

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
September 26, 2013

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

Vice President White convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I.** Vice President White asked a young audience member to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the August 19th Contract for Excellence Public Hearing, August 19th Business Meeting and September 6th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.
- III. Recognition:** The District's Community Wellness Partners and schools implementing healthy behavior strategies and programming were recognized.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Staff members Stephanie Ribis, Celeste Shade and Jill Farley spoke about the impacts that staff displacements and reductions in force have on student learning.
- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Cuevas Walker spoke about the need for social-emotional supports for students throughout the District.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas briefed the Board on the status of the Master Schedule and changes to transportation practices. He spoke about the need for the Master Schedule in relation to the needs of students. Dr. Vargas noted the Master Schedule is intended to ensure that all students receive the courses and instruction necessary for graduation and overall achievement. In speaking about transportation, Dr. Vargas stated that the District is working to increase safety and security patrols and additional express routes that transport students around downtown to avoid the need for transfers through the downtown area.
- VII. Board Reports:**
 - Audit Committee**
Chair Mary Adams: No report.
 - Finance Committee**
Chair Willa Powell:
The Finance Committee met on Thursday, September 19th to consider Resolution No. 2013-14: 207 through 216, and 218 through 235. The Committee recommends approval of the August 2013 Financial Report. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent. The Committee recommends approval of the Year-End Student Activity Fund Report for 2012-13. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the SAF Report, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent. The Committee recommends approval of the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution 207 for Procurement; and Resolutions 208 through 216, and 218 through 235 for Educational Facilities.

In addition, the members of the Finance Committee discussed the resolution referred by the Board in the August 19th Business meeting regarding the proposed agreement with the Center for Youth for the Rochester Teen Court. The Committee decided to table this resolution until their October 17th meeting, when more definitive information will be available regarding potential funding. It is anticipated that budget amendments will be presented to the Finance Committee in the October meeting and student enrollment figures will be further solidified at that time.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, September 16. The Committee received a presentation of the Harvard Professional Development Plan. Patricia Malgieri, Chief of Staff provided an overview of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University's Fellowship program. The plan is a creative way to bring additional resource to the District. The Committee also received a presentation of the Professional Development Plan from Carlos Leal, Director of Professional Learning. The plan supports teachers learning opportunities through a structured process and collaboration. Topics covered were Standards for Professional Learning, Standards of Assessment, and Professional Learning methods. The goal of the plan is to impact student achievement, enhance teacher practice and instruction and to motivate staff to continue to explore new and creative collaborations for learning. The Committee does not have any major concerns or issues with the Professional Development Plan being considered by the Board. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Note this date is the first Tuesday, due to District observance of Columbus Day Holiday.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, September 17th. The CIGR committee continues to advocate for an improved food program for our students, that exceed nutritional guidelines, and is appetizing, ensuring that our students have healthy meals. The Department of Agriculture Federal Food Register was reviewed for relevance in the City School District's food programs. The District's programs are within the scope of what the Federal Food Register outlines. Data regarding children and their willingness to eat healthier food is positive. However, the committee continues to look for opportunities to introduce healthier and tastier food choices. The annual Legislative Breakfast has been schedule for Saturday, November 9th, starting at 9am. Invitations to the event will be mailed on Tuesday, October 1. During this event, we will present the 2013 Legislative Agenda and continue to strengthen and build working relationships with local, state and national elected officials. During his visit to the Rochester City School District last month, an invitation was extended to NYS Education Commissioner John King to meet with parents and community stakeholders for an informal conversation to discuss such initiatives as the Common Core learning standards and other educational issues impacting the Rochester community. The plan is to host a "Community Conversation" at a venue easily assessable to parents and the community. More details and information on content and date will be discussed at the next CIGR meeting. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, September 24th, with an ambitious agenda addressing: Student suspension practices in the District, possible revisions to the Parent Involvement policy (1900), proposed revisions to the School-Based Planning Team policy (2265) and Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials policy (4010), and a new Superintendent regulation, "RCSD Motor Equipment Regulation" (8410-R). Lori Baldwin and Brenda Pacheco presented data from 2011-12 and

2012-13 regarding the number of suspensions by school, grade, and race/ethnicity. Information was also provided of the frequency of different types of disciplinary incidents and of the placements for students referred for long-term suspension (e.g. alternative school, home instruction). Since this issue has substantial ramifications, Committee members have requested additional data and will continue this discussion in a special meeting that will be scheduled as soon as this data is available.

In addition, the Policy Committee followed up on a request presented by Candice Lucas at a recent Board Business meeting to re-examine the Parent Involvement policy. In this month's Policy Committee meeting, members of the Parent Advisory Council presented their concerns and suggestions for revising this policy. A draft revision of the Parent Involvement policy will be provided to the Parent Advisory Council to ensure that their concerns have been addressed. The members of the Policy Committee plan to review the draft and the feedback from the Council in the October meeting.

The Policy Committee continued review of proposed revisions to the Values Education policy, based on Bill Benet's suggestions.

In considering revision of the School-Based Planning Team policy, the Committee requested input and suggestions from the Director of Youth & Family Services and the Director of the Office of Parent Engagement. Since this is such a substantive policy and updates are needed in terms of the Common Core curriculum and APPR, a task force will be convened to examine it in depth and present recommendations to the Policy Committee. This is planned for the November meeting.

Revisions have been proposed to the Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials policy to discard the requirement that the Superintendent provide an annual report to the Board, and to simply provide the Board with a copy of the annual report submitted to NYSED ("NYSED Comparability Report). A few additional changes are needed to reflect District practice in notifying school-level staff of the process for allocating instructional staffing and materials. The Committee plans to review the proposed revisions in the October meeting.

The Committee also received information about a new Superintendent regulation, "RCSD Motor Equipment Regulation", which establishes guidelines for the use of District-owned motor vehicles and procedures to follow in the event of an accident. This regulation is intended for risk management by ensuring that staff are informed of all applicable motor vehicle laws and regulations.

Finally, revisions to the Evaluation of Teaching Staff policy (formerly 0330 – now 9330) and the Wellness policy are presented in this evening's meeting for adoption. The changes to the Evaluation of Teaching Staff policy make the policy applicable to all staff and accommodate APPR requirements.

The Wellness policy proposal consolidates a number of individual, redundant policies into one central location: Health Education (4315), AIDS Instruction (4315.1), Family Life Education (4312.1), and Physical Education (4316). For ease of reference, links will be provided on the District website to each of the individual sections in the larger consolidated Wellness policy. Each of these individual redundant policies will then be rescinded.

Next Policy Committee meeting: Thursday, October 17th after the Finance Committee meeting

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Thursday, September 19th to discuss the 2012-13 Evaluation Process for the Superintendent and upcoming retreats for the District's

Leadership Team. The Committee recommended that the full Board be presented with the proposed evaluation tool to assess the superintendent's performance over the 2012-13 year at tonight's Business Meeting for consideration and acceptance at the October 2013 Business Meeting. The proposed tool has been distributed to all Commissioners. The Committee also agreed that the full Board will hold Special Meetings, between November 12th and February 25th to informally discuss with the Superintendent his performance and Board expectations.

The Committee spoke about the effectiveness of past retreats and suggested that a survey be used to gauge staff perspectives and solicit feedback on suggested agenda items, benefits (usefulness) of the retreats, retreat logistics including scheduled time (i.e. evenings or Saturdays), facilitation (i.e. internal or external facilitators), locations (Asbury retreat location), and any other comments to enhance the effectiveness of regularly scheduled retreats with the Board and the Superintendent's Administrative Cabinet. The Committee also suggested that the Board explore the use of developed assessment tools, such as the DISC (Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness) personal assessment tool, for the purpose of identifying leadership styles and strengthening professional relationships amongst members of the District's Leadership Team. A survey referencing the above-mentioned points will be sent to members of the District's Leadership Team; Board and Administrative Cabinet before next week for discussion at the October Committee meeting. The Committee suggested that the next retreat be scheduled during the week of December 14, 2013. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th following the Finance Committee and Policy Committee meetings.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Ms. Gallivan spoke about recent accomplishments of the Student Leadership Congress, in particular their efforts to promote student leadership throughout the District as well as in their communities.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parent Representative Makita Saloane: Ms. Saloane spoke about recent accomplishments and future plans of the Parent Advisory Council. Ms. Saloane noted that due to the current size of the Council, members have agreed to adopt schools in addition to the schools that they currently represent. She also stated that members participated in the Start Strong Event to interact with parents, hear concerns, and advise them of our role in the district. Ms. Saloane announced that the PAC was invited to review and make recommendations to Policy 1900 & 1900R and members submitted suggestions and met with the Policy committee to discuss our recommendations. In discussing future plans for the Council, Ms. Saloane noted that PAC's annual retreat is planned for this Saturday, September 28th at School No. 50, the PAC is currently recruiting new members and plans to hold an event with all schools parent organizations' executive teams to establish a relationship and a conduit for information, and the PAC plans to increase its' visibility and access to parents through social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 180-181: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 182: No resolution considered for September.

2013-14: 183: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 184-191: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 192: No resolution considered for September.

2013-14: 193-194: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 195-196: No resolution considered for September.

2013-14: 197-200: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 201: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 202: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 203-206: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 207: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 208-216: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 217: No resolution considered for September.

2013-14: 218-230: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 231: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 232-234: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 235: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 236: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 237-238: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 239-240: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

2013-14: 241-247: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

Motion to remove Resolution No. 2013-14: 164 from the table made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 164: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans absent.

Motion to remove Resolution No. 2013-14: 68 from the table made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

Motion to refer Resolution No. 2013-14: 68 to the Finance Committee for further review made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Elliott presented the 2013 Legislative Agenda as recommended by the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for review and consideration.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:34 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:11 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2013-14: 179 into Resolution No. 2013-14: 179a and Resolution No. 2013-14: 179b made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motions carries 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 179a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans absent.

2013-14: 179b: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President White abstaining due to familial relationship and President Evans absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 10:14 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.