

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting**  
**June 7, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Attending**

Commissioners – Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and President Van White (arrived at 6:05PM)

District Staff –Adele Bovard (District Liaison and Deputy Superintendent of Administration), Linda Cimusz (Interim Superintendent), Lori Baldwin (Director of Security Operations), and Joseph Baldino (Chief of Schools)

Parent Representative – Felix Jacobs and Yvonne Clinkscales

Board Staff –Mia Johnson

Vice President Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

**I. Review of Minutes of April 19, 2016 CIGR Meetings**

There was a discussion among the committee about whether to include detailed comments made by Commissioner Powell in the April meeting minutes. Vice President Elliott made a motion to include the comments. The motion was not moved and no vote was made. Vice President Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016 CIGR Meeting as drafted. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-0 with concurrence from the Parent Representative Yvonne Clinkscales.

**II. Review the Resolution for the SRO Agreement - Adele Bovard (District Liaison and Deputy Superintendent of Administration) and Lori Baldwin (Director of Security Operations)**

Ms. Baldwin stated the purpose of the committee's review of the resolution would enable the District to move forward to negotiate a contract. Vice President Elliott inquired about the current contract and its date being crossed out. Ms. Baldwin explained that negotiations with the City began in 2015 and the contract was agreed upon in 2016. Vice President Elliott requested that a cover letter/memo be attached outlining who made the date change, reasons for the change, and then sent to the full Board.

Ms. Baldwin stated that the 2015-16 contract is the base for the upcoming contract Commissioner Adams asked if the new contract will be updated to include the changes to the proposed Code of Conduct. Ms. Baldwin responded that the Rochester Police Department (RPD) does not support all the sections under the law enforcement section including the matrix, searches, and parent presence prior to search, and would not want

that included in their contract. Commissioner Adams stated the law enforcement section was created collaboratively with members of the RPD and with input of experts. Ms. Bovard stated that there were since language changes in the proposed Code of Conduct. Commissioner Adams highlighted the issues around policy brutality in the community and the need for restrictions on policy activity in schools. She acknowledged the work of the SROs and the decrease in school arrests, but emphasized the need and obligation to balance the language in the proposed Code of Conduct and her unwillingness to create ingratiating language that betray reality.

Vice President Elliott requested the RPD's concerns regarding the proposed Code of Conduct. Ms. Bovard commented on the language about SROs and the desire to validate the work of the SROs and their efforts of becoming more restorative.

Commissioner Adams stated that the contract reads that the RPD can send a substitute SRO and there needs for protections around that. She stated that she is willing to review the proposed Code of Conduct.

Vice President Elliott stated that she does not want the police in District schools at all. Ms. Clinkscales expressed concerns about the lack of students' right and knowing that her child could be arrested or searched on site. She stated that students are being taught to be criminals while in high school and there is a need to find another way to monitor children. She concluded that she would love not to see the police at her child's school.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he was glad to see that the SROs will go before parent groups and the need to formalize the process where the SROs meet and interact with the schools' parent groups. Ms. Baldwin stated that the SROs only need to be invited. Commissioner Adams responded that the contract reads that "SROs shall appear before parent groups." She stated that the clauses and their language should be reviewed. Ms. Baldwin stated she could facilitate the process for SROs to meet with Parent Advisory Group. She also stated that SROs are creating classes to push into classrooms next year to build positive relationships.

Vice President Elliott stated that there is a strategy to imprison black males into private prisons for money making reasons and linked to slavery. Ms. Clinkscales stated that the disparities by race exist in the sentencing among youth. Ms. Baldwin stated that within the last seven years, the school-based arrests have declined. She also stated that there is the creation of the help zones in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade buildings to help students de-escalate and transition back to class next year. She also stated that the help zones could be used by the SROs as a resource as well as educating the SROs on other school resources. Ms. Clinkscales inquired about what the help zones will look like and will they be effective.

Ms. Baldwin inquired about advancing the resolution and stated that the contract prior to signature can be brought back to the committee for review. Commissioner Adams stated that should would provide questions about the current contract and asked about a plan outlining the approach to negotiate the upcoming contract and ensure it is consistent with the proposed Code of Conduct. Ms. Baldwin suggested a meeting with

Commissioner Adams, Community Task Force for School Climate member Cynthia Herriott, and RPD representatives. Vice President Elliott stated the resolution language should be changed to include entering into negotiation and can be included in the Board packet for the Business Meeting.

### **III. Planning Session: Joint Forum for the Board and the Community Task Force**

Commissioner Adams stated that it would be useful to inform parents and community members about the implementation of the proposed Code of Conduct. She suggested planning the forum for September 2016. Interim Superintendent Cimusz stated that the proposed Code of Conduct implement plan included in a conversation with each site based team about expectations and Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Otuwa is creating an implementation plan. Commissioner Adams suggested that a formal invitation be given to the School Based Planning Teams in September to be involved in a collective planning process.

### **IV. Follow-Up**

Vice President Elliott stated that there will not be a meeting for July and will resume in August.

Motion by Vice President Elliott to adjourn. Adopted 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:04PM.