

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 16, 2017

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott, and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, Hallmark, and Powell; Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams; EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by two young audience members.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the January 26th Business Meeting and the February 11th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers addressing an agenda item were present.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Charles Ward spoke in opposition to the Black Lives Matter at School observance. Community member Christopher Washington expressed a desire to work with District students. Community member Maurice Jackson spoke about strategies to use sports to increase attendance and promote student engagement. Staff member Hulda Yau spoke about the need for bilingual education resources and representation throughout the District.

Commissioner Adams arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Adams left at 7:25 p.m.

- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms, Superintendent of the East High School EPO spoke about recent student engagement events facilitated by the school, including a recent outing to view a feature film, *Hidden Figures*. He noted that as a result of the film viewing and the comments and questions posed by students, members of the school's leadership team are taking steps to infuse culturally relevant elements into existing curriculum. Dr. Nelms also highlighted the school's team, led by teacher Mary Courtney, which will be participating in a NASA Space Flight, he added that the team will be featured on WXXI within the next month.

In addressing student data, Dr. Nelms presented graduation rate projections and the various indicators and factors that contribute to the projections. Some of the factors discussed include drop-out rates, Regents passing rates, and the number of credits attained. He noted that in addition to tracking student data for members of the 2013 cohort, the school's leadership is working to closely monitor progress indicators for all students enrolled in the school. Dr. Nelms also presented data on school climate and student behavior.

Dr. Nelms noted that East High School, as a school in receivership, received rollover funds as well as additional funding from the State in December 2016 that must be expended by June 2017. Dr. Nelms added that the funding is categorically allocated and will be used to fund professional salaries, purchased services, general supplies, specialized conferences, and other specific purposes. Vice President Elliott

asked why the funding could be allocated directly to students. Dr. Nelms responded that the allocation scheme does not allow for direct student services, but he is working to secure funding from various community foundations to directly support students.

Dr. Nelms concluded his presentation with discussion of a recently unveiled student run bookstore, where students are responsible for the all of the management aspects.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives. She spoke about the results of the 2016 graduation rates that were release by NYSED; the June 4-year rate is 47.5% and the August 4-year rate is 53%. She also discussed the draft budget that is scheduled to be presented on March 14th noting that she members of the Executive Cabinet are conducting a line-by-line analysis to build a budget based squarely on the needs of students. Ms. Deane-Williams also mentioned recent lobbying efforts for increased state aid to support additional reading and math teachers; a continuation of early childhood education programming, summer learning and community schools; expand social-emotional learning supports; maintain aid for receivership schools; and continue charter-school aid at current levels. She explained that the District requested \$58 million over the Governor's proposed budget. In concluding her presentation, Ms. Deane-Williams elaborated on strategies to address teacher recruitment, employ school support systems, and construct standards and training to develop principals. She also announced that the District was awarded the *Connecting Youth in Transition Grant* and will work in partnership with the City of Rochester to provide intensive case management for youth who are disconnected from education and employment systems.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 9th to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 548 and 553 through 555. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the January 2017 Financial Report and the Student Activity Fund Report. Motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Evans; motion carries with consensus. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution No. 2016-17: 548 for Budget; Resolution No. 2016-17: 553 for Procurement and Supply; and Resolutions No. 2016-17: 554 and 555 for Educational Facilities. The Committee also recommends acceptance of the budget review calendar for review and acceptance of the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. The budget will be presented to the Board on March 14th. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The members of the Policy Committee met on Thursday, February 2nd, to obtain an update regarding the Day Care policy (4324.1) and administering a survey of students in the Young Mothers' program to determine their child care needs and the resources available to them. Dr. March and Dr. Giamartino have approved administration of this survey, and are working to ensure compliance with Internal Review Board standards and to obtain the necessary consent.

The main focus of this meeting was to review and discuss revision of the Preschool Education Program policy (4320.5). A number of language changes were recommended, along with clarification of policy intent to provide support to all students to ensure their successful transition to kindergarten. In addition, it was suggested that an evaluation report regarding the RCSD PreK program be required on an annual basis, specifically the RECAP Report. The comprehensive and rigorous data from this report will help to ensure that the quality of the District's PreK program is sustained, and that students will have a solid foundation on which to build when entering elementary school.

Board support staff will prepare a draft containing the Committee's recommended revisions to the Preschool Education Program policy, which will be submitted to General Counsel for review. It is anticipated that this policy proposal will be presented in the next Policy Committee meeting for consideration.

Concerns were raised about capacity limitations for the PreK program, noting that this program is a critical starting point for children in our community and into the District's elementary schools. For these reasons, it was urged that all existing facilities for the PreK program be retained (i.e. avoiding closure of any more schools and/or elimination of transportable classrooms). A number of proposed policy revisions were presented in last month's Business Meeting, and are included in the materials for this evening's meeting as Discussion Items:

- Visitors to Schools policy (1240)
- Code of Ethics policy (2160)
- Policy Dissemination (2450)
- Membership in School Boards Associations policy (2530)

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting. The Committee has worked to coordinate the performance evaluation process for the superintendent. During the months of February and March, Commissioners will complete their evaluations using the new online tool. The Committee will compile a summary for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee on April 20th following the Finance Committee Meeting in order to finalize our evaluation of the superintendent per Policy No. 0320.

VII. Resolutions

2016-17: 506-517: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 518-521: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 522: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 523-543: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 544-547: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 548: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 549-552: Placeholder withdrawn.

2016-17: 553: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 554-555: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 556: Resolution withdrawn.

2016-17: 557: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 558: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 559-560: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 561: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 562: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: Commissioner Powell introduced the following policies as Discussion Items: Code of Ethics, Policy No. 2450; Membership in School Boards Association, Policy No. 2530; Visitors to Schools, Policy No. 1240; and Videoconferencing, Policy No. 2350. The Commissioners did not discuss the aforementioned policies.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual and pending litigation made by Vice President Elliott at 8:48 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

XI. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:17 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.