

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

June 28, 2018

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

**Board Members Excused:** Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark

**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 6:35 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 May 24<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and the June 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Commissioner LeBron, seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Dr. David Anderson provided the Board with an overview of the legacy of Frederick Douglass. Dr. Anderson commended the Board for creating an elementary school in honor of the abolitionist and first wife of Douglass, Anna Murray-Douglass.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Loretta Young spoke about a personnel matter. Staff member Latasha Sinkler spoke about a personnel matter.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting the performance data and progression towards the established graduation goals. He noted that the projected graduation rate for the 2014 Cohort, graduating in 2018, was 55-60%. Dr. Nelms stated that the actual graduation rate is 51.4%, up from 40% for the 2012, graduating in 2016. The increase in graduation rates was highlighted by the high academic performance of the school's graduating scholars. Among the graduation class, 125 scholars scored 80% or above on Regents exams, 21 scholars scored 90% or higher on the Regents exams, 8 scholars earned the Seal of Bi-literacy, 6 scholars earned an Advanced Diploma designation, and 17 scholars received the State's Career and Technical Education endorsement. Dr. Nelms also spoke about the post high-school plans of the graduating scholars and how scholars are prepared for college and beyond throughout their academic career at East. Dr. Nelms concluded the presentation with discussion of the annual East Lower School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington, DC.

Superintendent Deane-Williams discussed recent community celebrations of the District's graduations and commencement ceremonies. Ms. Deane-Williams introduced Chief Information Officer Annmarie Lehner and Chief of School Transformation Amy Schiavi who presented an overview and demonstration of the *Roc3D – Early Warning Indicators to Promote Student Success*.

President White requested that Superintendent Nelms and Superintendent Deane-Williams deliver a joint presentation on the collaborative efforts of the Administrations.

## **VI. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

**Chair Beatriz LeBron:** The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. The meeting was held to review the Administration's response to the Office of the State Comptrollers recommendations, which are expected to be completed by June 30, 2018. Based on the responses and comments made during the meeting, there was significant work performed since the last status update. However, additional work is required to implement the corrective actions for the Purchasing department such as ensuring that Purchasing Card receipts and expense reports are reviewed prior to being sent to the Board's Claims Auditor. The Committee requested that the Superintendent ensure that all receipts and expense reports are accounted for and complete before they are forwarded to Claims Audit for final approval.

### **Finance Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** The Finance Committee convened on Thursday, June 14, 2018 to review and discuss the East EPO and District May 2018 Financial Reports. The Committee considered and advances to the full Board with recommendation Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 951 through 962, 964, 966, 968 and 969. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District May 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 Funchess. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

### **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

**Chair Natalie Sheppard:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee conducted a Meeting of the Whole on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 to receive an update on projected graduation rates for this year based on students' credit accumulation and scores on Regents exams. In addition, information was provided of the efforts that have been made to assist students who had 11.0-15.5 credits as of the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period, and to identify students who have taken the same Regents exam repeatedly.

The meeting began with a presentation by Joshua Lowe, a freshman at the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Joshua discussed his experience as one of the founders of the ROC Youth Community Engagement organization. This organization was just established four months ago, with the intent of giving youth in the community a voice to enable their perspective to be considered in decision-making. ROC Youth Community Engagement is also designed to empower youth and provide positive opportunities to counteract violence and other toxic influences in their environment. The organization is in the process of applying for 501-3c status, and needs support in terms of media coverage and funding.

In the presentation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Academic Reports, Dr. Giamartino and Rob Ulliman discussed dropout rates, credit accumulation, and Regents exam scores to identify students on track to graduate either this month or in August. Comparative data was provided from the 2016-17 school year to illustrate changes in progress. Students with disabilities and English-language learners have the highest dropout rates in the District, but these rates are misleading because students who go on to obtain a GED/TASC certificate are considered "drop outs" by the State. For this reason, members of the ESA Committee requested further detail of the students in each of the potential "drop out" categories. In terms of being

on track to graduate, a greater percentage of students (58.6% as of early May) had earned at least 16 credits than had passed a minimum of three Regents exams (55.3%). The percentage of students in each of these groups dropped slightly from last year, but there was an increase in the percentage of students who met both of these requirements toward graduation this year. Data regarding student academic progress is shared with school administrators in real time to enable teachers to address specific student needs in a timely manner. School Chiefs visit each 2 school at least every two weeks to discuss key performance indicators, and ways to support credit recovery and marking period recovery.

School Chief Toyia Wilson described a number of innovative approaches to support advancement of student progress:

- Recognizing the work and knowledge attained by students and focusing on specific gaps, rather than requiring students to repeat the entire course
- Program at Edison High School for 9th grade students to catch up in terms of credit recovery and/or specific gaps in knowledge during the school year or in summer school to prevent falling farther behind
- Coaching principals and faculty regarding flexible ways to offer credit recovery and marking period recovery opportunities for students, such as additional support during the school day, after school, Saturday school, evening sessions with teachers, and online.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Academic Reports will be discussed in the July ESA Committee meeting scheduled for July 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** On Monday, June 18, 2018, the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to review and discuss the draft Communications Plan with District staff. The Committee also engaged in a detailed discussion regarding Resolution No. 2017-18: 964 and considered it for recommendation.

The CIGR Committee meeting began with members exploring further how the Board could more effectively provide information to parents, students and community members. District staff, Rahimah Wynn, Community Liaison Specialist for the Office of Parent Engagement, provided insight on several initiatives that may be employed for this purpose. Suggestions were made to galvanize mass communication methods like social media, email list serves, the District parent app, robo-calls, flyers, and other paper distribution methods. The Committee also discussed collaborating with the PTO/PTA, Parent Advisory Council and also Parent University etc. The Committee intends to invite Chief of Communications, Carlos Garcia, to engage in further discussion to help streamline the Communications Plan before it is sent for Board approval in the July Business meeting.

Meeting discussion continued with the consideration of Resolution No. 2017-18: 964. This resolution details a contract agreement with the City of Rochester for the Rochester Police Department to provide sworn police personnel to be assigned to schools and to operate as truancy enforcement officers, administer the School Resource Officer program and assist District personnel with emergency management and planning and risk mitigation, with the goal of promoting a safe learning environment. General Counsel and CIGR Committee Liaison, Karl Kristoff, alongside Associate Counsel, Adrian Neil, explained the contract renewal for members. Both indicated that the major elements of the agreement have not changed and that amendments primarily feature changes to the rate of payment. Committee members recognized that schools in the District oftentimes rely on the use of SROs as a coping mechanism and that other options need to be fully explored. These options may allow the District to maximize on the

resources that it already possesses. Members agreed that there is a need for a change in the philosophical approach to supporting safety, discipline and wellness in RCSD schools. As the new SRO contract is put in place, the Committee will continue this discussion on police in schools by exploring the work of the School Climate Advisory Committee, School Based Planning Teams, and Chief Idonia Owens. Resolution No. 2017-18: 964 was reviewed by the CIGR Committee, and is advanced to the Board with recommendation. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for July 12, 2018.

**Policy Committee**

**Chair Melanie Funchess:** The Policy Committee conducted a Community Forum on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 to gather input from parents and community members about proposed changes to the Visitors to Schools Policy (1240). The Policy Committee plans to request input from principals to obtain school staff's perspective on the changes proposed to the Visitors to Schools Policy. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for July 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Elizabeth Hallmark:** No report submitted.

**President's Report**

**Board President Van Henri White:** President White spoke about recent school visits and his participation at events held throughout the District. He also recognized the efforts of Dr. David Anderson who spearheaded the effort to rename School No. 12 to the Anna Murray-Douglass Academy, School No. 12.

**VII. Resolutions**

**2017-18: 907:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 908:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 914-918:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 921-942:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 943-950:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 951:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 952-958:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 959:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 960-961:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 962:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 963:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 964:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 965-967:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 968:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 969:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 971:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 972-976:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 977:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 978-985:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 986:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 987:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**2017-18: 988:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Sheppard. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**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 Discussion Items. No discussion was 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 LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Funchess at 9:43 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**Motion to reconvene into open session** made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Funchess at 12:00 a.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

**X. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Elliott at 12:15 a.m. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.