

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting
November 15, 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, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief of Staff Fatimat Reid.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes of the October 18th Business Meeting, November 1st Special Meeting, November 5th Contract for Excellence Public Hearing, November 9th Special Meeting, and November 13th Vertus Charter School Hearing made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Funchess absent.

III. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: No speakers present.

Commissioner Funchess arrived at 7:10 p.m.

IV. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item: Community member Jon DelVecchio spoke about the academic performance of the school district and offered to assist the Board in developing interventions to foster student success. Community member Clay Harris spoke about the recently announced resignation of Superintendent Deane-Williams. Community member Alex White spoke about the programming and activities offered by the District's Office of Adult Career and Education Services Program. Community member Harry Pearle spoke about the overall performance of the District.

Superintendents Reports: In her presentation, Superintendent Deane-Williams recognized Chief of Staff Fatimat Reid for being the first woman of color elected to serve as a Monroe County Family Court Judge. She also spoke about the District's participation in the ROC the Future Summit, annual Historically Black College and University college fair, Student Summit on Race, attendance blitz, and Superintendent's Conference Day. In concluding her presentation, Ms. Deane-Williams recognized the contributions and efforts of the District's principals of receivership schools whose efforts have contributed to the District's improved academic standing.

Superintendent Nelms spoke a recent visit to Israel where he and members of East's leadership

team visited a schools and learned about Unistream. Unistream is a program to help Israeli teens from underprivileged areas realize their potential by teaching them entrepreneurial skills. Dr. Nelms also announced that East Upper and Lower schools have received determinations indicating that they have met demonstrable improvement. He added that it is anticipated that both schools will continually realize progress gains as necessary supports and services are applied. Dr. Nelms also spoke about student participation during a recent visit from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar where the athlete, activist and author discussed racism, economic inequality, social injustice, and the power of media. He concluded his report by stating that 42 East High School Scholars were recognized by the 2018 Black Scholars Early Recognition Program, announcing a free holiday Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra concert, and congratulating Chief of Staff Fatimat Reid for winning a judgeship.

V. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Beatriz LeBron: The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, to continue addressing the agenda topics from the September 18, 2018 meeting. At the meeting the Board completed review of the 2018 Risk Assessment and Audit Plan, which all Board Members received at the previous meeting. Commissioner LeBron made a motion to accept the 2018-19 Audit Plan, seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Motion carries 7-0.

All Board members have been provided with a copy of the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Board members are asked to review the document and forward all questions to the Auditor General by Wednesday, November 28, 2018. This will allow Administration time to prepare answers before the meeting with Freed Maxick on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:00PM. At that meeting, the Freed Maxick will review the results of the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2018. All Board members, are encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Funchess left at 7:50 p.m.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee convened on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 to review and consider East EPO's and the District's October 2018 financial reports. In addition, the Committee considered the Quarterly Change Order Report for July- September 2018, and the First Quarter Student Activity Funds Report for 2018. The Committee also considered Resolution Nos. 2018- 19: 413 and 416, 449-460, 463, 465, 466 and 472. Of note, the finance resolutions packet includes a bond request agreement with the City of Rochester to appropriate proceeds for the purpose of making capital improvements to existing school buildings as indicated in the 2018- 19 Capital Improvement Plan. The bond request will subsequently be submitted to the Mayor of the City of Rochester.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the District's October 2018 Financial Report and the East EPO's October 2018 Financial Report. Motion to accept the reports was made by Vice President Powell, seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Funchess absent.

The November Committee meeting also featured an update from members of the Administration regarding the status of the highly anticipated Structural Budget Deficit Plan.

This report is to include a review of the District's expenditures and revenues, trend analysis, aspects from the FMP and Capital Improvement Plan, and most importantly will present several options for the closure of the District's fiscal deficit. CFO Sewell and Deputy Superintendent Mascitti- Miller noted that they have been working closely with the Teaching and Learning Department, the Office of School Innovation, and the Finance team to pull data for this report. The Board anticipates receiving this report in the December finance meeting after the Superintendent's review.

Finally, the Finance Committee also discussed the Board Budget Priorities for the 2019-20 academic year. This document is intended to inform the Administration about the Board's chosen programmatic, fiscal and analytic items for inclusion in next year's budget. These priorities will allow the Administration to more adequately respond to Board input, and allow for the presentation of a balanced and cohesive budget in March 2019. The Board will continue to meet to consider their priorities and will take into consideration the District's Budget Deficit Plan and the Distinguished Educator's report. These priorities will be then forwarded to District Administration for consideration in December. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2018.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Natalie Sheppard: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, to hear from Malik Jaff, Student Representative to the Board, about projects that he has planned this year. Malik will be working to:

- Develop a policy to establish the right of all RCSD students to participate in student government
- Survey students throughout the District about school meals and provide recommendations for improvement

In addition, the members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee received a status report on District curriculum plans from Deputy Superintendent Cecilia Golden. Dr. Golden reported that the District's plan has been submitted to the state, and was developed by teachers and administrators. The plan is based on a needs assessment, using data from a variety of measures related to instruction and student academic performance. Dr. Golden explained that the plan is organized around the six tenets of the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE), and her presentation described the elements associated with each tenet. She also focused on the professional development needed to train teachers and administrators on highly effective practices in each tenet.

The Curriculum Development Committee has been reinstated in the District, composed of five teachers recommended by the Rochester Teachers' Association (RTA) and five administrators recommended by the Association for Supervisors and Administrators of Rochester (ASAR). Their work involves incorporating the Rochester curriculum and learning standards to align with next generation standards.

Deputy Superintendent Beth Mascitti-Miller gave a presentation regarding student placement, the geographic distribution of students' residences, and the Parent Preference/Managed Choice Policy (5153). From a sample of students entering Kindergarten in 2014-15, approximately 20% of families used the lottery to select a school in their zone. As of 2017-18, 26% of these students remain in the same school within their zone of residence. Of the remaining 74% of students entering Kindergarten in 2014-15, approximately:

- 23% transferred to charter, parochial or private school or participated in the Urban-Suburban program by third grade.
- 25% of these students moved out of the state or District
- 7% were placed in Special Education within their zone
- 7% were placed in Special Education outside of their zone of residence
- The remaining 38% of these students transferred voluntarily to a different school in the same zone, a city-wide school, or to a school in the new zone in which their family resided.

By 2017-18, over 66% of families participated in the lottery process for their children entering Kindergarten in the District. Of the families that participated in the lottery process in 2018-19, almost 88% of their children were placed in their first-choice school for Kindergarten.

For the 2018-19 school year:

- 75% of families participated in the lottery for 6th grade students entering 7th grade;
- 81% of families participated in the lottery for 8th grade students entering 9th grade;
- 35% of families participated in the lottery for students entering 9th grade, while 49% of 9th grade students continued to be enrolled in the same school.

Dr. Mascitti-Miller reported that there were over 23,000 address changes in 2017-18 for the families of RCSD students, and over 1600 children in transition under the McKinney-Vento Act. This data attests to the high level of mobility among District families and students. The Deputy Superintendent discussed improvements in the student placement process that are planned for the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Online application process, including:
 - a. “School Finder” to assist parents in locating schools within their zone of residence, with a link to each school’s website
 - b. Online school choice process for students entering 7th and 9th grades
2. Streamlined process for PreK students entering Kindergarten
3. Greater collaboration between the Office of Student Placement and the Office of Parent Engagement
4. Increased staffing for high-frequency time periods
5. Improvements in placement for students in Special Education and for English-language learners, specifically by offering program options for these students in each zone.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: No report submitted.

Policy Committee

Chair Melanie Funchess: Policies presented for adoption include:

- 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. (Resolution No. 2018-19: 470)

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. (Resolution No. 2018-19: 471)

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. (Resolution No. 2018-19: 469)

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 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.

The following policies are presented as Discussion 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 nonresident 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. Members of the Policy Committee are also looking forward to the Superintendent's report regarding the School Climate Advisory Committee's

recommendations, which will be presented on November 30th.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 29, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

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 throughout the District. He recognized Chief of Staff Fatimat Reid for being elected as a Monroe County Family Court Judge.

VI. Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 402-410, 412, 417, 420, 421, 424, 425, 432, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, and 445-448 were not considered.

2018-19: 411: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 413-416: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2018-19: 418-429: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 430: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

2018-19: 431-433: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Funchess. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 440: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2018-19: 441: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner LeBron dissenting

2018-19: 442-444: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2018-19: 449-460: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 461-474: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

2018-19: 475: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by

Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting.

VII. Unfinished Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

The following policies were presented as Discussion Items to the full Board: Admission of Non-Resident Students Policy, Admission of Foreign Students Policy, and Non-Resident Tuition 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 Hallmark and seconded by Commissioner Funchess at 9:00 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Vice President Powell and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 9:35 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

IX. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Funchess at 9:35 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 7-0.