

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

May 23, 2013

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing, April 9<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing and the May 9<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.
- III. **Recognition:** Students who participated in the District's annual college tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities acknowledged Vice President White for his financial contribution to assist students with costs associated with the tour.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Nyiaesha Colon and Mattu Feika spoke about how students could be better engaged in classroom learning and presented survey results on the topic of student and school engagement. Students Bianca Martinez and Cristal Agosto spoke about their desire for improved school meals. Community Member Mary Jo Brach spoke about the importance and need for increased Universal Pre-Kindergarten funding to better support the District's student population. Community Member Jeanne Miller advocated for increased funding for family resource centers. Community Member Bridget Shumway expressed concern about the selection process used to select community partners to serve as Universal Pre-Kindergarten providers for the 2013-14 school year. Staff Member Whitney Lawson spoke about her passion for teaching and past experiences with the District. Staff Member Valerie Barattini spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of Lincoln Park School No. 44.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community Member Bruce Dunn expressed concern about Common Core Curriculum standards and suggested impact on teaching. Community Member Annette Cathey expressed concern about a student placement issue. Parents Lakeya Bostick and Kevin Lewis spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of Lincoln Park School No. 44.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the projected impact of charter schools on student enrollment and class size projections. He mentioned that recently proposed, in addition to existing, charter schools threaten the District with reduce enrollment. Dr. Vargas highlighted points that the District's long-term enrollment projections have assumed grow-out of existing charter schools, 8 new charter applications have been filed with the State authorizers in recent months with the assumption that half of these will open in 2014-15, and it is expected that approximately 2,500 more District students will be enrolled in charter schools by 2017-2018. He noted that the data supports the notion that the reduced enrollment will negatively impact our budget and need for facilities.

## **VII. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

**Chair Mary Adams:** The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> with Freed Maxick, CPAs, the Board's External Auditor, to review the Audit Plan for the financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2013. Freed Maxick expressed their appreciation to the Board for being selected to continue as the Board's External Auditor for another contract term. Freed Maxick introduced their Engagement Team and reviewed the anticipated reporting timetable, audit objectives, developments affecting the District, risk assessment and audit approach with the Audit Committee. The Committee will be meeting with Freed Maxick in December to review the final audit results and all Board members will be invited to attend.

### **Finance Committee**

#### **Chair Willa Powell:**

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 655 through 666. The Committee recommends approval of the April 2013 Financial Report and the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report. Motion to accept the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Reports accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent. Motion to accept the April 2013 Financial Report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Reports accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent. The Committee does not recommend approval of Resolution No. 2012-13: 666. Instead, the Committee voted unanimously to amend the resolution to require compliance with Board policy, "Closure of School Buildings" (7600), specifically in conducting meetings with key constituent groups to gather input regarding the proposed closure of School #44 and to report this input to the Board. The Finance Committee also considered a resolution presented by Commissioner Adams to remove the Rochester City School District from the list of affiliations of the Center for Reinventing Public Education. There is no information as to how RCSD became included as an affiliate, but the Center actively promotes privatization of education. The Committee unanimously approved this resolution and advances it to the Board for consideration. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Chair Van Henri White:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, to receive a quarterly report from the Department of Teaching and Learning. The administration presented an overview of data by district and by zones that included the following areas: Attendance, projected graduation rates, overage/under credited students, Gatekeeper's exams, AIMSweb (AIMSweb is a web-based assessment, data management, and reporting system that provides the framework for Response to Intervention (RTI) and multi-tiered instruction that is specifically designed to universally screen and monitor progress of reading and math performance for grades K-8.), Action Plans, suspensions and incidents, and specialized services. Resolution No. 2012-13: 680 through 684 were reviewed. These are all grant funded resolutions. The Committee recommends approval of Resolution No. 2012-13: 680 through 684. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. A presentation was received from Board staff updating the Committee on the 3-on-3 Taskforce meetings with the Board and the City. The Taskforce meets quarterly to address issues that relate to the education and educational services that relate to the residents of the City of Rochester. The Taskforce also searches out areas where the City of Rochester and the Board of Education can work together to improve efficiencies. The Taskforce has addressed the following issues at its meetings:

truancy, the Capital Improvement Program, the Facilities Master Plan, library services, the Maintenance of Effort Legislation, RCSD and Pathways to Peace Partnership, other shared services and transportation. The Administration gave an update on the transportation legislation. The purpose of the legislation is to try to encourage state to allow students who are between .5 miles and 1.5 miles from their neighborhood schools to get their transportation funded. The legislation is now working its way through the Assembly and the Senate with the expectation of having it passed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Committee continued its discussion of the 2013 Legislative Agenda; and is the process of finalizing the draft for approval by the Board. The Committee is moving forward with planning for a community forum to inform parents, students and the community of what the Common Core is and how it will affect students academically. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Jose Cruz:** In the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Policy Committee reviewed and approved many policy proposals that have been under consideration for the last few months. The following proposed policies have been advanced to the Board for consideration as Information Items: proposed revision of the Safe Schools policy (8135) to incorporate provisions for notifying parents when an employee's conduct may have jeopardized student safety, proposed revision of the Code of Conduct (5300) to clarify that the same minimum standards of behavior apply to Board members as to District staff and students, proposed Credential Options for Students with Disabilities policy (4222), which provides guidelines as to the ways in which students with disabilities can earn a high school diploma, proposed revision of the Student Individual Education Plan (IEP): Development and Provision policy (4209) to provide electronic access to a student's IEP to teachers and service providers, proposed revision of Appointment and Training of Members of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) policy (4207) to require attendance of a parent representative to CSE meetings only when requested by the parent at least 72 hours in advance, proposed revision of the Child Abuse and Maltreatment policy (5460) to remove the requirement for the Superintendent to provide a report to the Board every two years, and proposed revision of the following policies to finalize the process of updating the Policy Manual. Each month, the Policy Committee plans to review a section of the remaining policies and to advance necessary revisions to the Board until update of the Manual has been completed. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Melisza Campos:** The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the last meeting.

### **Student Leadership Congress**

**Student Representative Sophie Gallivan:** The Student Leadership Congress met on May 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss student service projects for the proposed 2013-14 budget and community involvement initiatives and opportunities for students to participate in community service.

### **Parent Advisory Council**

**Parent Representative Candice Lucas:** The PAC received continued discussions on the proposed Parent Report Cards, hosted Maranne McDade-Clay in discussion of a new assessment tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the Board's meetings. Ms. Lucas also noted that most of the District's schools are in compliance with have the necessary amount of parent involvement in School Based Planning Teams. She recognized the Office of Parent Engagement in their work on the annual Title I parent event at Ontario Beach Park on May 18<sup>th</sup> stating that more than 2,100 people attended this fun and informative family event.

## VIII. Resolutions

**2012-13: 629-635:** No resolutions submitted for May.

**2012-13: 636-639:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 640:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 641:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 642:** No resolutions submitted for May.

**2012-13: 643:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 644-649:** No resolutions submitted for May.

**2012-13: 650:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 651:** No resolutions submitted for May.

**2012-13: 652:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 653-655:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 656:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President White abstaining due to familial relationship, Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 657:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 658-667:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**Motion to table Resolution No. 2012-13: 668 made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.**

**2012-13: 669-670:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 671:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 672:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 673:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 674-676:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 677:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 678-688:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 689:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 690-691:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 692:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 693-694:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 695:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**2012-13: 696:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President White, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to remove Resolution No. 2012-13: 545 from table made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.**

**Motion to amend Resolution No. 2012-13: 545 to support the Rochester Teen Court program and the Peer Court program at Vanguard Collegiate High School, for the period March 29, 2013, or as soon thereafter as the Agreement is fully executed, through June 30, 2013, for a sum not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.**

**2012-13: 545:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** Commissioner Cruz presented the following items as Information Items: revision to Safe Schools policy (8135), revision of the Code of Conduct (5300), revision of Child Abuse and Maltreatment policy (5460), Policy for Students with Disabilities to Earn a High School Diploma (4222), revision of Student Individual Education Plan (IEP): Development and Provision policy (4209), revision of Appointment and Training of Members of Committee on Special Education policy (4207); revision of Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Schools policy (1150), revision of Public Use of School Facilities policy (1500), revision of District Policy Against Harassment of Students and Employees (1510), revision of Gifts to School Personnel policy (1810), revision of Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents policy (1925), and a revision of Electioneering in Schools policy (2120.1)

**XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual** made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

Vice President White and Commissioner Elliott left at 9:05 p.m.

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Cruz at 10:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President White, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliot absent.

**2012-13: 696:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President White, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:19 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President White, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.