

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee Meeting
August 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Willie Robinson, Edwin Lopez, Parent Representative: Felix Jacobs; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan, Kimberly Turner

Absent: Commissioner Melisza Campos

Commissioner Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. Common Core: Overview of “New Wave Common Core Parent Conference and Sports Camp” (Willie Robinson).

Willie Robinson provided an overview of the parent conference held on Saturday, August 10, 2013 at Wilson Foundation School. He stated several items including; Attendance at the event was a success: 129 Adults, 151 Students, 28 volunteers. Several District representatives attended: President Malik Evans, Superintendent Bolgen Vargas, Commissioner Mary Adams and Parent Representative, Felix Jacobs.

Mr. Robinson identified questions asked by parents. The first, in reference to the NYS Common Core testing results; why was Rochester City School District lower than other districts? The second question, asked what type of growth was experienced. Mr. Robinson stated that parents were assured by Dr. Vargas and Mr. Evans that parents should focus on the growth experienced by students and that Common Core standards leveled the playing field for all students, nationally.

Mr. Robinson discussed 6 different workshops available to parents at the conference. Workshops were held for Common Core, New Elementary Report Cards, Special Education Services, English Language Learners, Health & Wellness: Tools “4” Success and “Power to the Parents”.

Mr. Jacobs discussed his experience with parents at the conference specifically regarding Special Education, the name change, low graduation rates and academic intervention opportunities. More discussion around the Special Education topic was held, including Mr. Lopez providing background history on Special Education at RCSD and current search for a new Director of the Special Education department. Commissioner Elliott asked whether we should continue to refer children to Special Education

services because the current state of the department and its services may not be adequate. Mr. Lopez stated that students should still be referred and recent changes were made to better align students with appropriate services.

II. Minutes

Motion to approve the June 11, 2013 Minutes was made by Commissioner Elliott; seconded by Commissioner Adams.

The Committee reviewed the Action Items from the June 11th, 2013 meeting for completion. Jacqueline Morgan, Board Staff, identified corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Elliott noted that the discussion of the Federal Food Service Regulations will be addressed in September's meeting, after feedback is solicited from all Commissioners.

III. Legislative Breakfast

The Committee discussed November 9th, 16th, as possible dates to host the 2013 Legislative Breakfast; representatives from the federal, state and city governments will be invited to attend. Commissioner Elliott requested that an email be sent to all commissioners to notify them of two possible dates. Ms. Morgan will work with the new assistant to coordinate this event.

IV. 2013 Board Legislative Agenda

Commissioner Adams motioned to approve the 2013 Legislative Agenda to send to all Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Elliott seconded the motion after considering the National School Board Association's (NSBA) bill.

V. NSBA Bill on Local School Board Governance:

Commissioner Adams stated that she presented NSBA bill to Commissioner Elliott, the Committee Chair to consider; she was not strongly passionate about having it included in the 2013 Legislative Agenda. Mr. Lopez stated information about the bill; its supporters and he did not think that it would pass.

VI. Board Staff

Commissioner Elliott acknowledged Jacqueline Morgan and her dedication and hard work in supporting the committee. Commissioner Elliott discussed her expectations of the new assistant, who will work with Ms. Morgan on a smooth transition to support the committee. Commissioner Elliott asked that the new assistant provide the committee with background information about herself. Commissioner Elliott asked the committee to address any additional questions.

Action Items:

1. Follow up with Willie Robinson (coordinate with Chip Partner, Communications) for Common Core discussion on radio (WDKX).
2. Include discussion of Federal Food Service Regulations item on the September 17, 2013 agenda.
3. Communicate dates of the Legislative Breakfast to all commissioners; two possible dates are November 9th and 6th.
4. Forward Legislative Agenda to all commissioners for consideration at the September 26, 2013 Board Meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 7:21 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Adams.