

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 17, 2011

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President Cruz and Commissioners Campos, Elliott, Powell, White and Williams; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Deputy Superintendent of Administration John Scanlan; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept the minutes** of the January 3rd Organizational Meeting, January 6th Special Meeting, January 11th Special Meeting and January 27th Business Meeting made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized John F. Lightfoot, II for his outstanding accomplishment in attaining the highest rank in the Boy Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America; Eagle Scout.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Destiny Green spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of John Marshall High School. Parent Howard Eagle directed several comments to the Superintendent. Parents Curtis Bell, Wallace Smith, Elaine Erbland, Mary Adams and Ricardo Adams spoke about the need to change the culture of the District to better meet the needs of students. District Staff Members Lori Thomas and Mark Friedman spoke about the need to change the culture and leadership of the District.

Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item: Student Sheri Sutberry spoke about the need for increased safety in our schools. Community Member Jack Langerak spoke about various measures, including arts and music programming, to account for student success. Community Member Peter Keenan encouraged parental involvement throughout the District. Community Members Bob Avery, Paula Hansen and Adam Urbanski spoke about the need to change the culture and leadership of the District. District Staff Members Samuel Simpson and Joanne Niemi spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of John Marshall High School. District Staff Member Dorothy Tisdale voiced concerns regarding the development of the proposed 2011-2012 budget and the need for paraprofessionals and teaching assistants to address the needs of students.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Annmarie Lehner, Information Technology Officer, presented ParentCONNECT which is a web-based system designed to improve communication between the District's schools and home to support student achievement. Ms. Lehner presented the various functions of the system, including the system capabilities that allow parents to check homework assignments and grades, view report cards, check attendance reports, and communicate with teachers. Ms. Lehner stated that the District's Information Management and Technology department is taking great strides to support parents and students, she encouraged all parents to take advantage of ParentCONNECT.
- VI. **President's Report:** President Evans began by announcing that the meeting is broadcast on RCTV-15 until 8:30 p.m., after 8:30 p.m., viewers can continue watching on our website, www.rcsdk12.org. President Evans introduced Laura Vautour of BoardDocs, who conducted a web presentation of the functionalities of the electronic software management solution. Ms. Vautour stated that BoardDocs is a software service aimed at reducing the time and costs associated with governance. She also noted that

the software is currently used by over 400 entities in the U. S.; primarily school boards and town governments. Ms. Vautour highlighted the various functions of the software including the increased efficiency and transparency that BoardDocs provides by allowing the creation and posting of on-line agendas, relevant information and policies.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet during the month of February 2011.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 10th to consider Resolution No. 2010-11: 554 through 557 and 580. The Committee recommends approval of the January Financial Report. The Committee recommends acceptance of the Quarterly Student Activities Fund Report. The Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolutions 554 through 557 for Educational Facilities; and Resolution 580 for the Office of Strategic Leadership. The Finance Committee will meet again on March 17th, following the Policy Committee meeting. President Evans requested a motion to accept the January Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report. Motion to accept the January Financial Report and the Quarterly Student Activities Fund Report made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. The reports were accepted by the Board with consensus.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, February 8th to receive an update on the activities of the African/African-American Studies Department. Ms. Djinga St. Louis brought the committee up-to-date with what she has done to ensure cultural responsiveness in the schools. Ms. St. Louis also provided a report outlining the progress that has been made in preparing for the trip to Ghana. The Committee also received a report from Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias outlining the progress she has made on the request from the community for increased involvement in the K-2 Teaching American History Grant. The Committee reviewed Resolution No. 2010-11: 551 and 565 relating to teacher compensation in regards to the Teaching American History Grant; and Resolution No. 2010-11: 481a which was tabled from a previous Business Meeting, also relating to teacher compensation. The committee recommended advancing the resolutions to the full Board for approval. Dr. Gkourlias concluded her presentation with an update on the K-2 textbooks. The Committee reviewed and discussed Resolution No. 2009-10: 1009 which addresses adoption of the textbooks; and recommended advancing the resolution to the full Board for approval. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th, at 6:00 p.m. The Committee will receive a report from the superintendent on the reported 5% college/career readiness at that meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on February 9th and discussed the Student Health Forum and the 2011 Legislative Agenda. The Committee proposes that the Student Health Forum be scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m. where the topic of the dispensing of condoms in the school will be discussed in addition to other health risks. The following individuals, groups and agencies will be invited to attend the forum: parents and parent groups, students, local clergy members, Dr. Andrew Doniger, Sheila Driscoll, Unity Health, Anthony Jordan Health Center, Threshold, Planned Parenthood representatives and City of Rochester representatives. The Committee also discussed items to be included on the 2011 Legislative Agenda and recently released data on college or career ready post-graduation preparedness. The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting will be a Committee Meeting of the Whole on

Wednesday, March 16th 2011 at 6:00 p.m. when the Committee will be hosting the Student Health Forum.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, February 10th and addressed the current status of reviewing and updating the Policy Manual. Vice President Cruz said the Policy Committee will continue to review and update policies essential to the District's mission of improving student achievement and to enhancing oversight and accountability. The proposed revision to the Wellness policy and the accompanying regulation is presented this evening as Discussion Items. The Policy Committee also hosted a Parent Forum regarding Parent Involvement on Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m., the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee did not meet during the month of February 2011. The Board Governance Committee met on January 13th to review electronic document management software and is recommending that the Board select Emerald Data Solutions' BoardDocs as the District's electronic document management solution. Members of the Board have received information on the solution including details of the evaluation process and associated costs.

Student Representative Report: Student Representative Sophie Gallivan urged students to contribute to the academic success by actively participating in their education. She noted the Student Leadership Congress met on February 16th and discussed some of the current issues and concerns faced by the District. The next Student Leadership Congress Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd at 3:30 p.m. in the District's Central Office.

Motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m. made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

VIII. Resolutions

2010-11: 537: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 538-545: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2010-11: 546-547: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 548-553: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2010-11: 554-557: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting.

2010-11: 558-567: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 568: Motion to refer Amendments to Financial Reporting & Resolutions Policy No. 6630 (Resolution No. 2010-11: 568) to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

2010-11: 569: Motion to refer Authorization of Contracts Policy No. 6745 (Resolution No. 2010-11: 569) to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

2010-11: 570: Placeholder removed.

2010-11: 571: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 572: Placeholder removed.

2010-11: 573-574: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 575-576: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2010-11: 577-579: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 580: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting.

2010-11: 581: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2010-11: 582: Resolution pulled.

2010-11: 583: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2010-11: 584-590: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 591: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2010-11: 592-594: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2010-11: 418a: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz, as Chairman of the Policy Committee, presented the recently revised Wellness Policy, No. 5405 and the accompanying Wellness Regulation, No. 5405-R as Discussion Items. Commissioner Cruz explained that the policy and the regulation have been vetted by the Policy Committee and are now being forwarded to the full Board with recommendation from the committee.

XI. President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m.

President Evans requested a **motion to enter into executive session** to discuss personnel matters related to a specific individual. Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz, adopted 7-0 at 11:55 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent at 12:35 a.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 a.m.