

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

August 23, 2012

**Attendance:** President Evans and Commissioners Adams, Powell, and White; Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the July 26<sup>th</sup> Rochester Prep 3 Charter School and July 26<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** The Board presented the RCSD Back to school Backpack Campaign with a donation from the Board's Scholarship Fund. The donation will be used to purchase of backpacks and school supplies for District students.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Elizabeth Laidlaw, Santosha Kuykendall, and Ricardo Adams; Community Members Jack Langerak, Dan Drmacich, David Hursh, Elizabeth Hallmark, Howard Eagle, Donald Bartalo, Brian Bailey, Tim Adams, Gerald Coles, Bonnie Connan and Mark Friedman; and Staff Mark Friedman spoke in favor of the proposed resolution calling upon the New York State Education Department, the New York State Legislature, and the Governor to re-examine public school accountability systems and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment which do not require extensive standardized testing.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community Member Shirley Billups-Bell spoke about the need to address the student performance. Staff Joan Uveino spoke about the importance of mandated courses such as Home and Careers (Home Economics and Family and Consumer Science).
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas provided the Board with information and materials presenting the District's recent truancy initiatives and efforts. He also announced upcoming school orientation events and urged students and families to take part in the events.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
  - Audit Committee**

*Chair Mary Adams:* The Audit Committee did not meet since the July 2012 Business Meeting. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 77 through 100. The Finance Committee was informed of two late-submission resolutions that have been submitted for your consideration this evening: a contract with Day Automation Systems, Inc. to provide software, hardware and technical support to maintain the District's Energy Management System and a contract with RTS to provide transportation for high school students in the 2012-13 school year – the contract cost is 3.4% higher than for 2011-12, but includes additional transportation services for extended day service at the All-City High School and Northeast College Preparatory High School,

two additional charter schools, and students attending Charlotte High School as swing space while their school is renovated.

Finance Committee members also received the schedule for the Contract for Excellence process, which was recently released by SED. The deadline for submitting the C4E Plan for 2012-13 is September 14<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing must be held 10-30 days after public notification of the C4E Plan, so the hearing will be held sometime in late September or early October. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Chair Van Henri White:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Administrators from Northeast College Preparatory High School gave an update regarding how technology that will be utilized at the school. NECP will ensure that every parent has access to Parent Connect, the RCSD website, NECP website and teacher websites by having open lab hours for parents at NECP. NECP will maintain a well-developed website for the dissemination of information, updates, calendar, school-wide news for support of students, their families, other staff members as well as their volunteers.

Teachers will continually update their District-based website by uploading relevant lesson plans, student handouts and other resources that support learning in the classroom. Teachers have, and will continue to participate in District-wide professional development offering continued support for the use of technology in the classroom. Technology will also be used by students to increase engagement, demystify the classroom experience, and to more closely connect them with the learning process.

The NECP administration talked about what would be offered before 8:20 a.m. and after 3:10 p.m. on Saturdays as part of the Learning Longer Program. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as academic enrichment, literacy and numeracy support, credit retrieval, SAT prep, employment opportunities and sports to name a few.

The Committee also discussed the status of two proposed resolutions: Standardized Testing and School Closings. It was suggested that a draft of the Standardized Testing resolution be forwarded to the full Board for comments and suggestions; followed up with discussion at this evening's Business Meeting.

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet since the July 2012 Business Meeting.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Jose Cruz:** The Policy Committee did not meet since the July 2012 Business Meeting. Three policies are up for discussion this evening including, the Media Relations, Policy No. 1130; Policy Review and Evaluation, Policy No. 2460; and District/Community Collaborative Presentations, Programs and Services, Policy No. 4830.1. Each of these policies is to be amended to remove the requirement for Board review or for updating the entire Policy Manual every three years. In addition, two policies are up for a vote this evening: Amendment to Responsible Bidder, Policy No. 6725 to

incorporate the recommendations of the Diversity Committee to require bidders to provide demographic information about their workforce and Hiring, Recruiting and Residency Initiative to offer preference to qualified candidates that have urban experience in a school district or agency serving youth and offer up to \$3,000 toward a down payment or closing costs for RCSD employees who purchase a home for the first time in the City – this is through the City’s Employer-Sponsored Housing Program. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

**Board Governance Committee**

*Chair Melisza Campos:* No report provided.

**VIII. Resolutions**

**2012-13: 51-76:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2012-13: 77-79:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2012-13: 80-109:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2012-13: 110:** Resolution No. 2012-13: 110 withdrawn from consideration by Superintendent Vargas.

**2012-13: 111-115:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2012-13: 116:** Resolution No. 2012-13: 116 withdrawn from consideration by Superintendent Vargas.

**2012-13: 117:** Resolution No. 2012-13: 117 withdrawn from consideration by Superintendent Vargas.

**2012-13: 118-135:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Cruz, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** Vice President Cruz presented the Media Relations, Policy No. 1130; Policy Review and Evaluation , Policy No. 2460; and District/Community Collaborative Presentations, Programs and Services, Policy No. 4830.1 as Discussion Items.

**XI. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 8:40 p.m.