

**Rochester Board of Education**  
**Finance Committee**  
**November 14, 2013**

**Attendance:** Commissioner Powell (Chair); Commissioner White. Commissioner Cruz absent due to attending a conference out of town. Parent Representative: Giancarlo Giannini. District Staff: Bill Ansbrow, Chief Financial Officer; Vernon Connors, Budget Director; John Burke, Purchasing; Mike Schmidt, Chief of Operations. Board Staff: Debra Flanagan.

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 7:08PM.

**I. Review and Approve Minutes of the October 17, 2013 Finance Committee Meeting**

**Motion** by Commissioner White to approve the minutes of the October 17th Finance Committee meeting. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**II. Review and Approve October 2013 Financial Report**

Bill Ansbrow reported that the District has been waiting for \$1M in federal funding that was due in May, and the delay is due to U.S. Bank acquiring Deutsche Bank. He expressed concern about this acquisition and transfer of responsibilities to a new bank, with which the District has no experience.

**Motion** by Commissioner White to approve October 2013 Financial Report. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**III. Review and Accept Quarterly Change Order Report for July through September 2013**

**Motion** by Commissioner White to accept the Quarterly Change Order Report for July through September 2013. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

**IV. Review and Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Student Activity Funds Report**

Parent Representative Giancarlo Giannini asked whether the schools without funds have been excluded from the Student Activity Funds Report, and the process by which schools decide whether to have these funds. Vern Connors confirmed that schools that do not have any of these funds are not included in the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report. He stated that there is a package of procedures for reporting and accounting for these funds. Mr. Connors explained that Student Activity Funds are derived from fundraising activities to support student organizations, and a teacher is assigned as a monitor to each of these organizations.

Mr. Giannini stated that he was surprised that School No. 58 has no Student Activity Funds. Mr. Connors offered to look into this further.

**Action Item: Mr. Connors will look into Student Activity Funds at School No. 58 and also provide information about the process/procedures schools are to follow in establishing and maintaining a Student Activity Fund.**

**Motion** by Commissioner White to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Student Activity Funds Report.  
**Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

#### **V. Update on McKinsey Project to Identify Efficiencies**

Commissioner Powell stated that Board members would like to see the list of tasks and the timeframes for the McKinsey consultants to provide recommendations. She emphasized the importance of the Board having an opportunity to provide input before recommendations have been incorporated into the 2014-15 RCSD budget (i.e. December or January). Mr. Ansbrow reported that the Superintendent is planning to provide an update on the McKinsey project in the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting of the Whole on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ansbrow discussed the three main priorities for the project:

- Reading by Third Grade – efforts that support student literacy, particularly by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Research has shown that if students have not acquired solid reading skills by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they are significantly less likely to perform well academically or to graduate.
- Extended learning – expand extended learning time beyond the 20 schools that currently provide this, and ensure that the additional time is used effectively.
- Improved Instruction – coordinate resources to help principals and teacher improve the quality of instruction.

Mr. Ansbrow noted that cross-functional work teams have been formed to facilitate implementation of improvements related to each of these priorities.

Mr. Ansbrow explained that an Efficient and Effective Management Team (“EMT”) has also been established to identify efficiencies in the budget, so that resources can be targeted toward these three priorities. He noted that the EMT team will focus on the root causes of issues, examine key metrics, and analyze factors driving costs in different areas in the District.

Mr. Giannini noted that the Superintendent’s announcement regarding formation of these teams referred to collaboration of District and community experts, and inquired about the community members included on these teams. Mr. Ansbrow replied that the Superintendent will discuss this further in the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting of the Whole on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Review and Approve Resolutions in Preparation for November 21, 2013 Board Business Meeting**

## A. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### Other:

1. **Request City of Rochester to issue \$14.96M in bonds to support improvements to school buildings under the approved 2013-14 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Resolution No. 2013-14: 330**

**Motion** by Commissioner White to approve above resolution to request the City to issue \$14.96M in bonds for RCSD capital projects. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

### Final Payments:

2. **Leo J. Roth Corporation – final payment for HVAC work in renovating Wilson Foundation Academy – Resolution No. 2013-14: 331**

**Motion** by Commissioner White to approve above final payment resolution. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

## B. Discuss Resolution No. 2013-14: 68 (Agreement with Center for Youth for the Rochester Teen Court)

Mr. Ansbro reported that an alternate proposal is still being developed for use of the remaining funds under the School Violence Prevention Grant. He stated that use of the remaining grant funds may be restricted because of an agreement with the Center for Youth to receive funds under this grant. He stated that he will look into this issue further and report to the Finance Committee in the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion** by Commissioner White to table the above resolution regarding the Rochester Teen Court until the December Finance Committee meeting. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

## VII. Additional Questions and New Business

1. Question regarding the process of filling 130FTE positions as reported in the October 2013 Finance Committee meeting:

Mr. Giannini noted that the budget amendments approved in the October Board meeting included funding for an additional 130 FTE. He asked whether these 130 positions have been filled by new hires or existing staff. Mr. Ansbro replied that the additional positions were filled with a combination of existing and new staff. He explained that the District was aware of an increase in students registering for school over the summer, which triggered new position openings to be filled by the start of the school year. Mr. Connors pointed out that the District first considers former employees that have been placed on the preferred list because of previous layoffs. He stated that some staff

members also may have chosen to change positions, but the District would still have to fill their previous position. Mr. Ansbrow reported that the District obtained approval to fill positions using SIG grant funds in September rather than November, so that there would be minimal disruption into the school year.

2. Information regarding new or expanded collaborative efforts with the City of Rochester:

Mr. Ansbrow provided a handout listing additional or expanded partnerships the District has established with the City of Rochester:

- The design for School No. 9 was modified to allow a computer lab to be shared with Highland Library after school.
- Sahlen Stadium –discounted rate for the District to host 30 events for students at the stadium for football and soccer.
- Enabling the Rochester Fire Department to use the District’s fueling station on Hudson Avenue to refuel fire trucks.
- Shared use of large fans – the City provided 7 large fans this summer to the District to cool buildings.
- RCSD hired 15 ROAR graduates to paint Wilson Commencement High School this summer, for only one-third the cost of a private company. The District hired 8 of these ROAR graduates full-time.
- Literacy Aides – RCSD provided funding for 11 literacy aides to work in six branch libraries with neighborhood children to help prevent learning loss over the summer.
- Collaborative Purchasing – the District is able to join with the City in purchasing certain items, which helps both organizations maximize cost savings.

**Motion** by Commissioner White to adjourn. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of Parent Representative.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM.