

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

April 27, 2017

Board Members Present: President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner José Cruz, Commissioner Malik Evans, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and Commissioner Willa Powell.

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Mary Adams

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young audience member.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the March 21st Special Meeting, March 23rd Business Meeting, March 28th Budget Hearing and April 4th Budget Hearing was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Adams, and Commissioner Evans absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers present.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Jacqueline Cady urged the Board to fund summer learning opportunities for pre-kindergarten students. Community member Richard Coddling urged the Board to allocate additional funding to implement restorative justice practices. Community member Charles Lowry spoke in favor of a proposed military academy.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 6:45 p.m.

- V. **Superintendents Reports:** In Dr. Nelms's absence, Principal Tanya Wilson and Assistant Principal Shalonda Garfield delivered a presentation on the school's *The Leader in Me* program. It was stated that the school's Lighthouse Leadership Team works to ensure East's consistency as a *Leader in Me* school. The Team works to sustain efforts and continuously improve upon creating a culture of shared leadership, teach leadership principles to scholars, and align the academic systems to the school's overall mission. The presenters spoke about a recent school climate survey that was administered to the school's students and a reduction in the number of reported behavioral incidents. The presentation was concluded with discussion of the various leadership roles that are assumed by students inside and outside of school to further develop their leadership skills.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. She reminded the Board of the values that were considered in the development of the proposed 2017-18 budget and the key actions and priorities of the budget. Ms. Deane-Williams announced recent meeting with NYS Assemblyman Harry Bronson about the My Brother's Keeper Grant and attendance at the State of the Coty address with Mayor Warren. She also discussed a recent visit to School No. 17 with the Teaching and Learning Support Team and a Leadership Meeting at Rochester Early College International High School with Principal Uma Mehta. Ms. Deane-Williams

concluded the presentation with mention of recruiting efforts at Historically Black Colleges and Universities aimed at diversifying the District's workforce.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 6:55 p.m.

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, April 20th to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 680 through 693. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the March 2017 Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans; motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 681 through 692 for Educational Facilities and Resolution No. 2016-17: 693 for the Other category. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th.

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, April 6th to discuss:

- An update regarding the Child Care Survey to be administered to expectant and parenting students
- Proposed revisions to the Preschool Education Programs policy (4250.5)
- Recommended changes to the Wellness policy (5405) from the members of the Wellness Committee
- General Counsel's recommendations for updating the policies in the 3000 series
- Guidelines, recommendations, and model policies for protecting immigrant students and their families

In a previous meeting, the members of the Policy Committee requested that a survey be conducted to assess the child care needs of students in the Young Mothers program. Dr. Robin Hooper and Andy MacGowan reported that a draft survey has been developed and submitted to the Institutional Review Board for approval. Because of the small number of students in the Young Mothers program at any given time, the survey will be given to currently enrolled students and to students who were in the program last year. In addition, the survey will be administered to expectant and parenting students who did not enroll in the program to identify differences in the circumstances of these two student groups. Survey questions will include: access, affordability, and barriers to child care; students' awareness of potential resources available for themselves and their child (e.g. County child care subsidies; WIC); student achievement and barriers encountered in continuing their education. Community organizations will also participate in this effort, and Rochester's Child has already expressed support for this initiative. With respect to revising the Preschool Education Programs policy (4250.5), General Counsel Karl

Kristoff discussed a number of technical concerns regarding the policy proposal. He will collaborate with Dr. Hooper and Mr. MacGowan to craft a final policy proposal for the next Committee meeting.

In the fall of 2016, the Wellness Committee prepared a list of recommended changes to the Wellness policy (5405). With the transition to the new administration and appointment of a new General Counsel, these recommendations have not yet been incorporated into a proposed policy revision. Mr. Kristoff will discuss the proposed policy changes with the Executive Team and the specific staff members who are to coordinate development of the policy proposal.

The Policy Committee has been systematically reviewing and updating the Policy Manual, section by section. In this month's meeting, Mr. Kristoff presented recommendations for revising the following policies in the 3000 series:

- Recruitment of the Superintendent (3111)
- Duties of the Superintendent (3120)
- Administrative Organization (3200)
- Development of Regulations (3310)

Most of the suggested revisions are technical in nature, except for the Administrative Organization policy (3200). Mr. Kristoff pointed out that the existing policy refers to an obsolete position title (Deputy Superintendent for Operations) that would be deemed the Acting Superintendent if the Superintendent cannot be available. He recommended that the Superintendent be allowed to designate one of her deputies to serve as Acting Superintendent in this situation.

Members of the Policy Committee also reviewed guidelines and model resolutions from the National Immigration Center and National Education Association regarding protecting immigrant students and their families. In addition, Committee members discussed recommendations provided by the local Legal Aid Office to address gaps in the guidelines from the NYS Education Department and Attorney General, particularly with respect to local circumstances. Mr. Kristoff was asked to conduct a legal review of the Legal Aid recommendations and suggest the extent to which these should be incorporated into policy. Specific concerns cited by Committee members focused on information and recordkeeping, using children as "bait" to capture and deport their parents or other family members, and separation of families. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

VII. Resolutions

2016-17: 641-652: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 653: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 654: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 655-675: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent

2016-17: 676-679: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 680: Resolution withdrawn

2016-17: 681-698: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 699: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Adams absent.

2016-17: 700: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: None.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual and pending litigation made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

XI. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:04 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:06 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent.