

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting November 17, 2011

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President Cruz, and Commissioners Campos, 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 October 27<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Powell absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Jade Wilburn, John Mosley and Wahazit Habtemichael spoke in support of the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection. Students Lynnsee McGill, Azisa Johnson, Kaisean Roseboro, DeJuan Steele, Ruby Melendez, John Marshall and Summer Adams spoke in support of the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Students Sarah Brown and Tiara Brown spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of Dag Hammarskjold School No. 6. Parents Yesenia Quinones and Jimmy Nash spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of Dag Hammarskjold School No. 6. Parents Dahlia Merced, Sheila Driscoll, and Isabel Rosa spoke in support of the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Parent Lorraine Whitehouse spoke in opposition to the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Parents Margaret McFerran and Robin Brown spoke in opposition to the proposed closing of Dag Hammarskjold School No. 6. Community members Lekeyah Wilson, Sharon Kodjoe, Mary Terziani, John Franklin, and Jake Spezio spoke in opposition to the Board's proposed revision of AIDS Instruction Policy. Community members Tim Welder and Zaviour Johnson spoke about the need to address the needs of youth ages 11 to 15 by developing an alternative education program. Community members Jane Tuttle, Kaelyn Rich, Carrie Andrews, Sarah Lenhard and Angie Santiago spoke about the need to address student wellness. Staff member Lori Thomas spoke about the need to impose disciplinary measures for the District's measures.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community members Tomeka Smith and Kendall Sanders spoke in favor of the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Program. Staff member Sally Bubb spoke about the need to provide library resources for the District's students. Staff member Marisa DeMario spoke about the benefits of music programming and curriculum.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the proposed transition plan for School No. 6. He highlighted the current enrollment trends and challenges along with proposed solutions that includes realized savings as a result of operational efficiencies related to closing the school. In doing so, Dr. Vargas provided information on financial and instructional impacts, family choice options, and community outreach efforts associated with the closure of School No. 6.

**VII. President's Report:** President Evans presented the charge to the ad hoc advisory Superintendent Search Committee. He noted that the Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating all relevant and appropriate information pertaining to the recruitment, identification and appointment of a permanent Superintendent of Schools. President Evans also spoke about upcoming outreach events of the committee.

**VIII. Board Reports:  
Audit Committee**

*Chair Allen Williams:* The Audit Committee did not meet in the month of October. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> to consider resolutions 301 through 305, and 314. The Committee reviewed the September 2011 Financial Report, Quarterly Change Order Report for July – September 2011 and a Summary Report of M/WBE Participation in Capital Projects for 2010-11. President Evans requested a motion to approve the September 2011 Financial Report, Quarterly Change Order Report for July – September 2011 and a Summary Report of M/WBE Participation in Capital Projects for 2010-11. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent. It was noted that the District has exceeded the overall goal for M/WBE participation of 10.47% of public works dollars, and actually achieved 14.05% in 2010-11. Since this higher level of participation has been attained on a regular basis for some time now, the Finance Committee members discussed the possibility of conducting another disparity study to determine whether these goals should be increased.

In addition, the members of the Finance Committee discussed accounting for discontinued Student Activity Funds; recommendations for enhancing monitoring of District property (tagging items and conducting annual inventory); and amending the Fund Balance policy to create reserve funds for Workers' Compensation and Insurance Claims and include health insurance payments for retirees in the Committed Fund Balance.

The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Policy Committee meeting.

**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, to receive an update of the Portfolio of Schools, and to begin the preliminary discussion on the creation of a second performing arts school.

The Center for Governmental Research (CGR) was commissioned to prepare an evaluation of the District's new schools. The CGR focused on the Rochester Early College International High School, Integrated Arts and Technology High School, Robert Brown School of Construction and Design, Rochester STEM High School and Vanguard Collegiate High School. Staff from CGR shared their key findings with the committee, along with its methodology for the findings. CGR also shared test results of the students attending the new schools as compared with all RCSD students.

Following CGR's update was the discussion around the creation of a second performing arts school. The Administration presented an overview of the current School of the Arts (SOTA) which included attendance rates and graduation rates. The overview also included what would be needed to create a second SOTA. These needs include the following: available funding, staffing and facilities.

The Administration will provide the committee with the following data at the December Excellence in Student Committee Meeting to aid in determining whether or not it is feasible to move forward with the creation of another performing arts school. Administration will provide entrance criteria for students auditioning to attend SOTA; including demand for each area (i.e. dance, creative writing, performing arts, instrumental music, visual arts, etc.). Administration will provide data outlining pros/cons around the creation of another performing arts school. Administration will provide data for the last three years detailing results of auditions. Including how many students scored 10, 9, etc., also including the ranking of students both accepted and rejected for each year. Administration will provide cut score data for each discipline for the last three years including highest to lowest ranking to fill seats. In addition to the Administration returning to provide the above mention information, the committee will also review the mandated Comprehensive Education Plans for 12 schools, which requires the December ESA Committee Meeting to be a Committee Meeting of-the-Whole.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7th, at 6:00 p.m.

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

*Chair Cynthia Elliott:* The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policy Committee**

*Chair Jose Cruz:* The Policy Committee met on Thursday, November 10th to review draft policy proposals to address mandates in Special Education. As an indication of the extent to which this field is regulated, a total of 22 new or revised Special Education policies were presented. This is the last major section of the Policy Manual to be updated with regard to legal mandates. The members of the Policy Committee will review the proposed policies and formulate questions for discussion in the December meeting.

Members of the Policy Committee also discussed the need to establish a minimum level of Arts Education in terms of staffing in schools, standards, and scheduling classes to ensure accessibility for all students. Music teachers are currently gathering data to present to the Excellence in Student Achievement (ESA) Committee in January. The Policy Committee will resume discussion of this topic in January, after the data has been presented to the ESA Committee and discussions have been held within the Administration.

In addition, a Policy Committee Meeting of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, November 15th, to discuss a proposed amendment to Transportation policy and to explore options for expanding transportation services for elementary school students to ensure their safety in transit to school. Senior Director of Operations, Jerome Underwood, gave a presentation of a range of transportation options and the costs associated with each. A very lively and productive discussion ensued and yielded “hybrid” suggestions of eliminating the distance limit in certain neighborhoods based on data indicating a real threat to public safety. Mr. Underwood will be contacting RPD to obtain data regarding public safety incidents affecting RCSD students and incidents occurring at bell time (just before and just after the school day).

To implement a change in transportation practices for the upcoming 2012-13 school year, a decision would have to be made no later than the end of December because this will also affect student placement. We are on a fast track with this issue, and plan to convene another Policy Committee Meeting of the Whole to continue the discussion as soon as the data is available.

The next meet of the Policy Committee has been scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Governance Committee**

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

### **Diversity Committee (ad hoc)**

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Diversity Committee met on Monday, November 14th to discuss the Responsible Bidder Policy, the District's staffing policies and the use of the Haberman Star Teacher Interview Selection Process, and co-op and internship opportunities available for District students. The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, December 12th at 4:00 p.m.

**Student Representative Report:** The Student Leadership Congress recorded an episode of Citywise with area teens to discuss topics of interest, including social networking, bullying, and student wellness. The SLC also participating in recent volunteering experiences at School No. 39 where they tutored elementary students. The next meeting of the SLC is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **IX. Resolutions**

**2011-12: 332-333:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 334-336:** Resolutions pulled.

**2011-12: 337-358:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 359-361:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 362:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 363-372:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional relationship.

**2011-12: 373:** Motion to separate Resolution No. 2011-12: 373 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. Motion to table Resolution No. 2011-12: 373 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 374:** Motion to separate Resolution No. 2011-12: 374 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent. Motion to table Resolution No. 2011-12: 374 made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner White. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2011-12: 375:** Resolution pulled.

**2011-12: 376-378:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**X. Unfinished Business:** None.

**XI. New Business:** Vice President Cruz presented a revision to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Regulation to the Board as a Discussion Item. He explained that a great deal of input was received regarding revisions to the policy. Vice President Cruz highlighted major changes to the policy including the implementation of National Standards for School – Family Partnerships, which are aligned with the District’s Strategic Plan; clarification of eligibility to serve on District-wide parent organizations, such as the Parent Council; and a description of the process for parents to file grievances. The corresponding regulation describes activities at the district-level and school-level to increase parent involvement; procedures and timeframes for responding to parent grievances; and an annual evaluation of outcomes, which is to be reported to the Board each July.

Vice President Cruz presented a proposed revision to the AIDS Instruction Policy as an Information Item.

**XII.** 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 Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Powell, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:20 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 9:30 p.m.  
Commissioner Elliott left at 11:30

**Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Campos, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 11:30 p.m.

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