

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting**  
**April 19, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Attending**

Commissioners - Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Willa Powell (arrived 6:10PM), President Van White (Conference Call by Phone)

District Staff –Adele Bovard (District Liaison and Deputy Superintendent of Administration), Linda Cimusz (Interim Superintendent), Annmarie Lehner (Chief Information Officer)

Parent Representative – Felix Jacobs

Board Staff –Mia Johnson

Commissioner Adams called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

**I. Review of Minutes of March 15, 2016 CIGR Meetings**

Motion by Commissioner Adams to approve the minutes of March 15, 2016 CIGR Meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 2-0 with concurrence from the Parent Representative.

**II. Presentation: New York Broadband Grant Application for the Community Broadband Project - Adele Bovard (Deputy Superintendent) and Annmarie Lehner (Information Technology Officer)**

Ms. Lehner stated her purpose was to inquire from the committee next steps in the project's process. She stated that the project's grant application was submitted. She described that she has been working with the City of Rochester throughout the entire process and discussed the need for a formal agreement and partnership – an inter-municipal agreement— if the grant is awarded. Ms. Bovard suggested potentially working with the 3-on-3-on-3 group because it is an established group that works on this type of sharing between the school district and the City. Commissioner Adams stated that the RCSD Legal Department takes lead on inter-municipal agreements.

Commissioner Hallmark inquired about the project's timeline. Ms. Lehner responded that the application was submitted and there are four additional phases to the grant released in one year.

Mr. Jacobs asked if the department has the resources to support a project of such magnitude. Ms. Lehner responded that the group does not have such resources and this

is why applying to the grant. Ms. Bovard responded that they have met with funders in the community, United Way, Finger Lakes Economic Development, and the City of Rochester. Ms. Lehner stated that a coalition of five cities has been established in support of urban centers in New York State to provide free broadband access. She further stated that letters of support came from the Mayor Warren, Superintendent Cimusz, Board President Van White, a representative of Robert Duffy, a Vice President at the University of Rochester, and several others.

Commissioner Powell stated that her conversation with people in Albany during the Lobby Day include conversation with the Governor's Office and staff people who supported and stated that the community wi-fi applications were among the strongest applications.

Commissioner Adams asked if the project is leveraging Smart School Bond money. Ms. Lehner responded that the Community Broadband Project grant is a matching grant and the Smart School Bond grant application had a component for community broadband. She further explained that part of the match is from the Smart School Bond money. She stated that the match submitted is \$6 million from the Smart School Bond Act, the vendor would contribute an \$8 million investment (in-kind), \$16 million as a match.

Ms. Lehner stated that the proposal is for a gigabyte city using a fiber to the home initiative for 90,000 home in the City. She stated that homes would be connected to the fiber network and provide services free to certain level with the option to upgrade to provide students and residents with access.

Ms. Bovard stated that the Smart Bond will help with the 1 to 1 initiative enabling students to use their device and extend their learning day through technology. Commissioner Adams asked if the 1 to 1 initiative is covered 100% by the Smart Schools grant. Ms. Bovard confirmed and the Information Technology Department is creating an implementation plan. Ms. Lehner stated that the 1 to 1 initiative is for students in grades 3 through 12 and there will be a Board resolution for preliminary approval.

Commissioner Adams stated that the next step is to work with the RCSD Legal Department to develop an inter-municipal agreement. President White suggested discussing this initiative in the 3-on-3-on-3 group. Commissioner Adams agreed that the 3-on-3-on-3 group might bring support from Monroe County. Ms. Lehner stated that the Monroe County owns most of the fiber in the City and County and it is the hope to use the county's existing fiber for a low or no cost. She stated that the County and the City just submitted a joint RFP to study the County/City's fiber and to determine who owns what. She described that the County is involved and aware and she will be meeting with the County and City's CIOs

### **III. Presentation: Socio-Economic Integration Work and Additional Work in the Community to Integrate Schools from Great Schools for All – Adele Bovard (Deputy Superintendent)**

Ms. Bovard described the Socio-Economic Integration Work as leveraging the existing 50 year old Urban-Suburban Program, the only one of its kind in the State, and its partnerships. She stated that when the Socio-Economic grant was released by former NYS Commissioner John King, the District wrote three different proposals and strands based on the existing Urban-Suburban Program. She stated that there are two pilot programs: (1) A partnership between Brighton and the Dual Language Program at School No. 12 where the students and teachers participate in a pen pal exchange and four quarterly events centered around dual language and (2) A partnership between West Irondequoit and School No. 50 where the Superintendent of West Irondequoit Jeff Crane will hand select 5 families and students to enroll in the full day Pre-K program at School No. 50. She stated that it is currently the planning year of the grant and implementation,

Commissioner Hallmark asked if suburban families will pay tuition to attend District schools. Ms. Bovard responded that within the two smaller grants, there will not be an exchange of tuition because it will be funded through the grant. She described that third strand of the grant application as broader and will include an exchange tuition because it is leveraging the Socio-Economic grant and the Suburban-Urban work mirroring the Urban-Suburban program with an application process and principal interviews. She described the following schools to be included in the Suburban-Urban program due to its unique attributes: (1) East High School – Teaching & Learning Institute; (2) P-Tech; (3) Wilson Commencement – IB Program; (4) Edison - career pathways designed for employment within the Finger Lakes region; (5) School No. 50; and (6) Leadership Academy – an all-male school with ROTC. She stated that the application deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> and she has met with all the suburban middle school principals.

Commissioner Hallmark asked about the seat availability. Ms. Bovard stated that P-Tech has about 3 to 4 seats for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, Edison has about 5 to 10 seats starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade with some openings in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, East High School is dependent upon the EPO, Wilson has about 5 to 10 seats starting the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and Leadership Academy has 2 to 3 seats for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Commissioner Powell inquired about the reasons for open seating with Wilson's IB program. Ms. Bovard stated that at this point, Wilson's IB is not highly selective due to the compact. Commissioner Adams asked the exiting 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilson Foundation enrolling into Wilson Commencement. Ms. Bovard responded that approximately 35 students from Wilson Foundation are projected to attend Wilson Commencement and that there has been drop in the number of students transitioning from Wilson Foundation to Wilson Commencement.

Commissioner Adams stated that P-Tech could have the potential issue of bumping District students and there is a need to address high demand schools and the gatekeeping measures facing parents. She wants to ensure that qualifying District students are informed about P-Tech. Ms. Bovard described the rigorous curriculum of P-Tech and their desire for students with a strong English profile. Ms. Bovard stated that P-Tech was difficult to fill last year.

Ms. Bovard stated that the Socio-Economic Grant Task Force is comprised of suburban superintendents and community partners to discuss parent involvement and logistics of the grant. She described that Great Schools for All is helping to spread the information and there was joint communication to the Federal government about allocating money to support the work. President White commended Ms. Bovard for the innovative idea/work and attempting to break the concentration of poverty. Ms. Bovard stated that P-Tech is aggressively recruiting from charter schools.

#### **IV. Legislative Updates**

The Commissioners, Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent discussed the Maximum Cost Allowance and the proposed transportation legislation.

Motion by Commissioner Adams to adjourn. Adopted 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:56PM.