

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

January 24, 2013

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, and Powell; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the December 13th Business Meeting, January 2nd Organizational Meeting, and the January 10th True North Charter School Public Hearing made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Campos and Elliott absent.

Commissioner Campos arrived at 6:35 p.m.

- III. **Recognition:** The Board recognized teachers who have received the National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. The following teachers were recognized for achieving new certification: Logan Matthew Newman, Kristine M. Fredrick, Richard J. Holland, Sara Northwood, Sherry S. Cope and Dana DeLong. The following teachers were recognized for renewing their certification: Tracy Maggio, Charles O. Hall and Joseph J. Zuniga. The Board applauds these teachers for their hard work and the excellent service that they provide to our students.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Shasona Moran and Niam Wilcox spoke about the need for students and staff to be treated with respect as the District works to increase student achievement. Parent Howard Eagle spoke about the need to notify parents and guardians, in a timely manner, of situations that raise significant concerns for student safety, including but not limited to the arrest or conviction of staff members for legal offenses that represent a threat to children.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Melanie Mroz spoke about the academic programming offered by Generation 2. Community member Sharon Jones spoke the need to notify parents and guardians, in a timely manner, of situations that raise significant concerns for student safety, including but not limited to the arrest or conviction of staff members for legal offenses that represent a threat to children. Community member Sara Yaworsky spoke about the facilities modernization plan proposed by Dr. Vargas.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation addressing the impact of the Governor's proposed 2013-14 budget on the funding priorities for the District's 2013-14 fiscal year. He presented highlights of the Governor's budget noting that there is a proposed \$611M increase in Foundation and Formula aid that is targeted to high-need districts, an additional \$203M in Fiscal Stabilization Funding, \$75M for education reform initiatives including full-day pre-kindergarten (\$25M), extended learning time (\$20M), community schools (\$15M), rewards for high-performing teachers (\$11M), and early college high school programs (\$4M). Dr. Vargas also detailed challenges that are faced in the midst of transforming the District, an overview of the District's current budgetary environment, and how he plans to fund the District's priorities while delivering a balanced budget for 2013-14 given the Governor's

proposal and priorities to address full-day Pre-K, extended learning time, community schools, and early college high school programs.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on January 8th to perform their annual review of the Audit Charter. The Committee reviewed and discussed the Charter and there are no changes proposed. The Committee also received a status update on the activities performed by Office of Auditor General. The Audit Committee is seeking Board approval for Resolution No. 2012-13: 438, which is included under Other Resolutions in your packet this evening. This resolution requests that the Board to authorize the use of audit staff from Hungerford Vinton to supplement Office of Auditor General staffing for the current year audit plan. This resource is required due to staff turnover in Office of Auditor General.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 17th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 420 through 427. The Committee recommends approval of the December Financial Report. Motion to accept the December Financial Report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. The Committee recommends approval of the proposed FY2013-14 Budget Calendar. Motion to accept the FY2013-14 Budget Calendar made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, January 14th to receive a presentation from the Coalition for Justice in Education (CJE), a community coalition comprised of active and retired educators, administrators, college professors, business people, parents and concerned citizens. The Coalition wanted to present to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee because they are concerned about the direction of education in the Rochester City School District, as well as in New York State. They are particularly concerned about the privatization and standardization of education through the corporate based education reform strategies, the excessive use of high-stake standardized testing to assess students, schools and educators, the inequity of funding for urban and other poorly funded school districts, the impact of poverty related issues on students in classrooms and schools, the lack of literacy education, the need for stronger elementary education programs, the lack of curriculum emphasis on critical thinking skills, student interest, the arts, music and the joy of learning.

They are also concerned about teacher training that does not encourage active student engagement and creativity. The CJE presentation focused on Early Childhood Education, arts integration practices and educating for the 21st century. After presentations were made in each of these areas, the presenters gave suggestions on how to incorporate their ideas into the District's curriculum. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 11th.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month. The next CIGR Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, January 17th, and reviewed a number of policy proposals, including additional changes to the Purchasing policy (6700) revisions that have been presented to the Board. In addition, the members of the Policy Committee considered two new policies: School Uniforms policy and Kindergarten Attendance policy. The School Uniforms policy is intended to clarify a number of issues: 1) the District cannot pay for or provide school uniforms because this would be considered a “gift” under the law; 2) students cannot be suspended or denied education because of failure to wear a school uniform. The law is a bit confusing on the last issue because the District as a whole cannot require students to wear school uniforms, but individual schools may require them. However, violation of a school uniform requirement cannot be used to impose disciplinary consequences if the family is unable to pay for the uniform, has religious objections to the uniform, or if there are other compelling circumstances. For this reason, the Policy Committee directed revision of the proposed policy to include the most compelling circumstances for violating a school uniform requirement.

In terms of the proposed Kindergarten Attendance policy, the law basically enables parents to decide when to enroll their child in kindergarten. However, once a child has been enrolled, attendance is mandatory. The Policy Committee decided that since this is more about attendance, it properly belongs in the existing “Student Attendance and Withdrawal Policy” (5100). Ed Lopez-Soto will work on making these revisions to present in the February meeting. The Policy Committee also reviewed proposed revisions to the District Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (1510). The revisions are quite minor and result from the NYS Medicaid Compliance Officer’s review of our claims process. Specifically, the finding was that the policy should protect individuals reporting possible fraudulent Medicaid claims from “intimidation” as well as retaliation. This change was approved by the Policy Committee and is forwarded to you as an Information Item in this evening’s meeting. The Committee continues to explore ways to monitor implementation of Board policies, and to examine the existing policy requirements for “deliverables” from the Administration (i.e. reports and/or evaluations). The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on Thursday, February 7th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee will host a retreat on Saturday, January 26th. The retreat will focus on team building with a theme of "Building a Common Ground." The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held on Thursday, February 7th.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Members of the Student Leadership Congress met to discuss recent efforts to implement best practices, recent outreach events and student engagement projects. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th.

VIII. Resolutions

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2012-13: 393 to remove Matthew Sowers, Physical Education tenure area, from consideration made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 393-395: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 396-397: No resolutions submitted for January.

2012-13: 398-408: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 409: No resolution submitted for January.

2012-13: 410: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 411-414: No resolutions submitted for January.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 415 made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 416-419: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 420-425: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 426: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 427: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 428-430: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 431: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 432: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 433 made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 434-438: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented a revision to the Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees as an Information Item.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Powell at 8:31 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

XII. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.