

**Rochester Board of Education**  
**Finance Committee**  
**November 13, 2014**

**Attendance:** Commissioner Powell (Chair); Commissioners Cruz and Evans. Parent Representative: Giancarlo Giannini. District Staff: Bill Ansbro, Chief Financial Officer; Michael Schmidt, Chief of Operations; and Gary Smith, Purchasing Officer. Board Staff: Debra Flanagan

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 7:09PM.

**I. Review and Approve Minutes of October 13, 2014 Finance Committee Meeting**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2014 Finance Committee meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**II. Review and Discuss October 2014 Financial Report**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to approve the October 2014 Financial Report. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**III. Review and Discuss Quarterly Student Activity Fund Report**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to approve the Quarterly Student Activity Fund Report. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**IV. Review of Resolutions in Preparation for November 20<sup>th</sup> Board Business Meeting**

**A. PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

1. Aluminum Athletic Equipment Co.; BSN Sports, Inc. (dba “BSN Sports, Passon’s Sports & US Games”); Buddy’s All Stars, Inc.; Jim Dal Sports, Inc. (dba “Jim Dalberth Sporting Goods”); The Prophet Corporation (dba “Gopher Sport”); Medical Supply, Inc. (dba “Medco Supply, Masune & Surgical Supply Service”); Pyramid Paper Co. (dba “Pyramid School Products”); Riddell/All American Sports Corp.; S&S Worldwide, Inc.; School Specialty; and School Health Corporation – contract for purchase of athletic supplies and equipment for various locations in the District – Resolution No. 2014-15: 310
2. Jim Dal Sports, Inc. (dba “Jim Dalberth Sporting Goods”); Riddell/All American Sports Corp.; V&V Vending (dba “Valenti Sports”) – contract for purchase of football equipment and helmets for various locations in the District – Resolution No. 2014-15: 311

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to address all above Procurement resolutions as a group. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Parent Representative Giancarlo Giannini pointed out that these two procurement resolutions do not contain any cost information, and requested that this information be provided to the members of the Finance Committee. Gary Smith responded that each of the two contracts were bid this fall, and expenditures are typically reported when the contract is up for renewal/extension. He offered to provide information of the expenditures under the contracts for purchase of this equipment last year.

**Action Item: Mr. Smith will provide information to the members of the Finance Committee of last year's expenditures under the contracts for purchasing athletic supplies and equipment, and for purchasing football equipment and helmets.**

Commissioner Powell explained that both of these procurement contracts involve a specified percentage discount off of catalog prices, and the District will realize these cost savings as purchases are made throughout the year.

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to approve all above Procurement resolutions. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

## **B. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

- 1. Request that the City Council of the City of Rochester issue bonds or notes for \$16.025M for capital improvements specified in the 2014-15 RCSD Capital Improvement Plan – Resolution No. 2014-15: 312**

**Motion** by Commissioner Cruz to approve above Facilities resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

## **C. OTHER**

- 1. Request to un-commit \$775K from the General Fund for Workers' Compensation – Resolution No. 2014-15: 313**

**Motion** by Commissioner Evans to approve above resolution to set aside \$775K for Workers' Compensation. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

## **V. Follow-Up Items**

- 1. Status of RFP for transportation services**

Mr. Smith reported that the deadline for submitting proposals in response to the Request for Bids (RFB) for student transportation services is November 19<sup>th</sup> to enable the District to begin contract negotiations earlier for the 2015-16 school year.

- 2. Status and Timeline for Expeditionary Learning contract and for providing support to schools with this program**

Mr. Ansbrow explained that the NYS Education Department requested an amendment to the District's initial application, and the amended application was submitted ten

days ago. He noted that further information will be provided after a response has been received from the NYS Education Department.

**3. The schools attended by the 284 additional Special Education students entering the District after July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Mr. Ansbrow stated that there was concern regarding possible violation of student confidentiality by reporting the schools attended by the additional Special Education students because of the small numbers involved. He reported that a legal review is under way to determine how this information can be provided to Committee members without violating student confidentiality.

**4. Plans for District use of Smart Schools Technology Funding**

Mr. Ansbrow reported three main potential uses of Smart Schools Technology Funds in the District:

- 1) Replacing portable classrooms;
- 2) Enhancing school building safety and security (i.e. entrance/egress monitoring, cameras);
- 3) Possible technology improvements/enhancements – currently being examined by staff in the Information Management & Technology Department.

Mr. Ansbrow noted that staff in the Facilities Department are prioritizing and quantifying the cost of the work that could be performed with this funding.

Mr. Giannini inquired about the timeframe for receiving a response from the NYS Education Department to the amended application for expeditionary learning funding. Mr. Ansbrow replied that all indications are that the application is likely to be approved, and he expects a response to be received within the next few weeks.

Mr. Giannini asked when the legal review will be completed regarding providing information about the schools attended by the additional students in Special Education. Mr. Ansbrow responded that he will provide information to Committee members by next Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Item: Mr. Ansbrow will notify the members of the Finance Committee by November 19<sup>th</sup> of the outcome of the legal review regarding providing information of the schools attended by the 284 additional students in Special Education who enrolled in the District after July 1, 2014.**

Commissioner Powell commented on the plans for funding provided to the District under the Smart Schools Technology Funding Act, emphasizing the importance of improvements at schools that do **not** have a preK program. She discussed the significant disadvantages facing schools without a preK program, specifically that parents are much more likely to choose schools with a preK program and that there are fewer opportunities for students to enter these schools at the kindergarten level because the preK students have already taken the available seats. Commissioner Powell asserted that a similar problem arose when some schools had a full-day kindergarten, while others had only a half-day program. She stated that these

structural disadvantages contribute to under-enrollment at schools that do not have the preferred program. Commissioner Powell advocated for providing some sort of structural advantages in these schools to attain greater equity among the schools in the District.

Mr. Ansbrow added that a popular perception is that the majority of children attending community-based preK programs go on to enroll in charter schools. He reported that the data show that the majority of these children actually enroll in RCSD schools.

Commissioner Powell cited School No. 23 as an example of structural inequities among schools because this school has two UPK classrooms and there are no opportunities for students to enroll at the kindergarten level because all of the available capacity has been taken by the students in the preK programs. She noted that any school with a preK program is essentially building its kindergarten class, and has ten months to recruit students and parents. Commissioner Powell contended that the real issue is to find ways to set up all District schools for success within a managed choice process.

Commissioner Powell discussed concerns regarding school building safety, noting that her daughter did not come home from school one day and she had requested assistance from school staff to find her. Commissioner Powell stated that the school building cameras spotted her daughter (with her cello) at one point during the school day, but there was no record after that time --- even from the cameras positioned by the school doors. Mr. Ansbrow replied that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) approved as part of the 2014-15 budget process focused on these concerns. He stated that additional funding available under the Smart Schools Technology Act will enable the District to address these concerns more aggressively.

## **VI. Additional Business**

Mr. Ansbrow provided the members of the Finance Committee with handout information regarding charter school enrollment trends from 2005-06 to 2014-15, and a list of the current and proposed new charter schools in the District. He noted that the 2014-15 RCSD budget was developed based on an estimate of 865 additional students attending charter schools, and the actual charter school enrollment for this school year is 903 students.

Mr. Ansbrow reported that two charter schools have applied and been approved thus far to open in the District in 2015-16; the final step is approval by the Board of Regents in their December meeting. He stated that the Greater Works Charter School is planning to expand by adding a high school, and the Center Stage Academy of Performing Arts would be a new charter school for students in grades K-5.

Commissioner Powell remarked that there are now more than 10% of students in the Rochester City School District attending charter schools, and the State considers 10% to be a “stress point” for school districts. Mr. Ansbrow commented that the District must also provide support services to students attending charter schools, which has a significant impact on the RCSD budget.

Commissioner Cruz requested information of the number/percentage of students at the elementary and secondary levels attending charter schools.

Commissioner Powell noted that there aren't many charter schools in the District at the high school level.

Commissioner Cruz observed that 900 students may not seem such a large number compared to the total RCSD student population, but this represents total student enrollment in two elementary schools.

**Action Item: Mr. Ansbrow will provide information to the members of the Finance Committee of the number of students attending charter schools at the elementary and secondary levels, and of the number of students in Special Education enrolled in charter schools.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Evans to convene in Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. **Adopted 3-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Meeting convened in Executive Session at 7:36PM.