

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

March 23, 2017

Board Members Present: President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner José Cruz, Commissioner Malik Evans, and Commissioner Willa Powell.

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young audience member.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the February 16th Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Beatrix Almer-Martin spoke of the benefits of arts education and presented a petition for the full-year arts programming. Student Gabriel Hatch spoke in favor of a full-year arts programming. Community member Juan Collado spoke about the importance of incorporating restorative justice resources and practices in the 2017-2018 budget.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parents Rachel Larson and Brian Larson spoke about the importance arts programming. Community member Charles Lowry spoke in favor of a proposed military academy. Staff member Angela Krause spoke about the benefits of arts education.
- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms provided an update to the Board on recent programming and efforts at East High School. He began the presentation by recognizing the District's Communications and Educational Facilities departments for their assistance during the recent inclement weather conditions. Dr. Nelms highlighted some of the work being done to prepare students for upcoming state assessments, including providing them with test taking strategies and discussions regarding supports and expectations during the examination periods. He also spoke about a recent visit by NYSED representatives to East High School's upper and lower schools where conversations focused on progress towards meeting targets for the schools' Demonstrable Improvement Indicators.

In discussing planning for the coming academic year, Dr. Nelms mentioned that the school is in the planning phase of creating a "Dental Suite" in collaboration with the University of Rochester's Eastman Institute for Oral Health, the facility is scheduled to open by September 2018. He noted that the University hopes to make the facility accessible to both parents and students. Dr. Nelms also spoke about the proposed 2017-18 budget and stated that the school is currently focused on staffing needs based on projected student enrollment and positions for critical areas will be posted in the near future. In concluding the presentation, Dr. Nelms announced a professional development session themed *Excellence through equity: Creating schools that serve all children well* featuring Pedro Noguera for East High School staff.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. She reminded the Board of the upcoming sessions for District and community-based groups to solicit comments and concerns about the proposed 2017-18 budget and the key actions and priorities of the budget. Ms. Deane-Williams announced recently awarded grants to support students, including the My Brother's Keeper Grant, Persistently Struggling Schools Grant, and 21st Century Learning Community Center Grant. She also spoke of recent efforts to build instructional leadership, including the principal pipeline with the New York City Leadership Academy, principal supervisor development with Bank Street Education Center, and assistant principal development with Dr. Janice Barclay.

Ms. Deane-Williams also highlighted several bright spots throughout the District. She noted that fourteen schools recently realized double-digit increases in student attendance during the "Cold Can't Stop Us" Campaign to encourage daily attendance. Ms. Deane-Williams also announced an upcoming student summit on race, recognized the Wilson X-Cats Robotics Team for recently named a regional winner in the 2017 Finger Lakes FIRST Regional Robotics Competition with their robot Catworx, and congratulated World of Inquiry School No. 58 Principal Sheela Webster for named the SAANYS K-12 Building Principal of the Year. She concluded the presentation with mention of the Teaching and Learning Support Teams that work to engage and support building leaders and teachers in effort to provide students with the resources needed to succeed.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Monday, March 20th to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 580 and 582 and 615 through 627. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the February 2017 Financial Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Evans; motion carries with consensus. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 580 and 582 for the East EPO category; Resolutions 615 through 621 for the Procurement & Supply category; Resolutions 622 through 626 for the Facilities category; and Resolution 627 for the Other category. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The meeting of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee had to be rescheduled this month due to the wind and winter storms. The meeting will be held next Tuesday, March 28th, following the 1st public budget hearing. The following topics will be discussed: the data to be incorporated into school profiles to support instruction (100-Day Instructional Data Plan for School Profiles), an update on Special Education, including: efforts to improve academic achievement; academic, social/emotional/behavioral supports; reducing the percentage of students classified for Special Education; progress toward increasing this year's graduation rate (Credit and Regents Accumulation), and socioeconomic integration of schools. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: On Thursday, March 2nd the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to review the Communications Plan, last updated in September 2016. A suggestion was made to identify specific priority items within the Communication Plan that need to be addressed with regard to keeping parents, students and community members informed, so that Board members' support could be lent to those efforts. Other suggestions regarding best practices for garnering public interest in board actions were voiced, and the possibility of hosting town halls was discussed as a viable option. The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee members discussed plans to host a Public Forum before the end of the school year. Suggestions for possible speakers were discussed, as well as potentially relevant topics and the impact to the district.

Committee members further discussed concerns raised in the October 2016 meeting about the Bakke crude oil transports through high-density areas near schools in Rochester. It was noted that the Bakke crude oil from hydro-fracking poses a serious threat to the safety of students, community members, and property. A decision was made to make a request for an update on this issue from affiliated U.S Senators and congress members.

Committee members reviewed Governor Cuomo's proposed Excelsior Scholarship, and discussed the benefits, advantages and disadvantages of this scholarship. The scholarship is targeted to impact eligible families with college-age children, and whose household annual income is \$125,000 or less annually and would cover student's tuition costs by supplementing whatever existing state and federal grant programs contributions. However, this benefit is not a very viable solution to help poor students pay for the extraneous costs outside of tuition that make attending college most difficult. A suggestion was made to write a letter indicating a lack of district support for this proposal.

Lastly, the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee reviewed the 2017 Legislative Agenda following Lobby Day on March 1st, 2017, as well as how the district was received given the impending 2017-18 Budget Presentation. The members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee agreed that it was prudent to formally thank the assembly members for meeting with the team on Lobby Day.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

VII. Resolutions

2016-17: 575: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 578: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent

2016-17: 579: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 580-581: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent

2016-17: 582: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting, Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship, and Commissioner Hallmark absent

2016-17: 583: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 584-589: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 590: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 591: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 592: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 593: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 594: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 595: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 596: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 598: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 605-610: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 611-614: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 615-626: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 627-640: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: None.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual and pending litigation made by Commissioner Cruz at 8:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

XI. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.