

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 15, 2018

Board Members in Attendance: President White, Vice President Powell, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Melanie Funchess, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: None

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

President White convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by two young audience members.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to amend the minutes of the February 1st Special Meeting to include the following language “Commissioner Hallmark asked members of the Board to review the Board and Superintendent goals that were distributed and their individual calendars for availability for the summer retreat and a retreat to discuss Board dynamics for discussion at the upcoming Special Meeting on February 6, 2018” made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 25th Business Meeting and February 1st Special Meeting as amended was made by Commissioner Hallmark and seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

III. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: Students Elijah Hospedales, Jade Castro, Starasia Goodwin, De’Sean Hill, Varrell Buck, Jose Rivera, Karielys Hernandez, and Bryanna Kuhn spoke about the leadership and school culture of Enrico Fermi School No. 17.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 8:02 p.m.

IV. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item: Parents Angely Delgado, Limarie Rodriguez, Leticia Castro, Daisy Hospedales, Jeylenne Vazquez, Sarah Shell, Ashley Greenman, Anwar Johnson, Sharon Caruthers, Reatha Lee, and Carol Feliciano spoke about the leadership and school culture of Enrico Fermi School No. 17. Community Members Ralph Spezio, John Smelt, and Morgan Barry spoke about the leadership and school culture of Enrico Fermi School No. 17. Parent Lydia Rodriguez spoke about Hispanic student services in the District. Community Member Anthony Plonczynski-Figueroa spoke about the need to address Latino student achievement. Community Member Lexi Popovici spoke about the need to curb tobacco marketing in urban areas. Community Member Sofia Williams spoke about the District’s Code of Conduct. Staff Members Elaine Martinez, Analy Cruz-Phommany, Alexander Macaluso, Catriena Burke, Samuel McCree III, Leslie McFarlane, Danna Lee, Derrek Kelly, Hezir Aguero, and Alva Vives

V. Superintendents Reports: Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting cohort data, particularly student performance on NYS Regents examinations, and recent student achievements. Deputy Superintendent Linus Guillory presented a Path Forward update, discussed recent budget testimony and teacher recruitment efforts, and highlighted the District's increase in graduation rates and student recognitions.

VI. Board Reports:

Student Leadership Congress Report

Genesis Silva: The following report was submitted by Genesis Silva of the District's Student Leadership Congress:

ROC to Change Student Race Summit: Churchville Chili

Churchville Chili will be hosting this event March 23rd. The Rochester City School District will be represented. 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 are grateful to be given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion again. It was also important to hear the thoughts and opinions of suburban students. There's power in youth, and event like this are all about our voice! We've offered our help and are waiting to hear back from the Churchville Chili High School advisor. We are excited to be able to attend and speak at another Roc2Change Student Race Summit. March 23rd is a half day of school, but all students will still meet at Central Office. Mr. Jordan and Mr. LaMorte are going to make sure that all RCSD Schools have students being put on the list to attend and represent. A report will be given on the April 26, Board of Education meeting.

Student Leadership Congress Concept and Bylaws Paper

We reviewed the concept paper that was completed by the AmeriCorps Vista from last year. We spoke about the next action that we can take as a Council from that paper. We reviewed the SLC Bylaws, each member is going to review on their own for a discussion. We discussed what the power of Student Government Association at each school should be in the future and how students could help improve schools through them.

Youth Voice One Vision

We held a discussion about the City of Rochester's Youth Voice One Vision (YVOV), the Mayor's Advisory Council. We have the opportunity to connect with them and the other community youth councils. SLC members are interested, so we are getting a schedule of the meetings so that we can attend.

SLC Close Up Field Trip to Washington D.C.

This field trip is a great opportunity for students because it provides effective hands on experience that will educate and inspire us to participate in our government, strengthen our leadership in our community, and learn a more thorough understanding of American history and government. SLC is planning on utilizing this opportunity. We are currently checking our budget, deciding what date we will go, and looking into chaperones. SLC is thrilled to be able to go on a field trip like this, where we can expand our learning experience.

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 Leadership Academy and School Without Walls. Students from Edison and Wilson were attending, we are going to reach out to the students that were representing. We are asking that administrators and School Chiefs of Edison, Integrated Arts and Technology, James Monroe, Joseph C. Wilson Magnet, Northeast College, Rochester Early College International, School of the Arts, Vanguard Collegiate, All City, Rochester International Academy, and P-Tech High School's to please inform and encourage students to attend. We will also do our part as students in this growth process. We had a discussion on how we can increase membership and participation for this year and going into the next school year.

Some ideas we've come up with are:

- Making sure transportation is not an issue for students
- Getting schools to talk about it
- Updating the SLC flyer, make it more student friendly
- Advertising the opportunity to meet new people
- Allowing this count for student's community service requirement in Participation in Government
- SLC team going out to present to other students
- Reminding students that we do serve pizza at every single meeting

The next SLC Special meeting is on Thursday, March 1st at 3:30. We are working on getting the Modern Learning Space booked to hold our meeting.

Audit Committee

Chair Beatriz LeBron: The Audit Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 6th to perform our annual review of the Audit Committee Charter. The Committee will also review the Request for Proposal (RFP) submissions received for the External Audit Services, Actuarial Services for Post-Employment Benefits, and Actuarial Services for Workers Compensation. The Auditor General is working in collaboration with the City of Rochester to create inter-municipal RFPs for these services. The Audit Committee expects to make a recommendation to the Board on the selection of these vendors for consideration at the April Business Meeting. The Committee will also evaluate management's progress towards completion of the recommendations the District received from the Office of the State Comptroller's report on Payroll and Procurement.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 8th to review the East EPO January 2018 Financial Report and the District's January 2018 Financials, the 2017-18 Second-Quarter Elementary Activity Accounts & Student Activity Funds Report and amendments to the 2017-18 Budget. The committee also met to discuss the 2018-19 Budget Calendar, the 2018-19 Budget Projections, and to appraise the Board Budget Priorities List. Motion to accept the reports, budget calendar and budget priorities was made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 7-0.

The Committee also considered Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 610 through 612, and 618 through 621.

- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the January 2018 Financial Report
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the 2017-18 Second-Quarter Elementary Activity Accounts & Student Activity Funds Report
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the 2018-19 Board Budget Calendar
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the 2018-19 Board Budget Priorities

The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 610-612 for Educational Facilities and Budget Amendment Resolutions 618-621 in the Other category. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Natalie Sheppard: On Thursday, February 1st, the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee convened a Meeting of the Whole to receive a presentation regarding early childhood education in the District and an update regarding plans for School No. 41.

Dr. Dirk Hightower and Dr. Charles Infurna from the Children's Institute discussed the findings from the 2016-17 Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP) Report. Essentially, the District continues to perform much higher than the national average on almost every measure of learning and development in PreK programs. Nevertheless, young children in Rochester continue to lag in language, literacy and communication, primarily due to a lack of exposure to various forms of communication and limited engagement in conversational dialog. It was recommended that the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee address these issues by considering opportunities to:

- Establish partnerships with libraries and community organizations; and
- Inform parents of the importance of engaging their child in conversation and introducing them to different forms of language (e.g. singing, poetry, books).
- Dr. Robin Hooper and Andy MacGowan also described new initiatives in early childhood education in the District:
- Kindergarten Prep program to provide social and emotional supports to the most fragile children in PreK
- Pilot of the Rochester Area Parent Program, which is based on the very successful Chicago Parent Program
- Use of the Pyramid Model of Preschool Social-Emotional Development, which has already shown some evidence of effectiveness

Overall, the children in the EPK program (three-year-olds) demonstrated one full year of growth from attending the program. The results for students in the UPK program (four-year-olds) showed 20 months of growth from attending the program. District staff have been working to improve attendance in PreK programs, and have instituted a continuous improvement system to identify specific areas in need of additional support.

Chief of School Innovation Beth Mascitti-Miller presented plans and timeframes for developing a new school at School No. 41. The first critical date is February 14th, which is the deadline for submitting to the NYS Education Commissioner the draft plan for closing School No. 41 and opening a new school at that location. The Commissioner will provide feedback to the District to address in developing the final school closure plan and petition to register the new school by March 1st. These plans are to be presented to families and the school community by March 23rd, the deadline for the Board to vote on the plans.

Many questions were raised about the design of the new school, hiring of a new principal, and staffing. Dr. Mascitti-Miller provided a very general overview of the design plan, noting that the new school will have a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) and will engage students in project-based learning. She assured that the Board, families and staff will be apprised as plans develop for the new school. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: On Thursday, February 1st, the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to review and consider the latest version of the legislative agenda, discuss arrangements for the 2018 Legislative Breakfast, review and update the Board Communications Plan, and consider possibilities for potential community public forums later this year. Additionally, the committee fielded a presentation on the Safe and Supportive Schools legislation.

The CIGR Committee meeting began with members providing feedback on the final version of the Legislative Agenda. Upon reviewing, the Committee accepted the Agenda as a representation of legislative asks for 2018-19. The Legislative Agenda will be featured at the 2018 Legislative Breakfast, which will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 9:00-11:30 AM. The Breakfast will not only be an opportunity to share the Legislative Agenda, but it will also allow for the discussion of recent and pending legislation with state and local legislators, and district and community leaders. The Breakfast program will also feature an update on the District's Facilities Modernization Plan, and a presentation on the Safe and Supportive Schools Legislation. This bill is currently included in the Board 2018-19 Legislative Agenda and applies to both public and charter schools. It seeks to create safe, healthy, and inclusive schools, and establish positive school climates by prioritizing restorative justice and alternative discipline. Jasmine Gripper, Legislative Director at the Alliance for Quality Education, will conduct the presentation during the Breakfast.

During the Committee Meeting, members also engaged in conversation re the Board Communications Plan and made suggestions on its improvement. The Plan intends to increase public awareness of the Board of Education by educating stakeholders on ways Board oversight and decision-making improve performance and achievement in the district. To conclude the meeting, the Committee discussed plans for public forums in 2018 and explored a variety of forum topics to connect with the District and the wider Rochester community. The CIGR Committee requests a motion for the Board to consider and approve the 2018-19 Legislative Agenda. Motion to approve the Legislative Agenda was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Policy Committee

Chair Melanie Funchess: The members of the Policy Committee met on Thursday, February 8th, to obtain information about the policies and practices of the Rochester Police Department in responding to student disciplinary incidents. In attendance were two RPD Commanders responsible for supervising School Resource Officers (SROs) and an SRO from World of Inquiry School No. 58. The supervising commanders discussed expanding the use of procedural justice/restorative practices throughout the Police Department, noting that all School Resource Officers have been trained in these practices. Additional training is offered in conflict resolution, mediation, and understanding the adolescent brain. The emphasis was on avoiding law enforcement involvement in school incidents, unless the incident rises to the level of a criminal offense and there is an imminent threat to safety. The officers described using a variety of methods in these situations to prevent students from entering the criminal justice system, such as mediation, conflict resolution and diversion.

The RPD Commanders also emphasized the importance of screening police officers to ensure that their suitability for working as a School Resource Officer. Preference is given to veteran officers who were raised in the neighborhoods in which our students live, although the individual's character, ability to mediate, and develop relationships with students and school staff are the most critical factors in selecting SROs. The RPD Commanders explained that data of student disciplinary incidents is reviewed weekly to identify trends, facilitate prevention and early intervention, and make necessary changes in deployment of staff. They reported a marked reduction in incidents in RCSD schools over the last 6-7 years, and an increased reliance on diversion.

The members of the Policy Committee also reviewed changes incorporated into the Code of Conduct (1400) and the new proposed Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (0115) that were recommended by the School Climate Advisory Committee. Additional changes are needed to the Student Bullying Policy to include provisions regarding cyberbullying. The Code of Conduct will be updated further when the Advisory Committee has completed its review and presented policy recommendations.

The proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy (0201) was also discussed, and the Policy Committee decided to obtain feedback from the School Climate Advisory Committee and the Parent Advisory Council. Input from these two groups will be reviewed and discussed in the March 13th Policy Committee meeting, with the intent to advance the policy proposal to the Board in the March Business Meeting. I would like to request a motion to continue to table the resolution to adopt the Equity and Educational Excellence Policy (0201) until the March Business Meeting (Resolution No. 2017-18: 555).

In this evening's meeting, a number of proposed policies are presented for your consideration:
For Adoption:

- Proposed revision of Education of Homeless Students policy (5110) to comply with changes to the federal McKinney-Vento Act, which was reauthorized under ESSA.
- Draft resolution regarding rescission of the existing Day Care policy (4324.1): This policy has not been implemented in the District for over a decade, and a recent survey indicated that parenting students require greater flexibility in their choice of child care providers to accommodate their needs. For these reasons, the members of the Policy Committee decided that these students' needs could best be met by advocating for parenting students to be prioritized in awarding County child care subsidies, and through pursuing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to offer child care as part of a before- and/or after-school program.

Information Items:

- Proposed revision of Student Records and Privacy policy (5500) in accordance with New York State School Boards Association recommendations

Finally, Committee members discussed establishing a regular monthly meeting schedule to address the volume of work that needs to be performed, at least until the backlog of policies requiring updates has been addressed. In addition, the policy development process will be streamlined to facilitate this process. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: On February 1st the Board held a Special Meeting which was convened as a Governance Committee of the Whole. Commissioner Hallmark introduced discussion of the proposed summer retreat dates, noting that the Board has been invited to participate in the summer retreat hosted by Superintendent Deane-Williams on July 19th and July 20th. Members of the Board discussed the possibility of travelling to participate in the retreat or holding the sessions requiring Board member participation locally (in Rochester, NY). It was noted that travelling to participate in the retreat would allow for the full attention of Board and would also allow for meaningful social interactions between the Board and/or members of the Superintendent's cabinet. There was no consensus on whether or not the Board is willing to travel to participate in the retreat.

The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled on Thursday, April 12th. The following topics will be discussed:

- Discussion of communication protocols and addition of Board protocols
- Presentation of the Board Handbook

President's Report

Board President Van Henri White: President White spoke about recent school visits, the recently formed Committee to Review Special Education Programs and Services, and his participation at events held throughout the District.

VII. Resolutions

2017-18: 571-574: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 575: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 576-577: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 578-579: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 580: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 581-586: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2017-18: 587 to Resolution No. 2017-18: 587a and Resolution No. 2017-18: 587b made by Commissioner LeBron, seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

2017-18: 587a: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2017-18: 587b to include a terminal effective date of July 30, 2018 made by Vice President Powell, seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 7-0.

2017-18: 587b: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner LeBron dissenting.

2017-18: 588: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 589-592: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 593: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 594-601: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 602-609: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 610-612: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 613-621: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 622: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

2017-18: 623-632: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 633-634: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: A revision to the Student Records and Privacy Policy No. 5500 was presented as an Information Item.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of particular persons and other matters with the General Counsel was made by Commissioner Sheppard and seconded by Commissioner Funchess at 10:45 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 12:00 a.m. Motion carries 7-0.

X. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hallmark at 12:05 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.