

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF
EDUCATION**
Business Meeting
October 18, 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, Student Representative Malik Jaff, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:45 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 September 25th Business Meeting, October 15th Special Meeting, and October 17th Vertus Charter School Hearing made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 7-0.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers present.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Angelica Bermudez spoke about recent violent incident at a District school.
- V. **Advisory Council Reports**

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Malik Jaff: Mr. Jaff stated that on the agenda for the last Student Leadership Congress meeting the students continued the discussion regarding how to recruit additional students for the SLC, District half-day student summits, and college applications and scholarship opportunities. He also noted that the group started brainstorming ideas for upcoming District-wide Summits. Some topics that came up were career introduction, which involves exposing students to options in the career and work field at an early age and more freedom during lunch and advisement. Mr. Jaff added that during the meeting, students spoke about ways to get students notified about their senior obligations.

Bilingual Council

Vice President Elizabeth Estevez: Ms. Estevez spoke about the mission, vision and bylaws of the Council to better address the needs of students and families. She noted that members of the Council participated in a professional development session for bilingual teachers, met with Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the

Bilingual Language and Literacy Academy. Ms. Estevez noted that members of the Council look forward to engaging members of the District's leadership team to address how the needs of bilingual students can best be addressed. In concluding her report, Ms. Estevez noted that meetings of the Council are held every second Tuesday of the month.

Parent Advisory Council

The following written report was submitted by Makita Saloane, Chair of Parent Advisory Council: The RSCD Parent Advisory Council is an organization of parent volunteers responsible for sharing, promoting, and communicating information between parents and the district offices.

At present, the council consists of 8 voting parents with, Makita Saloane, serving as Chair, Ericka Simmons as Vice-Chair, and Pamela Robinson as Secretary. The council has a maximum of 23 seats available and is actively recruiting parents to join the Council.

Members of the Council sit on many of the district's committees to include Finance and Resource Allocation Committee, Community & Intergovernmental Relations (CIGR) Committee, Policy Committee, and Executive School Base Planning. Our goal is to ensure parental representation on all committees, and welcomes the opportunity to work with the board and the district to ensure this goal is met.

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of each month to conduct the business of the group. In addition, the council will hold informational meetings on the 4th Monday of every other month to inform parents of issues that are relevant to them. Council members also interact with parents at all schools, events, through social media, and via email to have better understanding of their concerns.

PAC Recent Activity

As we come into the 2018-2019 school year, the Parent Advisory Council has added 3 three new members: Pamela Robinson, Addie Sturgis and Schanell Hall. PAC is always actively recruiting and excepting member applications, information on how to become a PAC member can be found on the RCSD website. During the month of September several PAC members met with the Distinguished Educator to discuss concerns regarding the district's overall performance, the lack of real parent engagement, the district's expanding budget and also our feelings on the Rochester City School District's Board of Education and the current Superintendent. During the conclusion of this meeting it was shared that the Distinguished Educator would be creating a report that will reflect his findings, during his time spent within the district. We as a council are still waiting for our copy of this report, as we as a council will like to review his reports and recommendations.

PAC & Parent Concerns

In the report below you will see updated percentages regarding whether each school's School Based Planning Team and Parent Group are in compliance. It is only October 18, 2018, the Chair, Makita Saloane, has received numerous, calls, emails, texts, etc., from parents that are stating that they were not and have not been a part of their child's school Title I planning for this school year. And already several school have told parents that they do have any money for parent engagement. The money provided to this district for parent engagement is federal money, that is specifically set aside to engage parents as participants in their child's education. We would like to state that we would prefer that the money allocated to this district for parent

engagement not be use for school district employee's salaries, staff funding activities, and or anything else that does not fit the federal guidelines, but for true and full parent engagement. The lack of true parent engagement as been going on for decades in this district and it is both unacceptable and unethical on many levels. Once again our main question is: why is this still happening and where is the accountability? Although, the PACs Chair, Makita Saloane was a part of the Title I reallocation of funds process for this school year, there are still many unanswered questions and practices that we feel need to be clarified.

Parent Group Report

Annually, every school is required to have a functioning parent group and School Base Planning Team by October 15th. According to the January OPE Parent Group and SBPT Status report, currently 37 of our schools are in compliance for having the minimum required parents on the School Base Planning Team (3) and 34 are in compliance for having a functional parent group. A functional parent group is defined by having at least two of the following executive team members in place, starting with a President, and another member of the executive team in place, either the Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, and at least 2 additional parents working in conjunction with the School administrative team. 14% of schools are not in compliance for functioning SBPT as of today, October 18, 2018. In addition, 20% of the district's schools still do not have a functioning parent group. This information was taken from the RCSD Parent Report provided by OPE on October 18, 2018. Each school is responsible for ensuring that they stay compliant throughout the school year. This report was create by and is reviewed by PAC in conjunction with the Office of Parent Engagement; this report is updated as needed by OPE and is reviewed by the Council on a bi-monthly basis.

Upcoming Events

BOE Community Forum

October 20, 2018 @ School #53

From 12-2pm PAC

Parent Forum

October 22, 2018 @ CO

From 6-8pm

Superintendents Reports:

Dr. Nelms introduced, Dr. Stephen Uebbing and Lorna Washington who presented on the progress and plans for the EPO partnership between East High and the University of Rochester. Dr. Uebbing presented on the interventions applied to East's Lower and Upper Schools and discussed plans for future success. He spoke about the academic results in relation to curriculum and instructional practices and the restructuring of school counseling and social work along with school climate and culture.

Ms. Washington detailed efforts to engage students and families. She spoke about the activities and plans of the East Parent and Community Engagement team to collaborate with parents and community members to foster a school culture and climate of student learning and achievement.

President White recognized the efforts of Dr. Nelms and the leadership team at East. Superintendent Deane-Williams also recognized the leadership team at East for their

willingness to partner to address key concerns of the District, particularly curriculum development and implementation.

In her presentation, Superintendent Deane-Williams presented on the District's recent participation in a Roc the Future event centered on Community Schools, recent Executive School-Based Planning steering community meetings, progress in the District's efforts to increase attendance, recent ribbon-cuttings of modernized schools, upcoming community forums to solicit feedback on the Facilities Modernization Program. Ms. Deane-Williams spoke about the District's efforts to promote the FAFSA Fest to District students and families. She also noted recognitions of staff and students by the Rochester Educational Foundation. In concluding her presentation, Ms. Deane-Williams thanked the commissioners for their service in recognition of School Board Recognition Week.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Beatriz LeBron: The Audit Committee did not meet prior to this meeting. The Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 5:30PM, to continue our meeting from September 18, 2018. At the meeting, the Committee will complete our review of the 2018 Risk Assessment and Audit Plan. The Committee will also discuss the Confirming order procedure that is currently being utilized at the District. On Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:30PM, we will have our required Audit Committee meeting with Freed Maxick, our External Auditors to review the results of our financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2018. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee convened on Tuesday, October 16th to review and consider the District's September 2018 financial report and updates to the District's draft 2017-18 year-end financial report. The Committee also considered Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 368 through 375, which include budget amendments for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

- The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District's September 2018 Financial Report
- The Finance Committee recommends approval of District's draft 2017-18 Year-end Financial Report
- The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation:
 - Budget Amendment Resolutions 368-371
 - Resolution 372 for Procurement and Supply
 - Resolution 373 for Educational Facilities; and
 - Resolutions 374 and 375 for Other

During the October meeting, the Finance Committee formally received the Analysis: Budget Development and Administration Report prepared by R. G. Timbs Inc. This report was the result of a study to ascertain, "where possible, the rigor, reliability and validity of the budget development process and the administration of the District budget by the RCSD". The report was discussed in detail in the meeting and several Board questions were posed in response to the findings in this report. The Board now awaits District Administration's response regarding a

timeline for the implementation of the report's recommendations.

Finally, the October Finance Committee meeting featured the presentation of the 2019-20 Draft Budget Calendar. CFO Everton Sewell noted the District's attempts to start the budget process sooner. He explained that this would allow the Administration to more adequately respond to Board input, and to allow for the presentation of a balanced budget in March 2019—when the budget process formally begins. Additionally, this expanded calendar will be essential in addressing the structural budget deficit. The Board will be meeting over the next few weeks to establish its values and priorities for the 2018-19 budget. These priorities will be forwarded to the Administration for consideration. The Finance Committee will be working closely with District Administration to approve the 2019-20 Budget Calendar at next month's meeting. The next Finance Committee Meeting is November 8, 2018.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Natalie Sheppard: No report was submitted.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: On Thursday, October 11th the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened to discuss the Fall Community Forum, which is scheduled to be held this Saturday, October 20th, at 11:00-2:00pm. The event will be hosted at the Dr. Freddie Thomas Campus, School # 53. As previously noted, this event will allow parents, students, and community members to engage and converse with the Board and District staff like student attendance, the Code of Conduct, and updates to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The event will feature topic-focused presentations, a question and answer panel, and a mock restorative panel led by the Counseling Department. The CIGR Committee is working closely with the Offices of Parent Engagement, Communications and Counseling to ensure a comprehensively planned event. Food, childcare and translation services will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

The final item on the October CIGR agenda was a discussion of the Excel Center Initiative. The Committee welcomed Dr. Gidget Hopf, CEO for the Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, Ms. Mary Boland, VP of Communications and Community Relations at Goodwill, and Dr. Frederick Jefferson, an Excel Center advocate. Goodwill's recommendation is to create an "Adult High School Demonstration Program," in the City of Rochester that would be free to adult learners and allow successful students to receive a traditional Regents high school diploma. Additionally, adult-learners would receive face-to face instruction and life coach services, which would provide wrap-around support services to ensure student success. Additionally, students would have the ability to graduate with a workforce/industry credential alongside their diploma. This initiative would be cost-free to the District and is hoped to work in partnership with the District's credit recovery programs.

Goodwill is currently in discussions with the Governor's Office, members of the legislature, State University of New York and the State Education Department of Labor regarding the project. As Goodwill seeks to navigate the regulatory process, it is hoped that the support of the School Board will assist with bringing the Excel Center Initiative to fruition. The CIGR Committee thanks the Goodwill representatives for attending the October meeting and looks forward to hearing more about the Excel Center Initiative as the project seeks to gain legislative approval. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled on November 1, 2018.

Policy Committee

Chair Melanie Funchess: The Policy Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 16th, to review the School Climate Advisory Committee's recommendations for revising the Code of Conduct, discuss plans for the October 20th Community Forum to obtain parent and community feedback regarding proposed changes to the Parent & Family Engagement Policy (1900), and finalize a number of proposed policies.

The Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations of the School Climate Advisory Committee for revising the Code of Conduct. The recommendations pertain to two sections of the Code: 1) Appendix C, regarding long-term suspension; and 2) Changes to some of the items in the Intervention and Disciplinary Response Matrix. The Administration will be analyzing the specific steps, amount and potential source of funding needed to implement each of the recommendations to present a feasibility report to the Board by November 30th.

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee will conduct a Community Forum this Saturday, October 20th, from 11AM to 2PM at the Montessori Academy School No. 53. One of the topics to be discussed is proposed changes to the Parent & Family Engagement Policy (1900). Commissioner LeBron will facilitate this discussion and encourage parents to submit comments/suggestions regarding the policy proposal. The proposed changes have already been reviewed by the Senior Director of the Office of Parent Engagement, the RCSD Parent Advisory Council, and the Bilingual Council.

The members of the Policy Committee addressed a number of outstanding policy proposals in their meeting this month:

- Proposed revision of the Visitors to Schools Policy (1240): this policy has been reviewed and vetted by the RCSD Director of Safety and Security, school principals attending the September Principals' Cabinet meeting, and parents and community members in the June Community Forum. Members of the Policy Committee plan to obtain input from teachers before finalizing the proposed policy.
- New proposed Alternative and Homebound Instruction Policy (4327): the Policy Committee has decided upon most of the language and provisions in this proposed policy; only the data and reporting requirements remain to be finalized.

Information Items:

Members of the Policy Committee reviewed a number of new policy proposals related to non-resident and foreign students, and payment of tuition. These three proposed policies are introduced this evening as Information Items:

- Admission of Non-Resident Students Policy (5152)
- Admission of Foreign Students Policy (5152.1)
- Non-Resident Tuition Payment Policy (6254)

The intent of these three proposed policies is to provide guidelines for staff in admitting non-resident and foreign students, placing these students in RCSD schools, and requiring these students to pay tuition to the District. Currently, school administrators and staff determine the admission and payment requirements for non-resident and foreign students, leading to a great deal of inconsistency in practice.

Discussion Items:

- New proposed Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (0115), which was presented to the Board last month as an Information Item after being vetted by the School Climate Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee.

This policy pertains to the requirements under the NYS Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). Although the District has a policy prohibiting discrimination against students and employees, it covers discrimination specifically against individuals in protected classes (e.g. based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, etc.). The proposed Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy applies to all students and addresses preventive practices, training for staff and students, and activities to encourage building relationships within the school community. The proposed policy also reinforces the provisions of the Code of Conduct regarding the use of restorative justice approaches.

- Additional changes to the proposed Teaching of Controversial Issues Policy, which was introduced to the Board last month. General Counsel Karl Kristoff added language to clarify the use of resource/external speakers in teaching about controversial issues. Specifically, these types of speakers are to be approved by the requesting staff member's supervisor.

This policy establishes guidelines for ensuring that controversial issues are presented in a fair and impartial manner, and that various viewpoints are represented. The proposed policy defines controversial issues as having political, social or economic significance and presented within curricular guidelines. Students are to be given "relevant and credible information" related to the issue in an atmosphere that is free from bias or prejudice. Students must also be given the opportunity to develop and express their own opinions on the issue without any repercussions from teachers or the school.

- Additional revisions to the proposed Sexual Harassment Policy (0110): this policy proposal was introduced to the Board last month as an Information Item. Since then, the state issued further guidance that has been incorporated into the proposed policy. The additional changes were reviewed and approved by the Policy Committee, and are advanced to the Board this evening with recommendation.

The latest policy changes clarify that the District is not required to provide training to third parties or non-employees, but simply to direct them to review the policy and regulations posted on the District website. The most recent guidelines issued by the state allow school districts to 3 contract for provision of training, and require that all training meet minimum standards, cover all of the elements required by law, and include interactive activities.

For Adoption:

- New proposed High School to Higher Education Institutions Policy (4095): requires school counselors to prepare a college and career plan for each student by the end of 9th grade. (Resolution No. 2018-19: 378)

- Proposed revision of Board Bylaws (2300) to reinstate the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Education. (Resolution No. 2018-19: 379)

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2018.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board's Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for November 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

President's Report

Board President Van Henri White: President White spoke about recent outreach activities. He thanked Superintendent Deane-Williams for her recognition of school members. President White also spoke about a recent tragic event that affected the District's school communities. He thanked the first-responders and District staff for their work in keeping our students safe.

VII. Resolutions

2018-19: 327-338: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 339: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2018-19: 340: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 341-347: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

Resolution No. 2018-19: 348 was not considered.

2018-19: 349: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 350-352: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 353: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

2018-19: 354: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

Resolution No. 2018-19: 355 was not considered.

2018-19: 356: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by

Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 355-362 were not considered.

2018-19: 363-371: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2018-19: 372: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 373: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 374-376: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 377 were not considered.

Motion to amend the High School to Higher Education Institutions Policy No. 4095 to include a cross-reference to District Policy Prohibiting Discrimination or Harassment of Students or Employee Policy No. 0100 made by Commissioner Sheppard, seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 7-0.

2018-19: 378: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 379-381: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 382: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Rejected 3-4 with Vice President Powell, Commissioner Elliott, Commissioner Funchess, and Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

2018-19: 383-390: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 391: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 392-393: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business:

The following policies were presented as Information Items for presentation to the full Board: the Admission of Non-Resident Students Policy, the Admission of Foreign Students Policy, and the Non-Resident Tuition Policy.

The following policies were presented as Discussion Items for presentation to the full Board: the Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy, the Teaching of Controversial Issues Policy, and the Sexual Harassment Policy.

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 Funchess and seconded by Commissioner Sheppard at 9:06 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 11:45 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

- X. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Funchess at 11:50 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 7-0.