

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting December 15, 2011

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:35 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 November 17th Business Meeting and November 21st Special Meeting made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioners Elliott absent.
- III. **Recognition:** The Board received musical selections from the School of the Arts Choir and recognized the service contributions of former Board members Karen Grella and Catherine Spoto.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 7:00 p.m.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Shasona Moran, Augusto Manon, Grishemary Rosado, Angel Aristor, Zhane Coleman, Nijay Harris, Travis Harrington and Parent Alicia Evans spoke in support of the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Students Shantasia Watson and Adeeba Maryl spoke in support of the programming and services provided by the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Program. Parents Tiffany O'Brien, Ayesha Kreutz, and Brian White spoke in opposition to the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Community member Orlando Harris spoke in favor of Health Education. Community members De'Chele Hester, Carmen Jones, Jennifer Carey, and Thaddeus Price spoke in favor of the Board's proposed revision to the AIDS Instruction Policy. Community members Barbara Sieber, Michael Singer, and Trudy Jansen spoke in opposition to the Board's proposed revision to the AIDS Instruction Policy. Staff member Lori Thomas spoke in opposition to the recently proposed school portfolio plan.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Staff members Marisa DeMario and Liz Hanan spoke about the benefits of music programming and curriculum.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on Title I funding, Phase-Out Schools and Alternative School programming. Dr. Vargas highlighted various Title I funding options that could be pursued by the District to enhance student services including extended day programming, Saturday School programming and addition intervention programming throughout the school day. He also spoke about existing extended day and Saturday School programming that exists throughout the District to provide students with Regents exam preparation. In discussing the Phase-Out Schools and Alternative School programming, Dr. Vargas spoke about our current school portfolio, enrollment trends, and the school selection and placement process.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee met on November 29th with Freed Maxick & Battaglia, our external auditors, to review their audit results for the District's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2011.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, December 8th to consider Resolutions No. 2011-12: 402 through 408. The Committee recommends approval of the November 2011 Financial Report. The draft 2012-13 Budget Development calendar was presented to the Committee. The deliberation sessions have not yet been scheduled, and will have to take place after April 3rd, when the Superintendent is scheduled to present the budget to the Board. President Evans requested a motion to accept the November 2011 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on January 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, December 7th to continue discussion of the creation of another performing arts school and to receive an overview of the District's K-8 Program. The committee also discussed costs, staffing and housing related to adding another performing arts school to the existing portfolio of schools. The administration gave a presentation on the K-8 Implementation Plan. The presentation listed the current K-8 buildings that are included in the plan. They are as follows: School Nos. 4, 5, 8, 16, 17, 19, 29, 44, 45 and 58. It is the administration's recommendation that the following schools be added to the K-8 Implementation Plan and reconfigured to k-8 models commencing the 2012-2013 school year: Nos. 2, 9 and 22. Because of the physical condition of the 22 School building, the committee had serious concerns about adding more students there. There was consensus that School 22 should be severed from the resolution to reconfigure the school to a K-8 model. The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee will review the mandated Comprehensive Education Plans for 12 schools on Monday, January 23, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet in December. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, December 8th to continue review and discussion of draft policy proposals to address mandates in Special Education. In addition, a draft Superintendent regulation was presented regarding independent educational evaluations. Quite a few regulations are anticipated in the future to implement the 22 policy proposals in Special Education and to ensure consistency throughout the District in addressing parental rights and notification, evaluations, instruction and services to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The members of the Policy Committee approved all 22 policy proposals, which are being introduced in this evening's meeting as Information Items. This is the last major area for revising the Policy Manual to comply with legal mandates.

In response to requests made in the November 15th Policy Committee Meeting of the Whole regarding transportation and student safety, crime statistics were presented to indicate the level of criminal activity in which youth were victims and based on zip code to give a rough indication of the location and schools

that are affected. The Committee agreed that additional data is needed for all criminal activity – not just those in which children were the victims, and to map this data to specific locations to indicate the schools that are affected. We also decided to investigate the NYS safety standards in preparation for approaching SED to request additional transportation reimbursement in those areas that present significant risk to student safety. The members of the Policy Committee also decided to examine the estimated costs associated with expanding transportation services in high-risk areas and compare this to the cost savings from strengthening the zone boundaries. This work will continue into next year in an effort to identify actions that can be taken for the 2012-13 school year and beyond.

The Policy Committee also reviewed and considered a proposed Employee Residency policy, which would require employees hired after a specified date to maintain residency in the District. Discussions will be held with collective bargaining representatives to obtain input and suggestions regarding this proposed policy.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on January 19th, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held on January 19th.

Diversity Committee (ad hoc)

Chair Van Henri White: The Diversity Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting of the Committee has not yet been scheduled.

Student Representative Report: None.

VIII. Resolutions

2011-12: 383-384: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 385: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2011-12: 386-387: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 388: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2011-12: 389-392: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 393: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2011-12: 394-397: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 398-401: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2011-12: 402-412: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

Resolution No. 2011-12: 409 was pulled

2011-12: 413-414: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 4-3 with Commissioners Williams, Elliott and Powell dissenting.

2011-12: 415-423: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Vice President Cruz presented a proposed revision to the AIDS Instruction Policy as a Discussion Item.

XI. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 11:45 p.m.