

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

October 27, 2011

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

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

- I. Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the September 22nd Business Meeting, October 6th Special Meeting, October 11th Special Meeting and October 11th Public Hearing made by Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Azisa Johnson, Na'im Wilcox, Cornequa Thornton, DaJuan Steele and Xiomara Medina spoke in favor of condom availability in schools. Parent Howard Eagle spoke in opposition to the Board engaging a search firm to recruit the next Superintendent of Schools. Community members Wallace Smith, Dan Drmacich and Tim Adams spoke in opposition to the Board engaging a search firm to recruit the next Superintendent of Schools. Community member Mia Hodgins commended the Board on appointing a search committee and asked the Board to consider additional executive search firms to facilitate the search process. Community members Bill Finan, Eugene Clancy, David Walling and Chris McCamic spoke in opposition to the Board engaging a search firm to conduct the search for a permanent superintendent. Staff members Richard Hendricks and Brett Crandall asked the Board to consider the Interim Superintendent for the Superintendent of Schools position and consider adding staff to the search committee. Staff member Lori Thomas spoke in opposition to the Board engaging a search firm to conduct the search for a permanent superintendent.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Brian White, Ayesha Kreutz, Lorraine Whitehouse, Tiffany O'Brien and Ronald Sykes spoke in opposition to the availability of condoms in schools. Parents Yolanda Green and Ernest Green spoke about the need for safe transportation and making the budget available online for parents and community members. Community members Jacqueline Cady, Marsha Dumka and Nancy Kaplan spoke in support of early childhood initiatives. Community members Clayton Walker, Kamila Barnes, Charod Cintron, Sarah Lenhard, Thaddeus Price, John Franklin and Jake Spezio spoke in favor condom availability in schools. Community members Jann Armantrout and Cuevas Walker spoke in opposition to condom availability in schools. Staff members Liz Hanan and Marisa DeMario thanked the Board for restoring music programming.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the how the District will respond to the projected budget gap for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. He highlighted the current enrollment trends and challenges along with proposed solutions that includes realized savings as a result of operational efficiencies.
- VII. 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 Commissioners White absent at 9:22 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Campos, adopted 6-0 with Commissioners White absent at 10:59 p.m.

VIII. 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.

**IX. Board Reports:
Audit Committee**

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet in the month of September. However, the Committee members individually received and reviewed selected financial schedules prior to submission to the City of Rochester. President Evans requested a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Audit and the Adult Education Follow-up Audit. Motion to accept the reports made Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Commissioner Williams noted that the reports will be posted to Board's website for public access.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 20th 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 10th, immediately following the Policy Committee meeting.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, October 17th, to receive a report from the Department of Teaching and Learning around the C3; Core to college to career. The new Common Core Standards are rigorous instruction and integrated implementation. The committee was brought up to date on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as well as Mathematics. These standards outline what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level, from Pre-K to 12, in order to meet the national standards for college and career readiness.

The new standards help to push our agenda on a rigorous education for our students. Previously, the standard said to teach a particular subject, but it did not cite the depth of knowledge and skill that needed to be instilled in students to allow them to be critical thinkers and prepared for college and career readiness. By utilizing these standards teachers for each grade level should be able to build off the model that was used in each previous grade level. These new Common Core Standards will be tied to teacher evaluations beginning this year with 4th to 8th grade teachers; and next year all teachers will be evaluated using the new Common Core Standards.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 17th, at 6:00 p.m., at which time the committee will receive an update on the portfolio of schools and a preliminary discussion focused on the creation of a SOTA West.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on October 18th to discuss the Board's Draft 2011-12 Legislative Agenda. Commissioner Elliott suggested that a Board Retreat be held to address the 2011-12 Legislative Agenda to ensure that the Full Board has input into what should be included in the Legislative Agenda around the Board's priorities. Legislative Agenda suggestions include: increased funding for early childhood programs, extension of school year, increased funding for summer school programs, mutual collaboration with the City on initiatives and opportunities for shared services, collaboration with City in providing funding for Pathways to Peace, elimination of the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law including tenure and the LIFO Bill, statutory authority to extend tenure beyond three years, and funding to modernize Central Kitchen.

The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, October 20th to discuss a number of proposed policies. A great deal of input has been obtained regarding revisions to the Parent Involvement policy: from the Parent Council, School-Based Planning Teams, school PTA/PTOs, and public forums. The revised policy is presented in this evening's meeting as an Information Item. Major changes to the policy include: National Standards for School – Family Partnerships, which are also aligned with the District's Strategic Plan; clarification of eligibility to serve on District-wide parent organizations, such as the Parent Council; and 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.

The Parent Forum held on October 12th regarding reproductive health education was intended to gather input from parents of high school students in our District. Unfortunately, the majority of attendees (40 out of 62) were not parents of our students, and in many cases were not even residents of the District. In any case, the members of the Policy Committee reviewed proposed revisions to the AIDS Instruction policy and a corresponding regulation to establish a Condom Availability Program. The proposed policy will be advanced to the full Board in the November Business meeting as an Information Item.

An overview of the teacher tenure process was provided by Jacqueline Polito and Bethany Centrone. The ensuing discussion focused on providing the Board with additional information in resolutions to grant tenure, while also adhering to privacy concerns surrounding these personnel matters. Recommendations are to be presented in the November Policy Committee meeting. The members of the Policy Committee also reviewed the Code of Conduct and engaged in a brief discussion of the ways in which it may have to be modified in the future to incorporate the requirements of the "Dignity for All

Students Act” regarding bullying. Chuck Johnson reviewed the major requirements of this law: prohibiting bullying based on a student’s weight along with race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; and requiring each school to have a staff member fully trained to address situations involving harassment or bullying.

Concerns were presented about the requirements of Professional Services Contracting policy potentially hindering the District’s ability to obtain competitive grants. Competitive grants may require collaboration with a community partner as part of the application process. The concern is that the requirement to issue a Request for Information (RFI) or Request for Proposal (RFP) would significantly delay the process and thereby make the District less able to compete for these grants. The members of the Policy Committee decided to monitor this process, as the Professional Services Contracting policy only went into effect on September 15th. There has not been enough time or experience to determine whether these policy provisions will cause a significant problem obtaining competitive grants.

A new regulation establishing specific criteria for participating in extracurricular activities was also presented to the Policy Committee. In general, students will be required to maintain a 2.0 GPA and 90% attendance in all classes to be able to participate in athletics or any other types of extracurricular activities. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 10th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee did not meet in October, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th.

Diversity Committee (ad hoc)

Chair Van Henri White: The Diversity Committee met on October 18th to discuss the Responsible Bidder Policy, the Proposed Recruitment and Hiring Policy, the District's staffing practices, and the development of an Opportunity Fair. The committee was presented with proposed amendment of the Responsible Bidder Policy, No. 6725 that requires contractors to employ a workforce and subcontractors that are representative of the community. The proposed amendment mandates that lowest bidders submit information to substantiate their diversity efforts; including providing a copy of the organization’s non-discrimination policy; demographic survey of the organization’s workforce; and a demographic survey of the subcontractor(s) used. The Committee plans to forward this policy to the full Board for review next month. The Committee was presented with proposed amendments to the proposed Recruiting and Hiring Policy which provide a definition of Urban Experience. Under the amendment, Urban Experience could be defined as a minimum of 3 years maintaining permanent residence, working (at least 20 hours per week), or volunteering (at least 10 hours per week) in a city with a population of at least 125,000 residents. The Committee plans to forward this policy to the full Board for review next month. The Committee was presented with information on the District’s use of the Haberman Star Teacher Selection Interview Process. The Committee spoke about the need for an opportunity fair to inform the community, including contractors and potential employers about opportunities for employment and contracting with the District.

Student Representative Report: None.

X. Resolutions

2011-12: 283-295: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

- 2011-12: 296-300:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 301-305:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.
- 2011-12: 306:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship.
- 2011-12: 307:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 308:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional relationship.
- 2011-12: 309-310:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.
- 2011-12: 311:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 312:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.
- 2011-12: 313-315:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 316-318:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.
- 2011-12: 319-320:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting.
- 2011-12: 321:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 322:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 323:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.
- 2011-12: 324-331:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to take resolution No. 2011-12: 282 from the tabke made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Vice President Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

2011-12: 282: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

XI. Unfinished Business: None.

XII. New Business: Vice President Cruz presented a revision to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Regulation to the Board as an Information 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.

XIII. 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 Commissioners White absent at 11:28 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Campos, adopted 6-0 with Commissioners White absent at 11:49 p.m.

2011-12: 332: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

XIV. President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

XV. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent at 12:00 a.m.