

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

May 24, 2018

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Willa 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: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, 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 March 8th Special Meeting, April 12th Special Meeting, April 24th Special meeting, April 26th Business Meeting, and the May 8th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 7-0.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Truth Burney spoke about the need for student support services. Student Aliana Guidice spoke about the need for diverse teachers. Student Jacques Conde spoke about the effect of testing on students. Student Alexis Clark spoke about the need proper student and teacher supports. Student Beautiful Ford spoke about school climate issues. Student Xavier Campbell spoke about the need for classes to better prepare students for life. Student Erik Wilson spoke about the need for diverse staffing. Student Kiara Johnson spoke about the need for diverse staffing.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Nicolette Burney spoke about the need for student support services. Parent Mary Callahan spoke about the need for before and after school programs. Community member Julio Vicente spoke about factors leading to the proposed renaming of School No. 12. Community member Peter Burkin spoke about anti-bullying efforts. Community member Jerry Wolf spoke about the tuition and financial structure of foreign exchange programs. Staff member J'la Jones spoke about the need for afterschool programming, particularly for working mothers and students of color.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting the performance data and progress against the demonstrable improvement indicators for the Upper and Lower schools, particularly focusing on interventions applied. He also presented the projected and targeted graduation rates along with reference to the drop-out rate of the Upper School. Dr. Nelms concluded the presentation with acknowledgment of various student achievements.

Superintendent Deane-Williams discussed recent community celebrations, outreach efforts, and activities to engage students including the Transfer of Flags Ceremony, the Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner hosted by the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents, a ROC the Future

meeting, and an Attendance Blitz aimed at addressing chronic truancy. Ms. Deane-Williams concluded by recognizing Ruth Turner and several students who participated in the statewide My Brother's Keeper panel discussion and program.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Beatriz LeBron: The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 with Freed Maxick, the External Auditor, to review the Audit Plan for the June 30, 2018 Independent Audit. All Board members were invited to attend. Consistent with the plan, Preliminary work on the financial audit began this week.

The Committee also received a status update from members of the Finance organization and Human Resources on the status on the Office of the State Comptrollers recommendations, which are expected to be completed by June 30, 2018. Commissioner LeBron reported that there has been work performed; however, there are several recommendations that are not yet completed and considerable work is still required in Purchasing. The Committee was unable to review all outstanding purchasing recommendations; therefore, we are scheduling another meeting to complete the remaining items.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee convened on Thursday, May 17th to review and discuss the East EPO and District April 2018 Financial Reports. The Committee considered and advances to the full Board with recommendation Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 872 through 889, 892, and 895 through 901. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District April 2018 Financial Report and the East EPO March 2018 Financial Report. Motion to accept the reports was made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 7-0.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Natalie Sheppard: On Thursday, May 10th, the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee conducted a Meeting of the Whole to discuss options for the Path Forward initiative and new State requirements under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In addition, the Committee received a presentation from students at the School Without Walls regarding student homelessness. Kyonna Ford and Zymerieia Daniels collaborated with Justin Murphy and Olivia Lopez at the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle on a special journalism project to examine the prevalence and impact of student homelessness in the District. Ms. Ford and Ms. Daniels interviewed a number of students who have experienced homelessness, as well as staff from the District and from community agencies serving these students. The project culminated in a video and a news article that will be featured in the editorial section of the Democrat & Chronicle. The Board does not plan to consider or vote on a particular option for the Path Forward until a viable Action Plan has been presented.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: On Tuesday, May 22nd, the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to review the 2018-19 Legislative Agenda and discuss next steps for ensuring the document remained on legislators' minds. The Committee also met to consider several topic options for potential fall and spring community public forums during the 2018-19 school year. Additionally, the committee reviewed the draft Communications Plan and discussed how the Plan would help the Board work in tandem with established community groups to effectively disseminate information throughout the District. Lastly, the Committee engaged in a discussion regarding the drafting of a White Paper on "Culturally Responsive Education in Rochester". The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for

June 7th where it is anticipated that the Communications Plan for the Board will be reviewed and discussed.

Policy Committee

Chair Melanie Funchess: The Policy Committee met on Wednesday, May 16th to discuss a number of proposed policy revisions based on recommendations from the NYS School Boards Association (NYSSBA); consider two new proposed policies; and receive information about a new Superintendent regulation. In June, the Policy Committee will conduct a public forum to gather input regarding changes that have been proposed to the Visitors to Schools Policy (1240.1). Within the next few months, the Policy Committee will also consider amendments to the Board Bylaws (2300) regarding reinstatement of the Board's Human Resources Committee.

Commissioner Funchess made a motion to accept the report and recommendations of the Committee to Review Special Education Programs and Services, developed by the advisory body commissioned by the Board per Resolution No. 2017-18: 561. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board's Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting. On April 12th the Board held a Special Meeting which was convened as a Governance Committee of the Whole. At the meeting, the Board discussed the Committee's purpose, the evaluation schedule of the Superintendent, General Counsel and members of the Board's staff; the Committee's structure and schedule; proposed professional development topics; a proposed retreat facilitator for the summer retreat; communication protocols; and the Board's responsibility in informing parents of their rights as related to participation in assessments. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

President's Report

Board President Van Henri White: President White spoke about recent school visits and his participation at events held throughout the District.

VII. Resolutions

2017-18: 828-839: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 840: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 841: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 842-844: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2017-18: 845 into Resolution No. 2017-18: 845a and Resolution No. 2017-18: 845b, made by Commissioner Sheppard and seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

2017-18: 845a: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

2017-18: 845b: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 846: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 847-848: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 849: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 850-863: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 864-871: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 872: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 873: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 874: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 875-884: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 885-886: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner LeBron dissenting.

2017-18: 887-889: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 890-898: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2017-18: 899: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2017-18: 900-904: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: The School District Records Policy (1120), Security Breach and Notification Policy (1300), and Smoking on School Premises Policy (1530) were presented as Information Items.

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 Elliott at 9:32 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 10:15 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

X. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hallmark at 10:20 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 7-0.