

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
June 19, 2014

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

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

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a student in the audience.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the May 22nd Business Meeting, May 8th Renaissance Academy Charter School Public Hearing, and June 9th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 7:11 p.m.

- III. **Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education presented the “Yes We Can” Award to the Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19 Strings for Success program for their work in engaging students in a unique intensive violin program. Strings for Success was created in 2008 as the result of a collaboration between a group of professional violin teachers and the instrumental music teacher and administrator at the Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School. Initially, 16 students participated in the program. Today, over 100 students in grades 3 through 8 are enrolled in the program, which also partners with the Center for Youth. Rochester and surrounding communities have generously donated the musical instruments. Scholar Athletes in grades 7 through 12 were also recognized for their commitment to academic excellence and athletics. Rise-up Rochester Anti-Violence Poster Contest Winners were also recognized.

Commissioner Cruz left at 7:35 p.m.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers present.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Kani Trotten presented recyclable art creations. Student Treanna Hollingsworth spoke about safety issues resulting from the grade 7 through 12 configuration implemented in some of the District’s schools. Parents Anthony Canty, Znovia Nelson, and Barbara King spoke about the value of Special Education teachers and urged the Board to reinstate projected layoffs impacting Special Education. Parent Michelle Hill spoke about safety issues resulting from the grade 7 through 12 configuration implemented in some of the District’s schools. Community member Lori Thomas spoke about the harmful effects of Common Core Learning Standards on teaching and learning. Community member Van L. Smith spoke about the importance of parental and community involvement in education. Community member Cuevas Walker spoke about safety concerns in schools. Staff members Gina Cordaro, Paul Hetland, Dawn Hohmann, Kelly Ralonde, Adam Urbanski, Betsy Wing-Schroeder, Alison Skvarla, Paula Givens, Marne Kinney-Parmelee, Dawn Jones,

Candace Rubin, Drucilla Nichols, Howard Krug, Vickie Buckley, Renee Riefer, Michael Moellering, Daniel Delehanty, Ana Guevara, and Matt Lavonas spoke about the negative effects of assessments on teaching and learning. Staff member Jamie Schenk spoke about the demands on teachers due to Common Core Learning Standards. Staff member Gina Porter spoke about the need for new leadership at James Monroe High School. Staff member Donald Murphy spoke about the value of career and technical educational opportunities. Staff member Jennifer Hunt spoke about school safety issues and concerns. Staff member Jeffrey Feinberg spoke about the impact of assessments and testing on Special Education programming. Staff member Tamara Minter spoke in opposition to the abolishment of a behavioral support specialist position. Staff members Mary Beth Knowles and Paul Derycke spoke about rising concerns related to school safety. Staff member Annette Pennella-Martinez spoke about the harmful effects of assessments on bilingual students. Staff member Natasha Bell spoke about the poor management of James Monroe High School.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on summer learning. He noted that the District is working to implement more and better summer learning programs with outcomes tracked for all summer programs, attendance closely monitored and enforced, increased special education programming and more enrichment opportunities.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet in the month of May. The Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 22nd at 5:30 p.m., to review the Office of Auditor General Risk Assessment and Audit Plan for the 2014-15 school year. In addition, at the meeting on July 22nd the Committee will welcome our new Parent Representative Mr. Donald Redman and our Financial Expert Ms. Annie Sealy who will be returning for another year.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 12th to consider Resolution Nos. 2013-14: 729 through 758 and 777 through 778. The Committee recommends approval of the May 2014 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans. The reports were accepted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent. Commissioner Powell made a motion to table Resolution No. 2013-14: 782 presenting an agreement with Compass Group USA, Inc., Chartwells Division, to provide management of RCSD Food Services operations from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, with the option of an additional four one-year contract renewals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, June 10th to discuss student suspensions, grades K through 8 Science textbook selection, and review Resolution No. 2013-14: 774 (continuation of All City High School Program) and Resolution No. 2013-14: 770 (McKay Consulting). The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15th immediately following the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, June 10th, and discussed a number of substantive issues including, timing the Legislative Breakfast to align with the NYS budget cycle to maximize opportunities to obtain funding for legislative priorities; legislation adopted recently or pending at the federal or state level; and a draft resolution and sample

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the role of police in schools. While there are some legal issues involved in attempting to define the role of police in our schools, Committee members have been concerned about school climate, zero tolerance, and excessive student suspensions in the District. The draft resolution and MOU were presented as a way to initiate the process of changing the current climate. The Committee noted that alternative approaches have been implemented in several other districts in the State, notably NYC and Buffalo. Additional information will be sought to learn about the effectiveness of these approaches and of the considerations critical to implementation. In addition, Committee members reviewed current training provided to School Safety Officers (SSO) for engaging students, developing positive relationships with students, and de-escalating different types of crisis situations. The next CIGR Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Tuesday, June 12th the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss Student Records and Privacy (5500) , Arts Education Policy (4320), Local Wellness Policy (5405). In discussing the Student Records and Privacy Policy the Committee addressed items related to adding photographs to student directory and new legislation that provide school districts opportunity to opt out of sharing personally identifiable student information with outside organizations. Ms. Elizabeth Hanna, Associate Director of Music and Ms. Lydia Boddie-Rice, RCSD Administrator delivered a presentation including: an evaluation of the effectiveness of implementing the Arts Education Policy; identification of the challenges associated with reaching the goals identified as part of the policy as well as resources needed for success; actions the department has made to reach the goals related to this policy, including identifying school building challenges and strategically planning and responded to any challenges. The presentation was well received by the Committee and illustrated great efforts made by the Administration. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th following the Board Governance Committee meetings.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the May 2014 Business Meeting.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 698: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Campos, and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 699-701: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 702: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 703-704: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 705: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 706-714: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 715-719: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 720: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 721: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 3-1 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship, Vice President Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 722-723: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 724: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 3-1 with Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship, Vice President Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 725-728: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 729-730: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 731: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 732-734: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 735: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 736-739: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 740-754: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 755: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 756-759: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 760: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President White dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 761-762: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 763: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President White dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 764-768: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 769-770: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President White dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 771: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 772: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President White dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 773-774: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 775: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 776: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Rejected 0-5 with President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Powell dissenting; and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 777-781: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2013-14: 782 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2013-14: 783 to incorporate the following language: “Whereas, the Board recognizes and wishes to formally acknowledge and affirm the extraordinary array of community-based initiatives and programs by existing organizations whose efforts are aligned with these priorities; and” made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 783: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to waive the requirement that written materials must be delivered to each Board member no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to consideration made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 784: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented revisions to the Student Records and Privacy Policy, No. 5500, Values Education Policy, No. 4311.2, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, No. 1900 as Discussion Items to be considered by the Board at the July 2014 Business Meeting. Members of the Board made no comments on the proposed revisions.

XI. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 11:04 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

Vice President Elliott left at 11:04 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 11:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

XII. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Adams at 11:17 p.m. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.