

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

March 29, 2018

**Board Members in Attendance:** President Van Henri White, Vice President Willa Powell, Commissioner Melanie Funchess, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

**Board Members Excused:** Commissioner Cynthia Elliott

**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 6:40 p.m.

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

**II. Student Recognition Ceremony:** Commissioner Sheppard presented an award to Student Jaquil Baxter, a senior at Edison Tech qualified and competed in events at the NYS Indoor Track Championship tournament, on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Sheppard announced that Jaquil became the first student of Edison Career and Technical High School to win a State Championship since 2010 when he won the 600 meters. She noted that Jaquil not only excels on the track, but also carries a 3.5 GPA in the classroom.

Commissioner Sheppard made statements to underscore and highlight the role of the Board and the need for the consistent support of the community.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting, January 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting, January 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, February 6<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, February 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, February 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, and March 6<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting was made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Ian Holley, Ricardo Roberto, DeQuan Hilton, Nova Griffin, and Patrick Brooks, Jr. spoke about the advice and mentorship provided by a teacher of the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Community member Howard Eagle spoke about issues and concerns related to the leadership of the Board.

**V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Angely Delgado spoke about the meal selection available to students of Enrico Fermi School No. 17. Parents Barbara Vankerhou and Ricardo Adams spoke about the experience and qualifications of the distinguished educator. Parent Daisy Hospenales spoke about the need for improvements in the District's special education programming and services. Parent Vickie Robinson spoke about various issues of concern to the District. Community members Shawn Carroll and Marie Barnes spoke about the need for effective attendance activities. Community member Peter Burkin spoke about his work to address bullying. Community members Elizabeth Chapman, Camille Simmons, Cameron Simmons, Kyrien Love and Brendan Apo spoke about the advice and mentorship provided by a teacher of the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Community member

Julio Vicente spoke about recent safety incidents. Community member Olivene Adams spoke about the mental health concerns impacting the District's concerns. Community member Gladys Pedraza Burgos spoke about the need for stability, multicultural education curriculum, and additional supports in the District's bilingual education programming. Staff member Jeffrey Wujcik spoke about the need for additional resources to support the District's OACES program.

**VI. Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting cohort data, particularly student attendance, behavioral and school climate indicators and recent student achievements and events highlighting the school's progress. He also presented a projected graduation rate of 55-60% for members of the 2014 cohort. In discussing recent events, Dr. Nelms spoke about the upcoming Center for Urban Education Success (CUES) Spring Symposium highlighting East practitioners' work. He noted that session topics include school leader practices and decisions, curriculum development and support, teacher practices and decisions, social and emotional developmental health, family and community engagement and university partnerships.

Superintendent Deane-Williams introduced Chief of Schools Itonia Owens who presented information on the District's attendance practices. Ms. Deane-Williams also discussed recent activities to engage students and capture the student voice. She also discussed highlights of the proposed 2018-19 budget. Ms. Deane-Williams concluded by recognizing several staff members, Andy Scott, Annmarie Lehner, Susan Ladd, and Laurel Avery-DeToy, who were recognized for recent accolades and awards.

## **VII. Board Reports:**

### **Student Leadership Congress Report**

**Genesis Silva:** Genesis Silva of the District's Student Leadership Congress presented a report highlighting recent events attended by District students. She discussed the recent ROC to Change Student Race Summit hosted by the Churchville-Chili school district. Genesis recognized Commissioner Funchess for her participation in the Summit that brought together people from different schools, districts, backgrounds, races, and cultures to educate and have productive discussions about race, classism, bias, and prejudice.

### **Audit Committee**

**Chair Beatriz LeBron:** The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) responses received for the District Financial Audit. As in prior years, the RFP process for the Independent External Auditor was performed as an Inter-Municipal RFP between the District, Rochester Joint School Construction Board and the City of Rochester and their related entities. The Audit Committee has forwarded our unanimous selection and recommendation for the Board to approve Resolution 740, which recommends, Freed Maxick, CPAs P.C as the Independent External Auditor for the fiscal years ending 2018, 2019, 2020 and two optional one year extensions for 2021 and 2022. During our meeting, the Committee also received an update on work performed by the Office of Auditor General and the status on the Office of the State Comptroller Recommendations. The Committee will work to closely monitoring to ensure that the Comptroller's Recommendations are completed. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., to meet with Freed Maxick to review the 2018 Audit Plan for the Financial Audit.

## **Finance Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** The Finance Committee convened as a Meeting of the Whole on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to facilitate the District Administration's 2018-19 Budget update. This update highlighted several cost savings measures being considered to assist in reducing the anticipated budget gap within the major areas of Teaching and Learning, Accountability, Administration, IM& T, Operations, Transportation, Safety and Security, Facilities, and Human Resources. This update also preemptively allowed for the exchange of Board feedback, in anticipation of the 2018-19 Budget Presentation on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Following the budget update, the Finance Committee meeting continued as scheduled to review and discuss the East EPO and District February 2018 Financial Reports, as well as amendments to the 2017-18 Budget. Motion to accept the reports was made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. Lastly, the Committee considered Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 680 through 701, and 711.

- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District February 2018 Financial Report
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the East EPO February 2018 Financial Report
- The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation:
  - Budget Amendment Resolutions 680-683
  - Resolutions 684-689 for Procurement and Supply
  - Resolutions 690-701 for Educational Facilities; and
  - Resolution 711 under the Other category.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2018.

## **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

**Chair Natalie Sheppard:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet in March because additional time was needed to obtain and analyze information to present to the Committee. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018 following the Board Governance Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)**

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** No report was submitted.

## **Policy Committee**

**Chair Melanie Funchess:** On Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the members of the Policy Committee met to review feedback from the RCSD Parent Advisory Council and the School Climate Advisory Committee regarding the proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy (0201). Most of the concerns involved strengthening the policy provisions to promote genuine equity in the District, specifically to:

- Tailor resource allocation, programming, services, and supports according to the needs of each student;
- Provide consistency with the Code of Conduct by emphasizing investment in restorative practices and by addressing racial disparities in the use of exclusionary discipline;
- Create a curriculum reflective and appreciative of the rich cultural and historic heritage of District students; and
- Provide cultural competence training for teachers and staff.

All of these suggestions have been incorporated into the proposed policy. Additional comments and suggestions included:

- The need for greater diversity among District teaching staff and administrators, emphasizing that those making decisions affecting students should also be reflective of our student population;
- The need to fill the position of Director of African – African American Studies;
- A requirement for all students to learn African – African American studies and Latino studies; and
- The need to implement the Parent & Family Engagement Policy (1900) with fidelity throughout the District.

While these concerns are certainly pertinent, they do not apply to the proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy itself for the most part. The members of the Policy Committee did not want to establish a requirement for all students to learn African – African-American Studies and Latino Studies, but chose instead to promote a culturally diverse curriculum for all students. With this additional vetting by the Parent Advisory Council and School Climate Advisory Committee, the Committee would like to request a motion to return the resolution from the table for the Board to consider adoption of the proposed Equity and Educational Excellence Policy (0201) (Resolution No. 2017-18: 555).

A number of proposed policies are presented for the Board’s consideration:

For Discussion:

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

Information Items:

- New Proposed Gender Equity Policy
  - This policy proposal is based on the sample Sexual Harassment policy from the New York State School Boards Association, but is more comprehensive in addressing overall discrimination based on gender, gender identity and expression. A policy specifically regarding Title IX is legally required, and the proposed policy fulfills this requirement.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Elizabeth Hallmark:** The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The following topics will be discussed:

- Draft Communication Protocols
- Proposed List of Professional Development Topics
- Discussion of evaluation schedules for the Superintendent, General Counsel, and Board Staff

### **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.

## **VIII. Resolutions**

**2017-18: 663-675:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 677-688:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 689:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 692-694:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 699-705:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 706-709:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 710-715:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 716-727:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2017-18: 729-746:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to take Resolution No. 2017-18: 555 from the table made by Commissioner Funchess, and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.**

**2017-18: 555:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to take Resolution No. 2017-18: 659 from the table made by Vice President Powell, and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.**

**2017-18: 659:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to take Resolution No. 2017-18: 660 from the table made by Vice President Powell, and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.**

**2017-18: 660:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** A proposed Sexual Harassment Policy No. 0110 was presented as an Information Item. A revision to the Student Records and Privacy Policy No. 5500 was presented as a Discussion Item. No comments were captured.

**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 9:47 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to reconvene into open session** made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 11:35 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**XI. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Hallmark at 11:35 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.