

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

March 28, 2013

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the February 14th Business Meeting, March 7th Special Meeting, and the March 14th Special Meeting made by Vice President White and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** None. The Board's Women's History Month Observance Annual Ceremony was held prior to the Business Meeting.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Martin Thomas spoke about the proposed budget reductions that may impact the International Baccalaureate Program offerings at Joseph C. Wilson High School. Student Azisa Johnson spoke about the need for improved student and teacher communications. Student Augusto Manon expressed gratitude for the Board's approved condom availability program that allows for the distribution of condoms to students that have received approved instruction. Students Nailah Phillips, Eleanor Sciortino and Eleanor Anderson spoke about the proposed budget reductions that may impact the International Baccalaureate Program offerings at Joseph C. Wilson High School. Student Anayo Goings spoke about the *Ride Our Wave* campaign. Student Endien Morgan spoke in opposition to bullying and the need to reduce class size. Student Gina Gonzalez spoke about the need for student engagement and the Citizen Youth Survey. Parent Aria Camaione-Lind expressed concern about the proposed relocation of Walter Cooper Academy, School No. 10. Community Member Sara Yaworsky spoke about the need to maintain the Walter Cooper Academy, School No. 10 within the 19th Ward neighborhood.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Kate Kressman-Kehoe spoke about the proposed budget reductions that may impact the International Baccalaureate Program offerings at Joseph C. Wilson High School. Parents Eleanor Coleman and Sharon Terry advocated for Freedom School programming at Adlai E. Stevenson, School No. 29. Parent Diane Carter spoke about the limitations proposed by the Common Core Curriculum and proposed Master Scheduling. Parents Jeff Sciortino, Wayne Phillips, Eric Anderson, James Thompson, Shirley Thompson, and Jane Cherin spoke about the proposed budget reductions that may impact the International Baccalaureate Program offerings at Joseph C. Wilson High School. Parent Mahreen George spoke about the potential impact of the proposed budget reductions for the World of Inquiry, School No. 58 program offerings. Community Members Nancy Ares, Alonzo Henry, and Jessica Coleman advocated for Freedom School programming at Adlai E. Stevenson, School No. 29. Staff Member Rachel Dobbs spoke about music education and program enhancements that are available to the District's students.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the implementation of the recently adopted Recruitment, Hiring and Residence Initiative Policy No. 9240 which calls for the implementation of a high-quality recruiting and hiring program to attract, secure and retain the qualified

staff to meet the educational and other needs of City students and the District. He highlighted the recent focus on recruitment and work being done to improve recruitment strategies to attract highly qualified, diverse candidates. Dr. Vargas also detailed some of the strategies including the redesign of the HCI website, proactive recruitment efforts targeted at urban centers and outreach to colleges and universities. Dr. Vargas noted that the District has already realized benefits from these recruitment strategies with 80% of recent educational appointments having the preferred urban experience referenced in the Policy and the increased interest generated from local colleges and universities and visits to the Human Capital Initiatives website. In discussing the Policy, Dr. Vargas spoke about the scheduled implementation, during the 2013-2014 fiscal year, of the residency initiative referenced in the Policy to encourage current and future employees to live within the city of Rochester.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 9th to discuss the Inter-Municipal RFP between the District, Rochester, Joint School Construction Board and the City of Rochester for the Annual Financial Auditor. There were three proposals received in the RFP process. The Committee will select and make a recommendation to the full Board for consideration at the April Business meeting regarding the Annual Financial Auditor for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013 through June 30, 2015 with two optional one year extensions for 2016 and 2017.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, March 19th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 520 through 543. The Committee recommends approval of the February Financial Report; motion to accept the Report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries without objection 7-0. The Committee recommends approval of the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution 520 for Non-Resident Tuition; Resolution 521 for Procurement; Resolutions 522 through 539 for Educational Facilities; and Resolutions 540 and 541 for Other. After considerable discussion, the Finance Committee recommends that the Board table Resolution No. 2012-13: 542 to enable further information to be obtained from NYSED regarding options for separating aspects of the Facilities Master Plan and of the required timeframes. Because of the financial and programming implications involved, the Committee decided that the Board may need additional time for consideration of the Plan. The Finance Committee also engaged in discussion of Resolution No. 2012-13: 543 regarding purchasing perpetual licenses from the Florida Virtual School to provide online AP courses. Many questions were raised about the efficacy of online instruction and the types of students most likely to benefit from it, as well as questions about the need and cost effectiveness of purchasing these courses rather than developing them in-house. For these reasons, the Finance Committee recommends that the Board refer this resolution to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee for further review.

The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18th, immediately following the Policy Committee meeting. A number of meetings have been scheduled as part of the budget process, including the following: Monday, March 25th, at 5:30PM: Superintendent presents proposed 2013-14 budget, Tuesday, March 26th, 5:30-7:30PM: Board – Community Budget Conversation, Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:00PM: 1st Public Budget Hearing and Thursday, April 4th at 6:00PM: 1st Budget Deliberation Meeting.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, March 11th, to receive a presentation by the Early Childhood Education Department on Preschool Special Education Services. The Committee discussed how students are referred for Pre-K Special

Education Services and how the services are rendered to the students. At mid-year a total of 725 students were classified as preschoolers with disabilities. Of these students 141 were receiving services provided by District staff. The rest of them received services provided by County approved agencies. Students are assessed for Special Education services when they exhibit a lack of skills that most kids in that age bracket are able to perform. The lack of skills may be due to an absence of exposure to learning opportunities or may indicate a disability. The department is moving forward with several initiatives to enhance and improve the Pre-K and to improve the transition from Pre-K to kindergarten.

The Committee also reviewed the findings of the 2006-2009 Rochester Arts Impact Study from the Visual and Performing Arts Department. The study showed that there is a positive impact between integrated arts instruction and increased student achievement. Arts integration was explained as the process of combining content of the arts with other classroom content such as English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies or Math by making clear content connections between the various curricular areas with the use of visual art, dance, theater and music. The results of the Study revealed that there were gains across all levels; with the unexpected finding that arts impact acts worked as well for students who did not have the benefit of attending a higher performing school. Using both national and New York State tests, there were positive and significant effects from 5-20% improvements. There were gains in all treatment schools in ELA and Math across most grade levels K-6 including Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners. The director provided the gains for each grade level, including for students with disabilities.

The Committee requested that budget recommendations be drafted for the African and African American Department and for the Transition Systems Department (Youth in Transition). The Committee recommends approval of the budget recommendations to add an FTE to both of these departments to assist with the workload of the directors of the departments. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, March 12th. The Committee received a presentation the principal of the Robert Brown High School of Construction and Design along with the director of Career and Technical Education that outlined the goals and mission of the school. The benefits of CTE programs were discussed as well as the benefits for schools, students, employers and the community. There was also a discussion on the overview of career development. At this time there are six specific pathways established: carpentry, electrical, masonry, interior, architectural and advertising. The pathways for automotive and manufacturing will be integrated into the program.

The Committee also discussed Resolution No. 2012-13: 550, which authorizes a Co-application with the City for a Local Government Efficiency Grant Program. This is a planning grant that is intended to identify potential consolidations of facilities, grounds and fields; and to coordinate and eliminate duplication of after school recreation, athletic, school, family and library programs as some of this work is offered by both entities. The committee recommends approval of Resolution No. 2012-13: 550.

Lastly, the Committee briefly discussed the 2013 Legislative agenda, and will continue with that discussion at the April Meeting. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee did not meet this month, but the following policies are presented to the full Board as Discussion Items this evening: Revision of Medicaid Compliance policy

(8600) which calls for the elimination of the requirement for the Internal Auditor General's Office to conduct an annual formal audit, and to have the Medicaid Compliance Officer provide a report to the Board on an annual basis. This change is in accordance with the recommendation of the Internal General Auditor's Office; Revision of Student Attendance and Withdrawal policy (5100) to clarify that students of all ages and at all grade levels are expected to attend school 100% of the time once enrolled. Recently enacted legislation enables parents to choose whether to enroll their child in the year of their 5th birthday or to wait until the following September; and the School Uniform policy (5320) to clarify that the District is not legally allowed to purchase school uniforms for students because this is considered a gift under the law. This policy also points out that schools may establish a uniform policy, but cannot deny students an education (i.e. suspended or removed from the classroom) for failing to comply with the uniform requirement. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: The Student Leadership Congress met to discuss community involvement initiatives and opportunities for students to participate in community service. The SLC also recognized the significant support that the District has provided in sending students to Washington, DC to participate in civic engagement activities.

Parent Advisory Council

Parent Representative Candice Lucas: The PAC received information on Expanded Learning Time programming, proposed Parent Report Cards, proposed changes to elementary school report cards, discussed Title I expenditures and processes for obtaining funds, and discussed the proposed 2012-13 budget. In reviewing the Superintendent's proposed 2013-14 budget the PAC proposes that the following priorities be funded or addressed in the 2013-14 RCSD budget: making schools welcoming and accessible to parents; increasing Arts, Music, Sports, Languages, MAP, AP programming and allotting adequate classroom space; increasing enrichment and intervention in the classroom; providing increased transportation efforts, increasing after school programming; enhancing and promoting neighborhood schools; improving security efforts; continuing pre-K opportunities; providing athletic programming to elementary students; and allowing student input on teacher performance.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 491: No resolution submitted for March.

2012-13: 492-493: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 494-495: No resolution submitted for March.

2012-13: 496-497: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2012-13: 498 into Resolution No. 2012-13: 498a and Resolution No. 2012-13: 498 made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 498: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 498a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2012-13: 499-503: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 504: No resolution submitted for March.

2012-13: 505-508: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 509-512: No resolutions submitted for March.

2012-13: 513: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 514-516: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2012-13: 517 into Resolution No. 2012-13: 517a and Resolution No. 2012-13: 517 made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 517: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 517a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Vice President White abstaining due to familial relationship.

2012-13: 518: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 519: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 520: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 521: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 522-530: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 531: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2012-13: 532-541: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 542: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President White and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

Motion to refer Resolution No. 2012-13: 543 to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee for further discussion made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 544: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 545 made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 546-548: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 549 made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

2012-13: 550-551: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 552: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 553-563: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented revisions to the Student Attendance and Withdrawal, Policy No. 5100 and the Medicaid Compliance and Health Related Services, Policy No. 8600, along with a proposed School Uniforms Policy as discussion items.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 11:20 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Vice President White at 11:27 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

XII. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cruz at 11:27 p.m. Seconded by Vice President White. Motion carries 7-0.