

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

### Minutes

August 26, 2010

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President Campos and Commissioners Cruz, Powell, and White; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

- I. Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting and the August 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Campos and Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** NONE.
- IV. **Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Community member Glenny Williams spoke about the need to revise and enforce the Board's Parent Involvement Policy. Community member Patricia Mannix spoke about school reform and governance and urged the Board to take action to address the District's graduation rate.

Vice President Campos arrived at 6:54 p.m.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brizard introduced Dr. Jeanette Silvers, Chief of Accountability, to present an overview of the recent changes in performance criteria made by the State Education Department in Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics. She explained that in late June 2010, the NYS State Education Department (SED) changed the threshold used to identify students who have achieved or surpassed learning standards in grades 3-8. Until this assessment cycle (2010), SED has used the same threshold to determine students who are meeting standards. Dr. Silvers summarized the District's performance in both of the accountability areas, ELA and Math. Dr. Silvers concluded by noting that use of both District benchmark assessments and building level formative assessment activities need to be integrated to determine where student performance stands at regularly defined intervals.

#### V. **Board Reports:**

##### **Audit Committee**

**Chair Allen Williams:** The Audit Committee met with Freed Maxick & Battaglia, the external auditors for the District, to review the 2010 RCSD Financial Audit. The next Audit Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

##### **Finance Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** The Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> to consider resolutions 2010-11: 106 through 108 and 110 through 124. The Committee recommends these resolutions to the Board for approval.

The Finance Committee reviewed a number of proposed revisions to finance policies, which were advanced to the Policy Committee, including: a revision to the Budget Policy (No. 6110) which requires that the Superintendent describe efforts taken to obtain input from parents and community members in developing the District's annual budget; a revision to the Budget Adoption Policy (No. 6130) which allows the Board to adopt the budget in a Special Meeting or regular meeting no later than 10 days prior to the deadline for submission to the City; a revision to the Investment Policy (No. 6240) to state that the District is fiscally dependent upon the City, which manages investments on its behalf; and a newly proposed Financial Accountability Policy.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, following the Board Governance Committee meeting.

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

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to receive a report on the Division of Teaching and Learning initiatives. Directors of the Division presented highlights of their particular departments as they relate to the Strategic Plan and highlights on grants received in the departments. The Committee received presentations from the following departments: Extended Learning and Intervention, Instructional Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Mathematics, Science, Literacy, Social Studies, Early Childhood, Professional Learning and Professional Development.

The committee expressed concerns regarding how the recently awarded Teaching American History Grant will be spent to address professional development. Some members of the committee expressed the need to implement further teacher training in the area of the history of people of color. The Committee also asked that the Administration integrate the Department of African/African-American Studies into the planning phase for utilizing the training grant. The Director of the Social Studies Department will prepare a detailed report on this particular initiative to present to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee at an upcoming meeting prior to it being advanced to the Board.

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. The Committee will receive the 2009-10 ELA and Math Performance Reports at this meeting. All Commissioners are invited to attend this meeting to receive these important reports.

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

*Chair Cynthia Elliott:* The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month due to a lack of a quorum. The committee will meet on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, to finalize the Proposed 2010 Legislative Agenda and to receive a Truancy Report.

### **Policy Committee**

*Chair Jose Cruz:* The Policy Committee met on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the current status of reviewing policies to update the Policy Manual. Charles Johnson, General Counsel, reported that the Law Department is in the process of completing legally mandated policies and will begin to review mandated policies regarding Special Education in the Fall. The Committee has also completed considerable work in reviewing and updating policies related to finance and financial operations, and expects to complete the review of these policies within the next few months. Several policy proposals have been referred to the Audit Committee and are expected to be reviewed at their next meeting in October. Recently several policies have been approved by the Finance Committee, including the Budget Policy (No. 6110), the Budget Adoption Policy (No. 6130), the Investment Policy (No. 6240), and a newly proposed Financial Accountability Policy.

The Policy Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Budget policy (6110), Budget Adoption policy (6130), and Investment policy (6240) and advances them to the Board in this meeting as Information Items. Two other finance policies have been presented to the Board as Information and Discussion Items and will be subject to your approval in this meeting: Financial Reporting & Resolutions Policy (No. 6630) and the Purchasing Policy (No. 6700).

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Melisza Campos:** The Board Governance Committee has not met since the July Business Meeting. However, on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> the Committee will host a retreat facilitated by the New York State School Boards Association. The purpose of the retreat is Board development, and the focus will be on setting priorities and objectives for the 2010/11 fiscal year and the creation of a communications plan to effectively engage our students, parents, and community stakeholders.

The Committee is also planning for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Reach-Out” event, scheduled for Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at East High School. This event provides an opportunity for the Board, along with the Superintendent and his staff, to make ourselves available to our students, parents and community members in an attempt to build stronger relationships.

The next Board Governance Committee meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Resolutions**

**2010-11: 89-95:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 96:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 97-105:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 106-108:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 109:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 110:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 111-120:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 121-123:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 124-125:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 126:** Resolution pulled.

**2010-11: 127-133:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 134-135:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 136-150:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 151-185:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

**2010-11: 186-190:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

VII. **Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** Commissioner Cruz, as Chairman of the Policy Committee, introduced revised versions of the Budget Policy (No. 6110), Purchasing Policy (No. 6130), and the Investments Policy (No. 6240). President Evans requested comments on the Financial Reporting & Resolutions Policy (No. 6630) and the Purchasing Policy (No. 6700). 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.

VIII. President Evans announced the next meeting Board Business Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Elliott and Williams absent at 7:53 p.m.