

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

March 22, 2012

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

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

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the February 16<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** Commissioner Campos, Chair of the Wellness Committee, recognized the District's community partners in promoting wellness for students, families and staff.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Azisa Johnson spoke about issues that arise when middle-school students are placed in high-school settings. Student Lynnsee McGill spoke about the menu offerings and cafeteria settings of the school meal program. Student Brandon Rogers spoke about the recent initiatives of the Student Leadership Congress. Staff member Lori Thomas spoke about underlying issues that impact our students and school environments.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Kathy Simpson and Kishun Gause spoke in favor of the Hillside Work Scholarship Program. Staff member Ellen Hancock spoke about the importance of wellness behaviors to promote healthy students and academic achievement.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas recognized Pat Braus and the Rochester Education Foundation for their support in an instrument drive "Spring for Music" to benefit the District's music program. The "Spring for Music" instrument drive has resulted in over 800 musical instruments and equipment being donated to the District. This program of Rochester Education Foundation started in the Spring of 2005 as a collaboration with REF and the District. Dr. Vargas also noted he, Dr. Urbanski and President Evans have been invited to meet with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to discuss collaborative efforts. Dr. Vargas also recognized several schools for recent achievements, including the East High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
  - Audit Committee**

*Chair Mary Adams:* The Audit Committee did not meet since the February 2012 Business Meeting.
  - Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to consider resolutions. The Committee recommends approval of the February 2012 Financial Report. President Evans requested a motion to accept the February 2012 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and

seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

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

**Chair Van Henri White:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee has not met since the February 2012 Business Meeting.

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

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee has not met since the February 2012 Business Meeting.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Jose Cruz:** The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, March 13th to discuss: several proposals to create incentives for staff to reside in the District, and to increase staff diversity; transportation options; and proposed policies regarding audit functions.

In terms of incentives to increase staff residency in the District and also increase staff diversity, three different proposed policies have been presented for the Committee's consideration. Each proposed policy contains two components: 1) hiring and recruitment; and 2) housing and homeownership in the City. Additional time and consideration is needed for the Committee to determine the most advantageous policy in terms of advancing objectives without creating cumbersome administrative processes. A number of Policy Committee and smaller group meetings have been conducted to discuss the issue of expanding transportation services to protect student safety. Much larger issues are involved in implementing these changes: NYS law does not have any provision for large urban districts to establish "child safety zones" based on hazardous conditions. Therefore, NYS Transportation Aid is not available to cover the cost of additional transportation services within the 1 ½-mile distance limit. The Policy Committee intends to explore transportation options, primarily in terms of "hardening" the zone boundaries to contain costs. This cost containment will enable us to provide transportation to more students within each zone to ensure their safety. Additional time is needed to examine the implications of each option, and to notify families so that they can have time to plan and make their own decisions.

The Audit Committee approved several policies pertaining to audit functions, and forwarded them to the Policy Committee for review. All of these proposed policies were approved by the Policy Committee and are presented in the packet this evening as Information items. The proposed policies primarily describe the functions of the: Audit Committee, External Auditor, Internal Auditor, and Claims Auditor. As a result of scheduling conflicts and the multitude of meetings already scheduled in April, the next Policy Committee meeting will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will review a policy proposal to address the legal mandates contained in the *Dignity for All Students Act*, as well as continued discussion regarding transportation options and proposed policy to provide incentives for staff to reside in the District. In addition, we will be taking up a recommendation forwarded by the Diversity Committee to consider an amendment to Responsible Bidder policy to require that employees of contractors and subcontractors be representative of the larger Rochester community. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Melisza Campos:** The Governance Committee has not met since the February 2012 Business Meeting.

**Student Representative Report:** 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 Council Report:** Ms. Candice Lucas, President of the Parent Council, reported that Dr. Vargas recently presented the All-City High School Program to the Council. Ms. Lucas noted that Dr. Vargas and his leadership team have taken aggressive steps to increase parent engagement in discussions around the All-City High School Program. However, because the results of the increased communication to parents on the program have not been reported, Ms. Lucas stated that the Council is still opposed the District's proposal to pursue an alternative school program. She also spoke about the Council's interest in School Food Services, the April Council meeting, and the upcoming Title I Conference, scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, where theme will be health and wellness for students and families.

## VIII. Resolutions

**2011-12: 604-632:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 633-648:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 649:** Motion to amend Resolution No. 2011-12: 649 to reflect full-day Kindergarten instruction was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-12: 649 was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None.

**X. New Business:** Policies related to the District's internal auditing practices were introduced an information items.

**XI.** President Evans requested a **motion to enter into executive session** to discuss personnel matters related to a specific individual. Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell, adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent at 8:37 p.m.

**XII. Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos, adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:12 p.m.

**2011-12: 603:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Cruz and Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:15 p.m.