

Rochester Board of Education
Finance Committee
January 16, 2014

Attendance: Board President Van White; Commissioners Powell, Cruz and Evans. Parent Representative: Giancarlo Giannini. District Staff: Bill Ansbro, Chief Financial Officer; Vernon Connors, Budget Director; and John Burke, Purchasing. Board Staff: Debra Flanagan.

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 5:32PM, noting that the first order of business was to elect a Chair for the Finance Committee for 2014. Commissioner Cruz nominated Commissioner Powell to serve as the Chair, and the Committee members voted unanimously in favor.

I. Review and Approve Minutes of the December 12, 2013 Finance Committee Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013 Finance Committee meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

II. Review and Approve December 2013 Financial Report

Motion by Commissioner Evans to approve December 2013 Financial Report. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

III. Review Draft 2014-15 Budget Calendar

Commissioner Powell pointed out a few changes proposed to the Draft 2014-15 Budget Calendar that was presented in December:

- Changing the date of the 1st public budget hearing from March 25th to April 3rd to allow additional time for parents and community members to review the proposed budget
- Changing the date for the 3rd budget deliberation session from April 29th to May 1st to allow more time for Board members to receive responses to their budget questions and to consider input received from the 2nd public budget hearing on April 22nd

Motion by Commissioner Evans to approve proposed changes to the Draft 2014-15 Budget Calendar. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Parent Representative Giancarlo Giannini inquired about dates for which community forums will be held to obtain input on the 2014-15 budget. Bill Ansbro replied that the dates have not yet been finalized, but he will meet with the members of the Parent Advisory Council on January 27th to ask for their assistance in notifying parents of these events.

Mr. Giannini asked about the way in which the community will be notified of the public budget forums. Mr. Ansbrow responded that he is seeking suggestions from the Parent Advisory Council regarding the best way to publicize these forums, and he will collaborate with the Office of Parent Engagement to try to reach a wider audience.

Commissioner Powell asked about the State requirements regarding the timeframe for conducting the public hearing on the Contract for Excellence, which has been held in conjunction with other public budget hearings in the past. Vern Connors stated that he is waiting for further information from the State about this timeframe, noting that the Contract for Excellence hearing should be part of the budget process. He stated that since there has not been any new NYS funding for Contract for Excellence, it seems to have become more of an afterthought by the NYS Education Department in the last few years.

Commissioner Powell pointed out that the requirement to conduct hearings and report on the Contract for Excellence has become a rather empty exercise because there has not been funding to support it. She explained that legislation would be required to remove these legal requirements.

Mr. Connors reported that the Governor plans to release the 2014-15 NYS Budget on January 21st, which will provide the District with better information as far as the amount of NYS Aid that can be expected in the upcoming fiscal year.

IV. Review and Approve Resolutions in preparation for January 23, 2014 Board Business Meeting

A. PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

- 1. Eltrex Industries, Inc. – contract extension for non-profit and first-class mailing services – Resolution No. 2013-14: 437**

Motion by Commissioner White to approve above Procurement resolution.
Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

B. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Final Payments:

- 1. DiFiore Construction, Inc. – final payment for general construction work for renovations to East High School – Resolution No. 2013-14: 438**
- 2. Steve General Contractor, Inc. – final payment for general construction work for renovations to School No. 4 – Resolution No. 2013-14: 439**

3. **Steve General Contractor, Inc. – final payment for general construction work for renovations to School No. 58 – Resolution No. 2013-14: 440**
4. **NewCal Construction, Inc. – final payment for general construction work for renovations to School Nos. 8 and 45 – Resolution No. 2013-14: 441**

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to address all above Facilities final payment resolutions as a group. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to approve all above Facilities final payment resolutions. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Other:

5. **Agreement with City of Rochester for the Rochester Fire Department to provide maintenance, repair and annual site testing of fire alarm boxes in District facilities with direct transmission to the 911 Emergency Communications Center – Resolution No. 2013-14: 442**

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to approve above Agreement with the City of Rochester. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Commissioner Powell noted that the District has paid the City of Rochester for the last few years for maintaining, repairing and testing the fire alarms in its buildings, but the City used to provide this service at no charge. She stated that the Capital Improvement Plan will include replacing the external fire boxes on District facilities with boxes inside the buildings, so that the alarms can be monitored remotely and this service will no longer be necessary.

Mr. Giannini recalled that budget amendments were presented in the December 2013 Finance Committee meeting, which included funding to install new hybrid kitchens in schools. He requested a list of the schools that will have hybrid kitchens after this work has been completed, and the timeframe for installation.

Action Item: Mr. Ansbro will provide information to the members of the Finance Committee of the specific schools that will have hybrid kitchens and the timeframe for completing this work.

Mr. Ansbro reported that the District was successful in obtaining funding for full-day UPK.

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner White.
Adopted 4-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51PM.