

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting of the Whole
October 24, 2017

Attending: Commissioner Evans (Chair); and Commissioners White, Hallmark, and Adams

Parent Representative: Toyin Anderson

District Staff: Superintendent Deane-Williams; Michele Alberti, Executive Director of the Office of School Innovation; Beth Mascitti-Miller, Chief of Receivership & School Innovation

Board Staff: Debra Flanagan

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

I. Review and Discuss 2017-18 School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEP)

Michele Alberti explained that the District is required to develop School Comprehensive Education Plans for priority and focus schools. She reported that two half-day workshops were held in August 2017 regarding the SCEP development process. This training was provided to the members of each school's School Leadership Team, which includes parents, members of the School-Based Planning Team, and school instructional leadership teams.

Ms. Alberti noted that this year marks the first time that the NYS Education Department calibrated the plan for each school, providing feedback specifically on the following required elements:

- Needs statement, including findings from the most recent Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) review and other relevant data
- Goals that directly address the needs statement and that are specific, measurable, timely and results-oriented
- Leading indicators that will be used to monitor progress toward goals
- Action Plan that describes each specific action to be taken by the District to attain the specified goal, including responsibility for each activity, participation in each activity, frequency, and intended impact.

Ms. Alberti explained that feedback regarding the SCEP is provided to each school by the School Chief and the Office of Receivership and School Innovation. She reported that a teacher from each school will be trained by the Office of Receivership and School Innovation regarding school reform practices, progress monitoring, and communication with stakeholders to support the School-Based Planning Team in implementing the School Comprehensive Education Plan.

All of the School Comprehensive Education Plans are aligned with the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan and the four essential pillars that form the foundation for transformation in the

District:

1. Promote the well-being of the whole child, whole school, and whole community
2. Ensure powerful learning for every student
3. Build capacity to ensure comprehensive school improvement
4. Cultivate understanding, collaboration, partnerships, and advocacy for equity and justice for all

Superintendent Deane-Williams noted that each SCEP plan utilizes the same five measures to monitor progress toward goals to promote transformation district-wide.

Most of the discussion in the meeting focused on concerns about executing the school plans, and ways that staff at each level will be held accountable for these efforts. Superintendent Deane-Williams and Beth Mascitti-Miller described specific practices being utilized to enhance accountability and monitor progress:

- School Chiefs submit quarterly reports that are based on the specific targets each school must achieve to meet improvement standards, particularly with respect to literacy, numeracy, and graduation rates.
- School Chiefs conduct walk-throughs in their schools every 1-2 weeks, meeting with school administrators to examine student data and early warning indicators (e.g. attendance, credit attainment).
- The Chiefs also conduct classroom observations, with a focus on particular skill sets in instructional practice.
- School principals are using the Data Dashboard for intensive monitoring of teacher and student performance.

The Superintendent discussed the importance of predictive analytics in enabling School Chiefs and principals to obtain an accurate assessment of progress toward goals, based on current conditions. She stated that all of this work is new and involves a substantial shift in organizational culture, which will take time. The Superintendent expressed hope that these efforts will result in more District schools being removed from the priority and focus lists.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47PM.