

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting  
September 28, 2017

**Board Members in Attendance:** 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:** Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Wright, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:30 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 August 24<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Richard Coddling spoke about the effectiveness of community schools.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms spoke about a training opportunity on the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) process. He noted that some administrators from Albany would take advantage of the opportunity to receive the School Lead Credential which will essentially consider them to be “experts” on the DTSDE process. Dr. Nelms noted that the turn-key training for staff will impact the initiatives, systems, and processes of East’s Upper and Lower schools.

Dr. Nelms stated that East received the preliminary demonstrable improvement determinations (DII) from the State. He added that administrators are in the process of reviewing the results and revising plans to address those areas where the demonstrable improvement indicators, dropout rates and attendance rates, were not met. He spoke of various academic initiatives that have been implemented to increase reading, promote high academic standards, and enhance Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming. Dr. Nelms announced that the 2013 cohort’s graduation rate (including August) was 45.8%. He highlighted the rate of those scholars who have attended more than 25 days since the Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) has taken over the operations and programming of East noting the graduation rate of these students in the 2013 cohort is 58.3%.

In concluding the presentation, Dr. Nelms mentioned that East recently hosted Byron Scott and the former Chief Executive Officer of Deer Park Water, Charlie Norris who spoke about leadership and how to success in every arena in life. Dr. Nelms also reminded members of the Board about the upcoming homecoming celebration.

Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Wright delivered a presentation that highlighted Path Forward initiative of the District. He noted that the Path Forward plan is designed to respond to the Board's request of Superintendent Deane-Williams to provide an analysis of enrollment trends, demographics, managed choice, feeder patterns, placement zones, neighborhood schools and regional schools. Mr. Wright stated that in addressing the abovementioned analyses members of the District's leadership team is attempting to have the District's school community to respond to the following questions: How do we make every school a great school? What do our graduates need to be prepared for future careers and success? And, how should we organize our schools, feeder patterns, academic programs and services to reduce transitions and build coherence? In addition to the defined questions, it was noted that the students, parents, and community members would be engaged to discuss issues and concerns of interest to them.

In concluding the presentation, Mr. Wright announced the implementation of the smart phone application, *Let's Talk*, which is designed to promote parent and community engagement by allowing for 24-hour responses to parents and community members from District staff on topics of interest to them including student placement, transportation, and specialized services.

## **VI. Board Reports:**

### **President's Report**

#### **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, September 21<sup>st</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 217 through 221, and 250 through 280, and 292 through 293. The Finance Committee continued to discuss the preliminary 2016-17 Year-End Financials and received additional updates via the June 2017 Financial Report. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the August 2017 Financial Report. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 217 through 221 for East EPO; Resolutions 250 through 251 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 252 through 280 for Facilities; and Resolutions 292 for Other. Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 285 through 288, late submissions, were verbally presented via discussion to the committee. However, the committee was not able to review for advancement to the Board with recommendation because of missing supporting documentation at the time of the meeting. Resolution No. 2017-18: 293, a late submission, was also presented to the committee and was considered for review. However, the committee was not able to advance this resolution to the Board with recommendation because of missing supporting documentation at the time of the meeting. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2017.

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

*Chair Malik Evans:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, to learn more about the work of The Children's Agenda in promoting the well-being of the children in our community.

Larry Marx, Executive Director, and Eamonn Scanlon, Education Policy Analyst, discussed the unique role of The Children's Agenda in collaborating with service providers, research institutes, and community organizations to coordinate advocacy efforts on behalf of children. Their overall mission is

to promote policies and programs that are evidence-based and that have demonstrated clear benefits to children, particularly those who are most vulnerable because of poverty, trauma, or racism.

The Children's Agenda was founded in 2004 by the Rochester Area Community Foundation, United Way, service providers, and local funders to: Focus on the cradle-to-career continuum to support an integrated, whole child approach; Offer evidence-based expertise; and Provide independent, non-partisan advocacy.

The Children's Agenda was instrumental in securing \$4.75M earlier this year to help support early childhood initiatives through the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Task Force to benefit 1100 children in the Beechwood and Marketview Heights neighborhoods. Last year, The Children's Agenda was involved in the effort to establish paid family leave in New York, which will benefit 6.4M working families in the state. In addition, the organization was a staunch advocate in the "Raise The Age" campaign to ensure that youth are not prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system and are given every opportunity to redirect their path in life. These are just a few recent examples of the advocacy provided by The Children's Agenda.

In addition, The Children's Agenda analyzes the City, County, and State budget regarding funding for evidence-based programs for children. The organization has called for the City of Rochester to adopt a "Children's Impact Statement" when considering policy or programmatic changes. Because of their effective advocacy, the Nurse Family Partnership was established in Monroe County in 2006 and has served over 1500 families. This program provides free home visits every 1-2 weeks from nurse specialists in maternal and child health to first-time, low income pregnant women until their child reaches two years of age. The nurses offer guidance on child development and care, as well as life coaching to help these new mothers attain educational and career goals.

Mr. Marx discussed current advocacy efforts: 1) to promote increased county funding for child care subsidies; and 2) to increase the number of Child Protective Service workers to address the backlog in child abuse investigations and facilitate provision of critically needed services to these children.

Members of the ESA Committee decided to prepare letters of support for both of these efforts, which are presented for your consideration in this evening's meeting. Despite their small size, The Children's Agenda has been instrumental in a number of critical initiatives to advance the quality of life and prospects for children in Rochester and Monroe County: from health care to education to minimizing involvement in the criminal justice system.

The Children's Agenda also staffs ROC The Future, which will present the annual "State of Our Children" address on October 17th from 7:30-9:30AM at the Riverside Convention Center. The presentation about the work of The Children's Agenda has been posted to our web-based system, BoardDocs. Members of the Board were encouraged to support the important work being done by this organization

### **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:** Although the Policy Committee did not meet in September, Commissioner Powell pointed out a number of policies that are included in the packet for this evening's meeting, including the District Policy Prohibiting Harassment or Discrimination against Students and Employees (0100): the proposed policy changes reflect the provisions of the Dignity for All Students Act; the Employee Obligations Surrounding Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect policy (5460): specific requirements have been added regarding reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse in educational settings, as mandated by NYS law; and the Wellness policy (5405): this policy has been updated to reflect recent changes in federal law and regulation, and the recommendations of the District's Wellness Task Force. Each of these policy proposals were presented last month as Information Items, and are now being advanced as Discussion Items for your consideration.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Elizabeth Hallmark:** The Board Governance Committee coordinated a work session on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> where the Board and Superintendent met to discuss the meeting schedule and goals and priorities for the coming year.

Superintendent Deane-Williams led us in discussion on the District's goals as captured in the District's Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP). For the 2017-18 year, Superintendent Deane-Williams has established the following priorities which align with the goals presented in the DCIP: Continue to build a robust strategic framework that is aligned to the annual district and school comprehensive improvement plans and sets forth measurable goals for academic and operational success; complete the Path Forward process, creating a 10-year master educational plan and facilities plan to improve District coherence aligned with school improvement; complete the development of a public accountability dashboard designed to serve as a transparent system to track student, school, and department performance through predictive analytic measures; and continue to implement program improvements in special education and bilingual education to improve student performance.

At the Work Session it was determined that the Board will support Superintendent Deane-Williams's efforts throughout the 2017-18 year with the following: A well-coordinated legislative agenda that supports the superintendent's 2017-18 priorities and provides needed advocacy at state and federal levels; a reassessment of the Board's school liaison assignments to better support our administrators and constituents; and an evaluation of school climate data to gauge the effectiveness of current safety protocols and interventions (i.e. School Resources Officers).

Commissioner Hallmark indicated that the Board would be asked to formally accept these goals at the October 2017 Business Meeting. She announced that the next Work Session is scheduled for Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**VII. President's Report:** President White introduced Chief Information Officer Annmarie Lehner to demonstrate and present information on *RCSLink*, a smart phone application designed to provide parents with the latest news from their child's school, a calendar of events, important notifications, and contact information for teachers and staff.

### **VIII. Resolutions**

**2017-18: 203-221:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 222:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 223-243:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 244-249:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 250-251:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 252-280:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**2017-18: 281-299:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** The following policies were presented as Discussion Items: District Policy Prohibiting Harassment or Discrimination against Students and Employees (0100), Employee Obligations Surrounding Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect policy (5460), and the Local Wellness Policy (5405).

**XI. Motion to recess into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual** made by Commissioner Hallmark at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**Motion to reconvene** made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.

**XII. Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams absent.