

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

July 28, 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 6:38 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the May 26th Business Meeting, May 26th Charter School Hearings, June 6th Public Hearing, June 22nd Business Meeting, June 27th Special Meeting, June 28th Special Meeting and July 14th Special Meeting made by Commissioner Powell seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioners Campos and White absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized student winners of the Anti-Violence Poster Contest hosted by the Rochester Youth Violence Partnership. The Rochester Youth Violence Partnership, which is led by Strong Memorial Hospital at University of Rochester Medical Center and includes Rochester General Hospital and more than 30 other agencies, received an award from the American Hospital Association for improving community health. The first “Stop the Violence Poster Contest” was held in April 2010. All students in the Rochester City School District were eligible to enter the contest. Winners received prizes from the Rochester Youth Violence Partnership and had the opportunity to see their artwork up on billboards around the Rochester area.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Dominic Pickard and staff members Elizabeth Ristow, Molly Sanchez, Alison Skvarla, Marisa DeMario, Liz Hanan, Ellen Best, Diane Hamilton and Alicia Messenger spoke in opposition to cuts in the music program as presented in the District’s 2011/12 budget.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- VI. **Superintendent’s Report:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Vargas spoke about the work that his leadership team has undertaken to continue implementation of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. In his presentation he highlighted the theme: “Achieving educational excellence for all students: Planning, implementing and measuring strategic actions.” Dr. Vargas noted that his team focused on goals of the Strategic Plan that addressed student achievement, communications and allocation of resources. He also noted that some of his immediate concerns include promoting the District’s Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, encouraging literacy through the use of library resources, and implementing a strong wellness program that incorporates parental involvement and support.
- VII. **President’s Report:** President Evans began by announcing that the Board recently authorized a policy, effective September 15, 2011, Policy 6741 (Contracting for Professional Services), which requires that new professional service contracts of \$100,000 or more complete a Request for Proposal process (“RFPs”); and professional service contracts between \$35,000 and \$100,000 require a less formal

process – requests for information (“RFIs”). He noted that one important consideration in both the RFP and RFI selection process is the Board’s commitment to M/WBEs. In keeping with this commitment, the policy states: “individual/firm’s commitment to workplace diversity, working with Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs), and compliance with applicable laws and regulations prohibiting unlawful discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or marital status.”

President Evans also introduced Gladys Pedraza Burgos, Chief of Youth Development and Family Services, to present awards to student winners of the Anti-Violence Poster Contest hosted by the Rochester Youth Violence Partnership.

VIII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet as a Committee in July; however, all Board members were given an opportunity to meet individually with the Auditor General during the Risk Assessment process. As required by the fiscal accountability legislation, the Audit Plan identifies the planned work that will be performed by the Office of Auditor General during the 2011/12 fiscal year. Motion to accept the 2011/12 Audit Plan was made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: No report.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, July 11th, to receive a presentation from the Community Education Taskforce’s Working Principles for Educational Change Committee and an update on Special Education (Specialized Services) from the Department of Teaching and Learning. CETF’s Working Principles for Educational Change Committee expressed interest in duplicating educational models and best practices that have been successful in the District, i.e. School Without Walls, World of Inquiry and the School of the Arts. They recommended replicating these models by opening a School Without Walls and a School of the Arts on the east and west sides of the city. The Committee also received an update on the Special Education review process that is used to determine whether or not a student is in need of specialized services, and received data that noted graduation rates and suspensions of students receiving special education services. Because of the extensive nature of the Special Education presentation, coupled with the time constraints of the Committee meeting, Commissioner White requested that Administration resume the Special Education presentation at the Committee’s next meeting. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 12th, at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month as the CIGR Committee meetings have been suspended during the summer. The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, July 26th to review and discuss input from the Audit Committee regarding a new proposed policy establishing guidelines for public disclosure of information in final audit reports by the Auditor General's Office. The committee did not receive any comments from the Audit Committee. The Committee also considered recommendations from the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee regarding development of a policy for HIV/STD prevention, based on input received in the Health Forum they conducted. Gladys Pedraza Burgos provided the committee with information about her office's progress on the issue. She also shared a draft of a policy document. Commissioners Elliott and White joined the committee. The Committee discussed the new policy and its implications going forward. The Committee also received input from a number of members of the Safe Sex, Inc. group. The Committee agreed to continue the dialogue and to insure that the community was well represented in the feedback process and that opinions from all sides of the debate are considered. An additional recommendation was offered to organize a youth and parent forum around this policy. The Committee committed to dedicating a portion of next month's meeting to continuing the conversation on HIV/STD prevention and condom availability.

The Committee also considered a new draft policy regarding management, accounting, and reporting of the General Fund Balance to comply with new standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. In addition, the Committee received two presentations on data regarding District transportation options, policies related to Accountability, and improving student retention by changing eligibility for promotion to the next grade.

A number of policies are presented this evening for our consideration, and almost all of these are to comply with legal mandates, including resolutions to adopt a Fingerprinting policy (new), a Videoconferencing policy (new), and a proposed revision of Board By-Laws (2300). The Committee also brings the Internal Audit Reports Policy as a Discussion Item and the Fund Balance Policy as an Information Item.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Meliza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met Tuesday, July 26th to discuss the implementation of BoardDocs, staff evaluations, the 3rd Annual Community Reach-Out and the 2011/12 Proposed Meeting Calendar. The Committee discussed the Board's recent implementation of BoardDocs and use of the system in anticipation of a rollout to the public in September or October 2011. The Committee reviewed evaluation tools and recommends that the performance of the Board's management staff, including the Special Assistant to the Board, Auditor General and Supervising Claims Auditor be made using 360 Degree Feedback Surveys and Competency Reviews. Motion to accept the evaluation tools was made by Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0. The Committee also reviewed and recommends acceptance of the proposed 2011/12 calendar (on the dais for your review). The meeting calendar for the 2011/12 fiscal year, is modeled after the 2010/11 calendar previously accepted by the Board. Motion to accept the meeting calendar made by Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0. The next Board Governance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Student Representative Report: NONE

Motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m. made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Resolutions

2011-12: 45: Placeholder withdrawn.

2011-12: 46-51: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 52: Motion to amend Resolution No 2011-12: 52 to change the first year of the contract extension, through July 31, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$139,579. Motion carries 5-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to adopt Resolution No 2011-12: 52 was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2011-12: 53: Motion to amend Resolution No 2011-12: 53 to change the first year of the contract extension, through July 31, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$10,694. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

Motion to adopt Resolution No 2011-12: 53 was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 54: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 55: Motion to amend Resolution No 2011-12: 55 to change the third year of the contract extension, through July 31, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$28,179. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

Motion to adopt Resolution No 2011-12: 55 was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 56: Motion to amend Resolution No 2011-12: 56 to change the third year of the contract extension, through July 31, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$920,429. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

Motion to adopt Resolution No 2011-12: 56 was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 57: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 58-66: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting.

2011-12: 67: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2011-12: 68-69: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting.

2011-12: 70-77: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner White left at 9:50 p.m.

2011-12: 78: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 79: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 80: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 81-82: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 83: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 84-87: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 88: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 89-90: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 91: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 92-93: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 94: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 95-97: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 98: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 99: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 100-102: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 103: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 104: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 105: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 106-113: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 114-115: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 116-118: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 119: Resolution pulled.

2011-12: 120-126: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

2011-12: 127: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

- X. Unfinished Business:** None.
- XI. New Business:** Vice President Cruz presented the Internal Audit Reports Policy as a Discussion Item, and noted that the intent of the policy is to establish a process for the public release of the internal audit reports. Vice President Cruz also introduced the Fund Balance Policy which is designed to govern the maintenance of a reasonable unrestricted general fund balance.
- XII.** President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m.
- XIII. Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent at 11:00 p.m.