

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

May 25, 2017

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

Board Members Excused: None.

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

President White convened the meeting at 6:35 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 May 11th Special Meeting and April 27th Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner Cruz arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- III. **Recognition:** The Board recognized Ms. Bollar for her efforts to ameliorate the “school-to-prison pipeline” by helping to revise the District’s Code of Conduct to promote the use of restorative practices and utilize suspension only as a last resort. Ms. Bollar has been instrumental in advancing this work in the Rochester City School District, having facilitated over 20 focus groups involving a total of 334 students to learn more about their perspectives and experiences. She also assisted in training 230 school principals and administrators regarding the new Code of Conduct, the importance of restorative practices and ways to enhance relationships between teachers and students. Additionally, Ms. Bollar created a training video for school staff, which can be used for future and ongoing professional development.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Justin Sorelo, Tatyana Fowler, and Shawn Neal spoke in opposition to the proposed relocation of the Rochester Early College International High School. Students Kiara Johnson, Amina Goolsby, Mosym Tillman, Je’Carl Hill, and Nassir Addison spoke in support of the development of a Pan-African curriculum for all students throughout the District. Councilmember Adam McFadden urged the Board to support student attendance at an annual college fair.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Jeanette Gonzalez, Deidre Irvine, and Marcella Davis spoke in opposition to the proposed relocation of the Rochester Early College International High School. Parent Ricardo Adams spoke about the need for parental involvement and engagement in determining the programming offered to students at Dr. Walter Cooper Academy, School No. 10. Community Member Dr. Walter Cooper spoke in opposition to the proposed extended day programming offered to students at Dr. Walter Cooper Academy, School No. 10. Community Member Jordin Pickett spoke in opposition to the proposed relocation of the Rochester Early College International High School. Staff Members Mary Krieger and Shlon Walker urged the Board to consider supporting a pay increase for members of the Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals. Staff Members Stefan McDondald, Lisa

Englert, Deanne Finewood, Ericka House, and Richard Holland spoke in opposition to the proposed relocation of the Rochester Early College International High School.

- VI. Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms provided an overview of recent events and programming efforts including a recent trip to Washington, DC where hands-on learning was applied and incorporated into instructional programming, summer programming focused on visual arts, and the launch of an alumni network website. Dr. Nelms also presented a video for East High School's vision-care program. The video was designed to familiarize teachers about the actions and/or behaviors that students may exhibit in the classroom if they struggle visually. In addition to the vision-care program offered at the school, Dr. Nelms spoke about the dental program offered to students that affords them the opportunity to receive dental services via a smile-mobile and an on-site dental suite. Dr. Nelms concluded the presentation by thanking the Board for their consideration of Resolution No. 2016-17: 717 that authorizes a partnership between John James Audubon School No. 33 and East High School.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. She spoke of a recent recognition ceremony celebrating District outstanding seniors. Ms. Deane-Williams reminded the Board that she is continuing to work on goals including: ensuring educational excellence and equity for every student; strengthening student, family, school, District and community engagement partnerships; and improving systems District-wide to support academic outcomes and meet needs of students, families and schools. She also spoke of a District partnership with New York University Steinhardt Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools. Ms. Deane-Williams also discussed the recent events hosted by the District including an attendance blitz to identify and engage truant students and a community forum on restorative justice practices where the District partnered with M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence to discuss various tools used in schools, judicial systems, community and faith-based organizations, and mental health organizations to assist with healing harm and rebuilding relationships. Ms. Deane-Williams concluded the presentation by recognizing the work and efforts of Chief of Schools Beverly Burrell-Moore who is retiring at the end of the current fiscal year.

Vice President Elliott left at 8:00 p.m.

VII. Board Reports:

Student Leadership Council

JaQuaez Cochran: The following written report was submitted into record - As we look to close the school year, I would like to thank the Board of Education for the opportunity to serve as the President of the SLC. My ambition at the start of the school year was to use this platform to gain experience and represent district students in a way that would make all of them proud. Although I have learned quite a bit about leadership and collaboration, my hectic school and sport schedule did not allow me to be present at all the board meetings.

The highlight of the year was by far playing a role in the Monroe County Student Summit on Race. RCSD students had the honor and privilege of hosting the event at the Wegmans Conference Center. Almost 500 students attended. Preparation took months and I am grateful to the other students who attended many meetings with me to plan the event. An unbreakable bond was created. I'm sure you will agree that the summit was a total success. We look forward to continuing to work against racism in all of its forms at our schools and in the community.

Because of my schedule, I have decided not to seek another term as President. I will continue to be involved in SLC for my final 2 years as an RCSD student, but I do think it is important for someone else to lead us. That said, we held elections yesterday and I am pleased to let you know that our new President will be Genesis Silva of School Without Walls. You will most likely meet her at the June board meeting.

For 2017-18 we will work to ensure that many more students get involved with SLC. Those of us who have been active will be reaching out to our peers at other schools during the first 2 weeks of September. We know that student voice is important and we will do what we can to ensure that SLC is representative of all schools. Our meeting schedule for the year is set; early enough that it can be listed in the district calendar. The dates are as follows: September 27th, October 25th, November 15th, December 20th, January 24th, February 14th, March 21st, April 25th, May 23rd, June 20th.

Other ideas discussed at yesterday's meeting include: getting business cards for SLC leadership; promoting SLC during summer school; and doing an SLC community service group project.

Bilingual Educational Council

Myrna Gonzalez: The following written report was submitted into record - Good Evening, my name is Myrna Gonzalez, I am the interim President of the Bilingual Educational Council. Thank you for this opportunity to share some of the work and the action items that we need for the District to provide following responses and concrete actions.

We, bilingual parents, community based organizations and educators, represent and advocacy for the educational rights to a quality bilingual education for our students in the Rochester City School District. In accordance with the terms and agreement between the Rochester City School District, and the Bilingual Education Council. I want to bring to your attention the following information, feedback, and topics of concerns:

1. The Bilingual Education Council met on May 9, at #35 school, and received a warm welcome from the Principal and the staff. We heard from parents and encouraged their participation in the upcoming annual elections of the Bilingual Education Council, which has been moved to happen at the June meeting.
2. The next Bilingual Education Council meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, June 13, at # 9 School all are welcome to attend. We are planning for elections. We also hope to have a summer retreat planning session.
3. We want to remind the District that it is important to have medically certified trained Spanish interpreter for mandated student support services. We know that the District is working on increasing certified teachers, but we need Bilingual staff in multiple area. We like to see a more aggressive plan, which includes teacher, social worker, counselors, and special education staff in the plan. In addition, the recruitment plans should include both short and long term strategies:
 - Secure waivers from state to certify teachers immediately
 - Encourage, support and provide incentives to teacher assistants, home school assistants, parent liaisons and other positions to pursue getting a degree and certification as a Bilingual teacher.
 - Develop a program for students who may be interested in becoming our future Bilingual teachers.
4. New Director of Bilingual Education- we have been informed that the hiring process has begun, and the interviews will begin soon. Please remember that the district and the Bilingual Education

Council agreement ensure that our BEC members are include in the process and play a role in the interviews of any potential candidates.

5. I attended a meeting with the Latino Educational Task Force, the Superintendent, Commissioners Cruz and White and RCSD Leadership staff, to discuss continuous concerns which have not been addressed. Some of these concerns are the same concerns expressed by the Bilingual Education Council regarding the lack of sustainable leadership in the Bilingual Department - in 10 years the Department has had over 11 Directors; in addition to the concern regarding certified bilingual staff. A suggestion was made to include Hispanic Serving Institutes – Colleges there are over 250+ in the nation as part of the recruitment plan. We discussed the need for a Newcomers or New arrivals to the district similar but different from the program at Jefferson and most important was an overall need to evaluate, assess and take a hard look at the current Bilingual Educational model. We hope the District will walk the talk and keep its word to follow-up with another meeting next month.

Lastly,

6. Thank you for the information regarding plans for Summer school – It was interesting to know that planning started as early as November. The information is starting to be shared with parents and students. Our feedback is that we are happy to know the planning started early but sadden, when it fell short and the information to parents and students was late. Planning seem to happen on time, we need the person in charge to follow through -- it's the implementation process that needs to be looked at.

Again, I want to thank you, we continue to be hopeful that we can address these issues that our students and families are facing. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, May 17th with Freed Maxick, the Board's External Auditor, to review the Audit Plan for the financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2017. The Committee discussed the plan and reviewed the timelines for receiving the audit results. Preliminary Fieldwork occurred this week and the final audit work will take place in September 2017. Key dates for the audit include: 1) City of Rochester assurance will be provided by October 13, 2017. 2) The draft CAFR will be provided to the Board by November 17th, and 3) The Audit Committee meeting with Freed Maxick to review the final results of the 2017 Rochester City School District Audit will be on December 12th at 5:30. All Board members are invited to attend the meeting. The Committee also received an update from the Auditor General regarding the work that is currently being performed in response to the Comptroller's report.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Monday, May 22nd to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 747 through 759. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the April 2017 Financial Report and the Quarterly Student Activity Fund Report. Motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans; motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 747 through 748 in the Procurement & Supply category; Resolutions 749 through 758 in the Facilities category; and Resolution 759 in the Other category. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee conducted a Meeting of the Whole on Thursday, May 4th to discuss:

- A resolution regarding a proposed partnership between School No. 33 and East High School
- Proposed plan for SUNY Geneseo to serve as the educational partnership organization (EPO) for School No. 19
- Data regarding Career & Technical Education programs offered to students from 2014-15 through 2016-17

Dr. Shaun Nelms and Dr. Larry Ellison presented a resolution to establish a PreK to 12th grade pipeline in the District by having students from School No. 33 enroll in 6th grade at East High School. The collaboration between the two schools is intended to offer greater stability and continuity for students and their families in terms of instructional practices; academic, social and emotional supports; and coordination of services. The proposed partnership would begin with a transition year in 2017-18 and continue until 2020-21, which will mark the end of the term for the East High School EPO agreement with the University of Rochester.

Committee members raised some concerns about allowing school choice for those who do not wish to attend East High School in 6th grade. In light of these concerns, the original resolution was amended to state that students from School No. 33 who do not want to attend East High School in 6th grade can either apply for voluntary transfer to another school (subject to availability), or remain at School No. 33 for 6th grade. These choices will not affect their eligibility or preference for placement at East High School (or any other school) in 7th grade. Students who do choose to attend East High School for 6th grade still have the option to select a different school for 7th grade.

Essentially, the resolution attempts to meet students' and families' needs for consistency and continuity by creating a defined PreK to 12th grade pipeline between School No. 33 and East High School, while also preserving their ability to exercise choice in terms of school selection. This resolution is presented for your consideration this evening (Resolution No. 2016-17: 717).

In addition, Dean Anjoo Sikka from the School of Education at SUNY Geneseo attended the meeting to address questions regarding the proposal for SUNY Geneseo to serve as the educational partnership organization for School No. 19. There was considerable discussion about the proposal, the collaborative teaching model, and the deadlines established by the NYS Education Department. Dean Sikka pointed out that approval for the EPO Plan is required from the Board, the SUNY Board of Trustees, and the NYS Education Department. She reported that a meeting had been scheduled with SUNY leadership on May 15th, and the Board's support would be valuable in presenting the EPO Plan in this meeting. In the May 11th Special Meeting, Board members approved a resolution seeking permission from the NYS Education Commissioner to establish an EPO agreement with SUNY Geneseo for School No. 19.

The collaborative model and approach that SUNY Geneseo has been practicing at School No. 19 has led to overwhelming support among teachers for the EPO Plan. The proposed governance structure has been modified to provide greater parent representation, and the model has been changed from a focus on teacher empowerment to a collaboration among all stakeholders to foster greater parent engagement and voice in decision-making. Additional details of the EPO agreement remain to be defined, and 2017-18 will serve as a transition year.

Finally, to follow up on an Action Item from the March 28th meeting, data was presented of the number of Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses offered in the District each year from 2014-15 through 2016-17. Keith Babuczszak included information of the specific courses that were state-certified, and of the number of students who have used a CTE pathway toward graduation. Beginning in 2015-16, students are able to substitute a CTE pathway for one of the Social Studies Regents exams. Students can

also use work-based learning or an employability skill assessment in place of these exams. A total of 38 students graduated in 2015-16 using one of these CTE options.

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 Policy Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee convened a meeting on May 2nd to discuss the Board self-evaluation policy and tool along with planning for the upcoming Board-Superintendent retreat.

The Committee discussed administering a Board self-evaluation in June or July 2017. A draft instrument was presented that could be used to conduct a Board self-evaluation and a presentation detailing an instrument developed by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). There was consensus that the Committee would review the tool and submit questions and comments to Board staff in anticipation of the tool be distributed to the full Board for acceptance at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Superintendent's Retreat scheduled for July. The retreat sessions would provide the Board with an opportunity to discuss the Board's self-evaluation, discuss a master schedule of committee meeting topics and develop an action plan for the coming year. It was suggested that the Board engage Sherry Johnson, Executive Director of the Monroe County School Boards Association, to facilitate the retreat session scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2017. There was consensus among the Committee members.

VIII. Resolutions

2016-17: 711: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 715: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 717: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Hallmark and Commissioner Powell dissenting and Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 718: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams absent

2016-17: 719-738: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 739: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 740-743: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 744: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 745-746: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 747-748: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 749-760: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 761-764: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 765: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Hallmark dissenting and Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 766-768: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 769: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation and matters related to the employment of a specific individual and pending litigation made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

XII. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:14 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with with Vice President Elliott absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:15 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.