

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
October 22, 2013

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Elliott and Powell; Deputy Superintendent Beverly Burrell-Moore; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Elliott.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the October 8th Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts Hearing, October 8th Greater Works Charter School Hearing, October 8th Vertus Charter School Hearing, October 8th Special Meeting, and September 26th Business Meeting made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President White. Accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent
- III. **Recognition:** None. The Rochester Board of Education will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring outstanding Hispanic students in the District who have maintained a GPA of 4.0 or higher over the last year. Awards will be given also for academic excellence, leadership, volunteer, and community service. The Awards Program will be held on October 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Central Office Building, located at 131 West Broad Street.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** None.

Commissioner Powell arrived at 6:20 p.m.

VII. Board Reports:
Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, October 16th to review selected 2013 financial schedules for submission to the City of Rochester. The Committee agreed to forward the financial schedules to the City of Rochester. A full set of financial statements will be available for review in November, when the Board receives a draft of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for review. All Board members are invited to attend the next Audit Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m., to review the CAFR with Freed Maxick, the District External Auditor. The Auditor General provided an update on Office of Auditor General audit work regarding suspensions. The Committee discussed a number of concerns regarding student behavior management and suspension related topics that have been discussed in the various Board Committees. In an effort to establish a collaborative vision on Student Discipline, the Committee requested a Board work session. In preparation for the session, the Audit Committee has drafted a letter to Administration, in an effort to obtain Legal and procedural guidance on District practices surrounding Student Discipline with the goal of providing a comprehensive approach to the Student Discipline Policy.

The Committee discussed several audit reports on Student Activity Funds and cash handling at schools. This remains an area of concern. Commissioner Adams made a motion to accept and post the following audit reports to the District's website: Northeast College Prep- Student Activity Funds, Northeast College Prep Purchasing Card & Other Cash, Student Activity Funds and Cash Audit, and the Gate Receipts Audit. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell:

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 17th to consider Resolution No. 2013-14: 278 through 280. The Committee recommends approval of the September 2013 Financial Report. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee recommends approval of the following budget amendments: amendment to the General Fund Budget to \$616.65M to reflect \$100K increase in NYS Aid, amendment to the Special Aid Grant Fund budget to \$109.985M to reflect increases in receipt of grant funds, amendment to the Lunch Fund budget to \$19.6M to reflect increase in federal reimbursement, and amendment to the 2013-14 RCSD budget to increase by \$12.026M. Commissioner Powell requested a motion to accept the budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee recommends approval of the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution No. 2013-14: 278 through 280 for Educational Facilities. In addition, the members of the Committee discussed options for increasing funding for the Rochester Teen Court through unexpended funds remaining from the School Violence Prevention grant. A proposal is currently being developed that would also involve use of these funds, and the Finance Committee will review the proposal and the resolution for additional funding for the Teen Court in the November 14th meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th, following the Board Governance and Policy Committee meetings.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, October 7th. The Committee received a presentation on the Suspension Policy and procedures by Brenda Pacheco, Chief of Schools. Ms. Pacheco presented an outline of 2013-14 suspension procedures along with goals to reduce suspension by 5% and to utilize progressive intervention to meet with students on a continuous basis to discuss choices and alternatives. Ms. Pacheco also discussed the LyncX Academy program and the multiple partnerships with community partners to meet the social and emotional needs of youth include Hillside Children Center, Mary Cariola, Pathways to Peace, and Youth for Change. Dr. Ray Giamartino and Dr. Juliette Pennyman presented the new format of elementary school report cards. Highlights of the new format include the clear and simple format, new nine point scale consisting of Rochester City School District metrics, and a color coded schema to indicate student progress. The Elementary Report Card Rubric identifies student progress based on the common core standards. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, October 15th to receive a presentation on Rochester Teen Court and discuss the Legislative Breakfast. Judge Frank P. Geraci was invited to present on Rochester Teen Court as an alternative to suspension. Judge Geraci mentioned that 60% of cases referred to Teen Court come from RCSD students (15-18 year old) arrested for nonviolent crimes and 80% of youth who complete Teen Court are not arrested for other offenses. Teen Court is administered by Center for Youth, a community partner that offers emotional and social supports for youth, with the goal to reduce the potential of negative behaviors of

teens. The Committee also discussed the upcoming Legislative Breakfast and efforts to build a network of supporters to keep current on issues and concerns of the State and Local government and its effects on the District's students. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, October 17th to discuss a proposed revision of the Values Education policy (4311.2), review the Arts Education policy (4320), a proposed revision of the Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials policy (4010), a proposed revision of Preschool Education Programs policy (4320.5), and review changes to Superintendent regulation, "RCSD School Field Trips" (4400-R).

The Policy Committee continued review of proposed revisions to the Values Education policy, based on Bill Benet's suggestions. While members of the Committee supported the proposed revisions, it was decided to have the policy proposal reviewed by the Superintendent and Cabinet to consider ways in which it can be integrated into instruction. Their feedback will be reviewed in the November 14th Policy Committee meeting.

To streamline reporting processes, revisions have been proposed to the Equivalence in Instructional Staffing and Materials policy. The policy currently requires the Superintendent to report to the Board on equivalency among schools, but this is also a requirement of NYSED (annual "NYSED Comparability Report"). The proposed revision would allow the Superintendent to provide a copy of the NYSED report to the Board, along with any comments received from NYSED. This proposed revision is presented this evening as an Information Item.

Another Information Item involves the Arts Education policy (4320). While the Committee members and the Board continue to support arts education as an essential aspect of the curriculum and of student engagement, the existing policy simply repeats the language in State law and regulation. The Committee members thought it unnecessary (and misleading) to retain a policy which does not add any guidance specific to the District, so a decision was made to rescind it. This is also presented this evening as an Information Item.

Members of the Policy Committee also reviewed proposed revisions to the Preschool Education Programs policy (4320.5), which involve updating the criteria by which community-based providers are evaluated and including information about the instructional and operational elements required for pre-K programs. Committee members will continue to review this proposal in December, after the Director of Early Childhood Education (Robin Hooper) has had an opportunity to attend training regarding Common Core curriculum standards and requirements at this level.

The Committee also received information about changes to the Superintendent regulation, "RCSD School Field Trips". The revision allows parents to transport their own children for field trips, rather than requiring all children to take the school bus.

In the November Policy Committee meeting, changes to the School-Based Planning Team policy (2265) and to the Parent Involvement policy (1900) will be considered. Additional time was given for parent groups and other stakeholders to provide input and recommendations as to these policy changes. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th, following the Board Governance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: No report.

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: No report.

VIII. Resolutions

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 249 to remove Dawn Marcano from consideration made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 249: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 250-251: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 252-253: No resolutions submitted for October.

2013-14: 254-255: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 256: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 261 to remove Felicia Florence from consideration made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 257-261: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 262: No resolution submitted for October.

2013-14: 263-265: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 266-267: No resolutions submitted for October.

2013-14: 268-269: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 270: No resolution submitted for October.

2013-14: 271-277: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 278: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 279: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 280: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 281-289: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 290: Resolution removed from consideration.

2013-14: 291-299: Motion to adopt made by Vice President White, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Elliott expressed her concern for students and staff members placed in the facility at 690 St. Paul Street (175 Martin Street) managed by Genesee Valley Real Estate Company and informed the Board that she plans bring a resolution before the Board to enter into a lawsuit against Genesee Valley Real Estate Company to terminate the lease agreement between Genesee Valley Real Estate Company and the Rochester City School District (Rochester Board of Education). Commissioner Elliott added that she would propose such resolution every month until students and staff members are removed from the property.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Cruz at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Elliott at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 249 to remove Dawn Marcano from consideration made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 249: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 261 to remove Felicia Florence from consideration made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 261: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 7-0.