

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

April 24, 2014

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

President White convened the meeting at 6:35p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a student of Mary McLeod Bethune School No. 45.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the March 27th Business Meeting, April 2nd Special Meeting, and April 22nd Budget Hearing was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.
- III. **Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education presented the “Yes We Can” award to Principal Wakili Moore of the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Principal Moore and his staff have been closely monitoring student attendance and ensuring that students are involved and committed to academic performance. The average daily attendance rate at the Leadership Academy has increased from 85% to 87% in less than one full school year. Principal Moore and his staff have also reached out to parents to address larger problems outside of school, such as homelessness, transportation, and other concerns that affect student attendance. For their efforts in this attendance initiative, the dedicated leaders at the Leadership Academy for Young Men were presented with the “Yes We Can” Award. The “Yes We Can” Award was created by the Board of Education to recognize exemplary achievements by schools in the Rochester City School District.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Jamila Glover spoke about her son, student of School Without Walls, who was recognized as a Bright Spot Award recipient and the various supports that have offered by the school. Community member Emma Fleming spoke about the role of teachers and the value of education. Staff member Penny Carlson-Palma presented the Board with gifts from elementary art classes. Staff members Mary Courtney and David Wurz spoke about recent violent incidents occurring on or near the James Madison Campus housing Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy and the Rochester Early College International Academy.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Kimberly Igartua spoke favorably about the pre-kindergarten program. Parent Ronke Tapt spoke about the benefits of Montessori education and the negative impact of teachers not trained in Montessori education. Community member Jacqueline Cady spoke about the benefits of early childhood education.
- VI. **Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on how the District will use data to improve student achievement. Dr. Vargas spoke about the use of an early warning system for graduation and how the District has begun to collect and use data on attendance, ELA and math achievement results, retention and suspension to gauge the likelihood of high graduation. In concluding the presentation he noted that the data has shown:
 - Students who achieve in early years will graduate later
 - State assessments provide valuable information

- Teachers, principals and Central Office administrators must use data to target instruction and intervention

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet in the month of April. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. At that meeting, Freed Maxick, the External Auditor, will join the Committee to review the Audit Plan for the June 30, 2014 Independent Audit. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 17th to consider Resolution Nos. 2013-14: 603 through 619, and 625 through 626. The Committee recommends approval of the March 2014 Financial Report. Motion to accept the March Financial Reports made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans. The report was accepted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent. The Committee also recommends approval of the resolutions amending the 2013-14 RCSD budget. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15th, following the Board Governance and Policy Committee meetings. Commissioner Powell announced the following upcoming Budget Meetings: Budget Deliberation Session (Finance Committee Meetings of the Whole): Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. and the Special Meeting for Budget Adoption: Thursday, May 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet in the month of April.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The CIGR Committee continues to work offline to identify the most advantageous timeframe for providing input in the budget development phase at the State level. Board staff has coordinated with the Office of the Big Five Districts to arrange a meeting with key legislators, gubernatorial staff, and State Education Department officials in November after the election. It is expected that the Legislative Breakfast will take place after that time to invite the newly elected State legislators. The CIGR Committee will begin including a section on every meeting agenda regarding the current status of federal and state legislation to ensure that this is routinely monitored and opportunities for advocacy can more readily be identified. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th, at 6:00 p.m. because Vice President Elliott will be out on medical leave in May.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Thursday, April 17th the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss the following policy proposals:

- Revisions to Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900)
- Proposed Revision of School-Based Planning policy (2265) – for consideration
- Revisions to Visitors to the Schools policy (1240) – discussion item
- Student Records & Privacy Policy (5500) informational item
- Suspected Child Abuse Policy (5460) – informational item

Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900): The Policy Committee continued working with the district-wide Parent Advisory Council to develop amendments to the existing policy. Further revisions were

requested to ensure that practices within the policy would be implemented with fidelity. There were also changes to the wording of some sections to ensure consistency.

Student Records & Privacy Policy (5500): The revisions for this policy were discussed by the Committee. The revisions were minor changes to contact information within the policy. Changes were approved by the Committee.

Suspected Child Abuse Policy (5500): The revisions for this policy were discussed by the Committee. The revisions include:

- i. Restructuring Policy 5460 into two sections:
 1. Suspected Child Abuse and Maltreatment
 2. Suspected Child Abuse in an Educational Setting (new section)
- ii. New form: Child Abuse in an Educational Setting - Confidential Report of Allegation
- iii. Updated Superintendent's Regulations

Policies Requiring Deliverables (reporting requirements for superintendent to deliver to Board): The Committee discussed the report deliverables dates for 2014-2015 school year. Ed Lopez provided the updates. Report deliverables for 2013-2014 will be late due to this being the first cycle of reports.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th following the Finance and Board Governance Committee meetings.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee did not meet in the month of April.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Ms. Gallivan spoke about recent accomplishments of the Student Leadership Congress. She discussed the upcoming Student Talent Showcase and Auction and encouraged members of the Board and the community as a whole to attend the fundraising event to support the Student Leadership Congress's annual trip to Washington, DC.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parent Representative Makita Saloane: Ms. Saloane spoke about recent accomplishments and future plans of the Parent Advisory Council. Ms. Saloane schools were required to have a functioning parent group and School Base Planning Team by October 15th. She announced that according to the latest Office of Parent Engagement report, all of the District's schools are in compliance with having the minimum required amount of parents on the School Base Planning Team and 94% are in compliance for having a functional parent group. A functional parent group is defined by having at least two of the following executive team members in place, starting with a President, and another member of the executive team in place, either the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and at least 2 additional and working in conjunction with the School Administrative Team.

Ms. Saloane also announced the Annual School Based Planning Team Training, hosted by the Executive School Based Steering Committee was scheduled to be held in April, but was postponed to support the BOE Community Forum at East High. The Council is proposing to hold the training session at the June 13th Council meeting. She discussed the 40th Annual Title I Parent Event "RCSD Family Affair in the Park @ Charlotte Beach" on May 17th 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the upcoming Latino Parents Conference scheduled for June 14th.

Ms. Saloane mentioned that the Council was invited to review and make recommendations to Policy 1900 & 1900R and members submitted suggestions and met with the Policy committee to discuss the recommendations. In discussing future plans for the Council, Ms. Saloane noted that the Council's annual retreat is planned for this Saturday, September 28th at School No. 50. The Council is also currently recruiting new members and plans to hold an event with all of the school-based parent organizations' executive teams to establish a relationship and a conduit for information and to increase its visibility and access to parents through social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 573: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 574-575: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 576-578: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 579: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 580: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 581-585: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 586: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 587: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 588-592: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 593: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 594: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 595-601: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 602: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

2013-14: 603-634: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

- X. New Business:** Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the Visitors to School Policy, No. 1240 to the full Board as a Discussion Item the policy is scheduled to be considered by the Board at the May 2014 Business Meeting. Commissioner Cruz also presented proposed revisions to the Student Records and Privacy Policy, No. 5500 and proposed revisions to the Suspected Child Abuse Policy, No. 4560 as Information Items.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Powell at 8:27 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 9:13 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.

- XI. Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:13 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent.