

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting November 16, 2017

Board Members in Attendance: Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner José Cruz, Commissioner Malik Evans, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and Commissioner Willa Powell.

Board Members Excused: President Van Henri White.

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

Vice President Elliott convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Elliott.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the October 26th Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Cruz absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Mercedes Phelan spoke about issues that impact school climate. Parent Znovia Nelson spoke about a specific incident involving a student. Parent Shaila Figueroa spoke about the conditions of the playground on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9 campus. Parent Denise Doris spoke about the work of school psychologists and the proposed use of an online evaluation system to evaluate the needs and supports of students. Community member Juan Collado spoke about the need for interventions and prevention services to address student bullying. Community member Shalinda Bollar spoke about the need for a Pan-African Studies curriculum and a director for the District's African and African American Studies department. Community member Joel Kraft spoke about the value of vocational educational programs and thanked the Board for the restored funding for the OACES program. Staff members Erminie Izzo and Susan Agostinelli spoke about the mismanagement of the District's Special Education department and noted that the District currently has a shortage of nine school psychologists to meet the needs of students. Staff member Michelle Underwood spoke about the work of the teachers and staff that serve the autistic student population at Kodak Park School No. 41.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting student discipline data, attendance data, the recent partnership with John James Audubon School No. 33, and upcoming events. He presented a year-to-year comparison of student discipline data that showed a decrease in disciplinary actions. In discussing attendance, Dr. Nelms mentioned the correlation between attendance and graduation rates and noted that the current East Upper School average daily attendance rate is 85.9% and the current East Lower School average daily attendance rate is 93.3%. Dr. Nelms also noted the upcoming informational meetings that will be held to advise students and parents of the partnership between East High School and John James Audubon School No. 33. In concluding the presentation, Dr. Nelms mentioned that East will host a Robotics Competition on November 19th, a Student-led Conference December 7th, and recruitment and parent information session on January 11th.

Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Wright delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. He spoke of the recent achievements of the Joseph C. Wilson High School Football team in winning the Section V Class A Championship and the World of Inquiry School No. 58 in winning the Section V Class B2 Championship. Mr. Wright also spoke about the New York School Quality Index and congratulated the Francis Parker School No. 23 for being ranked the best school in Monroe County according to the School Quality Index. He also noted that The Children's School of Rochester No. 15 and World of Inquiry School No. 58 also ranked amongst the top performing schools in the county. The Quality Index ranks every public school in New York in five key quality areas including student attendance, suspensions, student-teacher ratio, teacher experience and racial diversity. Mr. Wright also discussed schools that are in receivership and made demonstrable improvement, the Path Forward Process and engagement sessions. In concluding the presentation, Mr. Wright congratulated Chief of Staff Fatimat Reid for being a recipient of Rochester's 40 Under 40 Award for 2017.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 13th to consider Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 376, 407 through 414, 419 and 420. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the October 2017 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution 376 for East EPO; Resolution 407 and 408 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 409 through 414 for Facilities; and Resolutions 419 and 420 for Other. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2017.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee held a Meeting of the Whole on Tuesday, November 14th, to learn more about the work of ROC The Future in improving conditions for students and families in Rochester. Essentially, ROC The Future is a community-wide effort to provide all the support that children in Rochester need, from cradle to career. More than 100 organizations currently participate in this effort to address factors that affect educational and life prospects for children in Rochester. ROC The Future is organized into Collaborative Action Networks, which align their work based on data analysis and best practices. Outcome Teams are focused on specific goals and outcomes to be attained, analyzing data, identifying strategies, and evaluating progress. The entire group works together to raise community awareness of critical issues and mobilize to advocate for evidence-based systems change. The key priorities for 2018 are school readiness; reading on grade level by 3rd grade; and high school graduation.

In this Meeting of the Whole, Committee members also examined the legal framework regarding receivership and options for School No. 41. Based on the information provided in the NYS Education Commissioner's announcement that School No. 41 did not meet the required 67% of "demonstrable improvement" indicators in 2016-17, the options at this point are to place the school under the management of an independent receiver, which could be an individual, another school district, institution of higher education, or non-profit educational organization. Or, request permission from the

Board of Regents to close and/or phase out the school or close the school, and open a “newly registered” school that has been significantly reconstituted as a new and different educational program. These changes are to be reflected in staffing, instruction, and the educational environment of the new school.

Commissioners discussed the need for greater clarity and information regarding the definite timeline/deadline for selecting among these options; and the criteria for determining the specific changes needed to constitute a “new school”. In addition, a great deal of concern was expressed about having an adequate amount of time for thoughtful planning in either selecting an independent receiver, or in developing the model for a “new school”. Mr. Kristoff has contacted the NYS Education Department to request clarification and additional information.

Board members discussed the importance of pointing out these concerns to State Education Department officials, as well as the time needed to thoughtfully prepare and develop an effective plan for the future. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 18, 2018.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: On Tuesday, November 14th, the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to review and update the latest version of the legislative agenda, decide whether additional legislation would be considered for inclusion; and discuss plans for the 2017 Legislative Breakfast.

The CIGR Committee meeting began with members noted their satisfaction with the items included in the newest version of the Legislative Agenda. The updated agenda has been shared with Executive Cabinet, and Cabinet members have responded that they too have no concerns with the document. Upon reviewing additional legislation, the CIGR committee has decided to support and add five (5) new bills in the agenda. These bills encourage equity and seek to address some of the District’s major concerns. The committee will be opposing two (2) bills in the agenda, which if passed, would directly affect the District because they seek to challenge the viability of public education. Additionally, the Committee will be highlighting transportation as a major legislative priority. The Committee highlighted the importance of consulting with partner organizations during the review process. As such, the Committee will be seeking input from the Big 5 and Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA), and hopes that this feedback will encourage final updates to the agenda before it is submitted to the Board for approval in the December Business Meeting.

Following the revision of the legislative agenda, the committee engaged in conversation re the Legislative Breakfast. Given the delays in confirming the legislative agenda and limited planning time, the Committee had decided to postpone the Legislative Breakfast, originally scheduled for November 18, 2017. The new date, February 3, 2018, has been formally accepted and scheduled. Following this decision, the committee reviewed the attendee list and fielded suggestions for speakers at the Breakfast. The Committee will be reviewing the Communications Plan in detail in the next meeting. The CIGR Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2017.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: On Thursday, November 9th, the Policy Committee held a Meeting of the Whole to review a number of policy proposals including revisions proposed to the Code of Conduct (1400), based on updates and recommendations from the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA); a new proposed Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention policy (0115); a new

proposed Equity and Excellence in Education policy to address cultural and racial inequities in District systems and practices.

In addition, Committee members reviewed additional recommendations regarding two policy proposals that have been in process including the Wellness policy (5405) the proposed amendments to the policy were presented to the district-wide Wellness Task Force. The Task Force responded with a number of additional recommendations, which have been included in the updated draft. Commissioner Evans made a motion to bring the resolution back to the table for the Board to consider adopting this policy proposal in this evening's meeting, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent. The Committee discussed the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect policy (5460) and some additional revisions to this policy proposal have been suggested, as well as to the accompanying Superintendent regulations. The policy revisions and regulations clarify and distinguish the requirements and process for reporting suspected child abuse to Child Protective Services from those for responding to allegations of abuse in an educational setting. Commissioner Evans made a motion to return this resolution to the table for Board consideration for adoption in this evening's meeting, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee met on November 1st to discuss a proposal to restructure the Board's standing committees. The proposal allows for a reduced number of standing committee meetings, assignment of committee co-chairs and other points to improve the effectiveness and functioning of the Board. The Committee will continue discussion of the committee restructure proposal and the proposed Board goals at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Hallmark distributed a proposed list of topics, ranging from Education Law to parking, to cover in the orientation of new Board members. She asked that the Committee review the list, and provide feedback as soon as possible.

Commissioner Hallmark requested a motion to accept the 2017 performance evaluation tool for the General Counsel, Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the performance evaluation tool, seconded Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent.

The Board will also hold a Work Session is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At this session we anticipate discussion of Board's budget priorities for input into the development of the 2018-19 budget.

VII. Resolutions

2017-18: 376-377: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

2017-18: 378: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with President White absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 379-400: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

2017-18: 401-406: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with President White absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 407-414: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent. An affirmative student advisory vote was recorded.

2017-18: 415-424: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent. An affirmative student advisory vote was recorded.

Motion to remove **Resolution No. 2017-18: 353** from table was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent.

2017-18: 353: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent. An affirmative student advisory vote was recorded.

Motion to remove **Resolution No. 2017-18: 354** from table was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent.

2017-18: 354: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent. An affirmative student advisory vote was recorded.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: A proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy was presented as an Information Item. The following policies were presented as Discussion Items: Preschool Education Program (4320.5), Field Trips and Excursions policy, and the Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (0115).

X. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President White absent