

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting December 21, 2017

Board Members in Attendance: President 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, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young audience member.

The Board facilitated a recognition ceremony for retiring Board Members Commissioner José Cruz and Commissioner Malik Evans.

- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the November 16th Business Meeting, December 9th Special Meeting, December 12th Special Meeting, December 18th Special Meeting, and December 19th Special Meeting was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Aaliyah Chiles and Aryanna Colon-Aponte spoke about the nurturing school environment and dedication and commitment of Kodak Park School No. 41 school community. Parent Mercedes Mike spoke about the nurturing school environment and dedication and commitment of Kodak Park School No. 41 school community. Community Member Richard Coddling spoke about the nurturing school environment and dedication and commitment of Kodak Park School No. 41 school community. Staff Members Christopher Smith and Kalinda Moore spoke about the nurturing school environment and dedication and commitment of Kodak Park School No. 41 school community.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Staff Member Charles Devries spoke about the reduction of vital positions in Special Education, he added that the District's Special Education services and programming are disorganized. Staff Member Dr. Mary Perez spoke about the work of school psychologists and indicated that administrative duties have prevented her from servicing students. Staff Member Maria Gonzalez spoke about the need to recruit and hire certified bilingual school psychologists. Parent Jean Celian introduced a program known as Little Medical School. Staff Member Rebecca VanAlystyne spoke about the work of school psychologists. Community Member Veronica White spoke about school climate issues at Helen Barrett Montgomery School No. 50. Community Member Juan Collado asked that the Board maintain Kodak Park School No. 41, he introduced a student who spoke about the efforts and expectations of the school's staff.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting student discipline data, attendance data, existing academic interventions, recent recruitment activities, and other programming efforts to improve school climate and academic performance at East's schools. In concluding the

presentation, Dr. Nelms presented a Winter Concert medley of musical performances by students of the Upper and Lower schools. He also commended Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Evans for their dedication and commitment to the students of the Rochester City School District.

Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. She opened the presentation by congratulating Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Evans for their service and welcoming Commissioner-elect Natalie Sheppard. She spoke of the newly designed digital classroom located in Central Office. Ms. Deane-Williams noted that the digital classroom, known as a “Makers Space”, will allow students to engage in new curriculum, programs, and technology. She added that students will be able to give feedback in real time, which will help develop tomorrow’s classrooms. Ms. Deane-Williams also noted her participation in the recent College March with graduating seniors of World of Inquiry School No. 58 and ROC the Future’s Convener’s Meeting where she shared information on the Path Forward initiative. She concluded the presentation with mention of the Victorious Minds Academy which hosted Dr. Joy DeGruy where she continued providing professional development opportunities for District staff members.

Members of Ms. Deane-Williams cabinet presented preliminary findings of the Path Forward initiative, including a proposed expansion of the P-Tech Program with the partnership of Monroe Community College and increased academic offerings to all District students.

VI. Board Reports:

Student Leadership Congress Report

Daquan Hilton: The following report was submitted by Daquan Hilton of the District’s Student Leadership Congress:

ROC to Change Student Race Summit

Brockport hosted this event November 17, 2017. I and approximately fifteen other students from each school attended, representing the Rochester City School District. The Race Summit is a wonderful way to bring people from different schools, districts, backgrounds, races, and cultures to educate and have productive discussions about race, classism, bias, and prejudice. This is a very important topic in our country right now and we were proud to be given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. It was also important to hear the thoughts and opinions of suburban students. There’s power in youth, and this event was all about our voice! We thank Brockport for hosting this eye and mind opening event.

Victorious Minds Academy Community Forum

On November 30th, the Victorious Minds Community Forum featuring Dr. Joy DeGruy was held at Wilson Foundation Academy. The standing room only event was attended by hundreds and included parents, teachers and students. The focus of the night was the district’s embrace of history and culture as an integral part of the learning experience. This is something that SLC strongly supports and wants to see more of. The highlight of the night for students was our participation in a panel discussion with teachers and parents; yet another opportunity for us to share our thoughts on the education process and learn from others as well. During that same week, Dr. DeGruy visited Leadership Academy for what was a very engaging discussion with students. We look forward to more opportunities like this for all schools.

Leadership Academy for Young Men

Speaking of Leadership Academy, we have some more good news to share. You may recall that during the SLC November report, we mentioned that the students there have not been feeling like their voices have been heard. We spoke about the absence of homecoming, pep rallies and spirit week. Well, somebody listened. Spirit week is this very week at LAYM! We want to say “thank you” for that to the

Principal Wakili Moore and anyone else who made that happen. This is another example of the power of student voice. We're not done yet though. There are some suspension issues at the school (and other schools as well) that need to be addressed.

Attendance at SLC meetings

We would like to ask the district administrators to actively promote SLC in all high schools. Students from all schools have not been attending our meetings. We know there are good as well as challenging things happening at all of our schools. Our goal is to shed light on the good and bring about corrective action to the not so good. SLC meetings are listed on the district calendar. The schools that have been primarily represented are Edison, Wilson, Leadership Academy and School Without Walls. We're asking that administrators and School Chiefs from the other schools please inform and encourage students to attend. We will also do our part as students. The next SLC meeting is on January 24th.

In closing, we would like to wish all the Board members, the Superintendent, district staff and the overall community a safe and blessed holiday season. We look forward to improved outcomes for this district in 2018 and beyond.

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, December 5th with the External Auditor Freed Maxick CPAs, to review the results of the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2017. All Board Members received a draft copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and had an opportunity to ask questions and attend the meeting. The Office of Auditor General reviewed the draft CAFR and all questions have been resolved in this final version, which has been provided today.

We are seeking Board approval for Resolution No. 2017-18: 487, to accept the Independent Auditors' Report and Single Audit Reports of Freed Maxick CPAs contained within the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. Upon Board approval the reports, this resolution will be filed with the Commissioner of Education and State Comptroller. The Committee also reviewed several reports in 2017, Vice President Elliott made a motion to accept various audit reports, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, December 14th to consider Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 465 through 474, 476 and 478. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the November 2017 Financial Report. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution 465 through 467 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 468 through 473 for Facilities; and Resolutions 474, 476 and 478 for Other. Commissioner Cruz made a motion to accept the November 2017 Financial Report, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: No report submitted.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: No report submitted.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, December 7th, and received input from the School Climate Advisory Committee regarding revisions proposed to the Code of Conduct (1400) based on recommendations from the NYS School Boards Association. Among the suggestions provided by the Advisory Committee, the most substantive were: to expressly prohibit strip searches and direct school staff to contact law enforcement in the event of an “imminent threat” to safety; define “imminent threat” to safety to provide guidance to school staff regarding situations in which law enforcement should be contacted; ensure protection of students by requiring that parents be contacted prior to any search or questioning by law enforcement; delineate the limits of student searches to determine when these may be considered strip searches; and ensure consistency between the Code of Conduct and all other related policies. In addition, the members of the School Climate Advisory Committee reviewed the new proposed Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention policy (0115), which fulfills requirements under the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). The next meeting of the Policy Committee is scheduled on February 1, 2018, following the Board Governance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: After the Special Meeting on Saturday, December 9th the Board convened a Work Session to discuss professional development needs and opportunities, a proposed District Master Calendar and the Board Committee structure.

In discussing professional development, the needs of the Board as the governing body as well as those of the administration were considered.

Superintendent Deane-Williams led a discussion on (draft) reports detailing the Path Forward initiative and quarterly progress reports that detail the work of various District departments. She also presented a master calendar for the Board’s standing committees and various working groups commissioned by the District. It was decided that aligning the work of the District with the work of the Board’s standing committees would provide for consistency and relevance. The master calendar details how this work will be facilitated, and will be monitored by the District Clerk and Chief of Staff. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

President’s Report

Board President Van Henri White: President White announced that the 2018 Organizational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6:00 p.m. He noted that at this meeting, new members of the Board will be sworn-in, officers of the Board will be elected and several designations will be made to appoint individuals and assign responsibilities for District affairs.

President White also announced the upcoming School Expo. He stated that School Choice EXPO provides an opportunity for each building to highlight the programs and activities that make their school unique and it allows parents and students to make informed decisions in their school selection for the 2018-19 school year.

In concluding his report, he announced that lawn signs to promote the RCSDLink smart phone application are available for distribution. He also reminded the audience that the Board is collecting laundry supplies to assist the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9 school community.

Commissioner Cruz left at 9:04 p.m.

VII. Resolutions

2017-18: 427-438: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 439: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Cruz absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 440: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 441-461: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 462-466: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Cruz absent and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 467-475: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 476-479: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 480: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent and Vice President Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship

2017-18: 481-487: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2017-18: 488: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Cruz absent and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2017-18: 489-494: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: A revision to the Education of Homeless Children, Policy No. 5110 was presented as an Information Item. A proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy was presented as a Discussion Item.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Evans at 9:39 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Evans at 10:25 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

- X. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Adams at 10:25 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.