presented as information items to the Board this evening: Safety Program (Policy No. 8100) and Safe Schools (Policy No. 8135). The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m.

### **Board Governance Committee**

*Chair Melisza Campos:* The Board Governance Committee did not meet this month. However, the Committee hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reach-Out on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at East High School. The purpose of the event was to allow students, parents and members of the community to hold one-on-one conversations with the Board members, Superintendent, and representatives of District departments. This event provided an opportunity for the Board and members of the District's administrative staff to be available to students, parents and community members in order to build the strong relationships needed to support our students. Vice President Campos recognized the effort and manpower it took to organize the event.

She also mentioned that completed Superintendent's Evaluation Tools are due to the Board Clerk by Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in preparation for the Board's Special Meeting on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The next Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

## **VIII. Resolutions**

Commissioner Elliott expressed concern and interest in the District's employment practices as they relate to recruitment of diverse candidates. Commissioner Elliott requested that the Board establish a committee to address these practices and to demonstrate the Board's commitment to increasing the recruitment of candidates of color. She noted that the committee could serve as a forum for the Board to discuss and receive information on the barriers that may exist to prohibit a more diverse workforce. President Evans shared in this concern and confirmed that he has the authority to appoint ad hoc committees. Commissioner White agreed that the committee should be established and volunteered to serve on the committee. President Evans appointed Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner White to serve as members of the **ad hoc Diversity Committee** to address the District's recruitment practices of diverse candidates.

**2010-11: 290:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

**2010-11: 291-292:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 293-298:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 299:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

**2010-11: 300-301:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 302:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 303-306:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 307:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 308:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 309-11:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 312:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 313-316:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 317:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 318-322:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 323-325:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting.

**2010-11: 326-328:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 329:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional and familial relationship.

**2010-11: 330-332:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 333:** Motion to amend Resolution No. 2010-11: 333 to incorporate language that requires the Superintendent of Schools to present recommendations for grade reconfigurations to create more K-8 and 9-12 schools for specific schools to the Board for approval. Motion made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2010-11: 333 was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 334-337:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 338:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2010-11: 339:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 340:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional and familial relationships.

**2010-11: 341-346:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2010-11: 202:** Motion to remove Resolution No. 2010-11: 202 from the table made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 7-0. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2010-11: 202 was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 7-0.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** Commissioner Cruz, as Chairman of the Policy Committee, presented the recently drafted Financial Accountability Policy, No. 6000 as a discussion item, along with the Safety Program Policy, No. 8100 and Safe Schools Policy, No. 8135 as information items. Commissioner Cruz explained that the policies have been vetted by both the Policy Committee and Finance Committee and are now being forwarded to the full Board with recommendation from both committees.

**XI.** President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 6:30 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 Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White, adopted 7-0 at 9:22 p.m.

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz, adopted 7-0 at 11:23 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.