

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee Meeting
March 12, 2013 at 6: 00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott (Chair), Commissioners Mary Adams and Melisza Campos); District Staff: Beverly Burrell-Moore, David Grant, Beverly Gushue, Patricia Malgieri; Parent Representative: Felix Jacobs; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Commissioner Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the February 12, 2013 Minutes was made by Commissioner Elliott; seconded by Commissioner Adams; with some revisions made.

II. Robert Brown High School of Construction and Design Core Curriculum

The committee received a presentation from David Grant, the principal of the Robert Brown High School High School of Construction and Design, along with Beverly Gushue, the Director of Career and Technical Education. The presentation outlined the goals and mission of the school. The benefits of CTE programs were discussed as well as the benefits of CTE programs for schools, students, employers and the community. There was also a discussion on the overview of career development.

Mr. Grant noted that the school opened with 150 9th grade students in September of 2010, which was the first year of the school. To date there are 510 students who range from 9th to 11th grade. They are anticipating that there will be over 700 students attending the school in September of 2013; with 2014 being the first graduating class of the Robert Brown High School High School of Construction and Design.

At this time there are six specific pathways established: carpentry, electrical, masonry, interior, architectural and advertising. The pathways for automotive and manufacturing will be integrated into the program.

Students are introduced to all of the pathways offered during the first six quarters to allow the students an opportunity to decide what area they an interest in before establishing a particular pathway.

In year one (10th grade), they become more specialized in the direction they want to go. In the first year students have an opportunity to change their minds, but the hope is that by this time they will be able to know if they want to pursue the construction or design side of the trades. In year two (11th grade) students focus more on their specialties. In year three (12th grade), they are preparing themselves for the rigorous CTE examinations.

The building administration is working on student retention; and feels that the CTE area that students are working on helps them to stay in school and on grade level.

Commissioner Elliott asked if construction in geometry had been offered this school year. Mr. Grant stated that construction in geometry was not offered this year because of funding and course selection. However, Math and CTE are coming back. It will be based under the CTE Program, but be taught by a Math teacher in conjunction with CTE. Students will need to meet prerequisites to qualify for the course.

Commissioner Elliott asked how many credits are needed to graduate from Robert Brown High School of Construction. Mr. Granted stated that 26 credits are needed.

Ms. Gushue noted that Ken Warner is considering making Career Construction Day just for RCSD 8th grade students to help with recruitment efforts for Robert Brown High School.

Mr. Jacobs according to the Superintendent's report to the Board on November 15, 2012, the Robert Brown High School High School of Construction and Design had 95 students and a GPA of 1.91 for the first marking period. Mr. Jacobs asked if there was updated information since this report; and if that report shows no improvement – what type of intervention is be provided to the students.

Mr. Grant stated that the GPAs for 9th grade are 1.60, 1.49 and 1.39 for the first, second and third marking periods; for 10th grade – 2.66, 2.50 and 2.26; 11 – 2.69, 2.81 and 2.56.

Intervention – Students who had no credits when arriving at the school (9th graders) was given an opportunity to take part in credit recovery, also they have the opportunity to get additional support from certified

teachers during the school day. They have extended day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will start Saturday school in April.

Commissioner Campos asked what is the percentage of students who are truly interested in the CTE programs that are offered vs. students who have just been placed at the school. Mr. Grant stated that less than 30% of the students there are placed there; and between 60-70% of the students choose to attend Robert Brown High School High School of Construction and Design.

Ms. Burrell-Moore stated that 61 8th grade students entering 9th grade (8Go9) selected Robert Brown High School.

Commissioner Campos asked if 60-70% of 9th graders selected Robert Brown High School; then what is the problem with the low GPAs. Mr. Grant stated that they are seeing improvement. But, it is taking students awhile to buy in as they try to figure out that they are no longer in middle school; and also dealing with the maturity level.

Ms. Burrell-Moore stated that there is a need for a transitional plan for 8Go9 students.

Commissioner Adams asked if Math was an issue in the electronic classes for the girl students. Mr. Grant stated that he did not see it as a Math problem, but saw the problem being that boys were overbearing and distracting.

Commissioner Adams asked how many students who entered as 9th graders are now at the school as 11th graders; how many students are staying vs. turnover. Mr. Grant stated that about 160 students came in the first year, and they have retained about 71% of those students.

Commissioner Adams asked what is the construction in geometry class being replaced with in 9th grade. Ms. Gushue stated that a more robust hands-on exploratory Math curriculum is being integrated in 9th grade.

III. Local Government Efficiency Grant

The Committee discussed Resolution No. 550, which authorizes a Co-application with the City for a Local Government Efficiency Grant Program. This is a planning grant that is intended to identify potential consolidations of facilities, grounds and fields; and to coordinate and eliminate duplication of after school recreation, athletic, school, family and library programs as some of this work is offered by both entities. An example is where we both have Parent Universities where parents are brought together regarding youth issues and family issues.

Motion to advance Resolution No. 550 to the Board by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Adopted 3-0;** and aye advisory vote by the Parent Representative.

IV. **2013 Legislative Agenda**

Commissioner Campos recommended that flexible transportation aid and increase in funding for expanded day be added to the New York State Agenda.

Commissioner Adams recommended that full-day kindergarten also be included in the New York State Agenda.

Ms. Malgieri noted that these items are a good place to start as they are already reflected in the Governor's budget.

Commissioner Adams expressed concern over parents opting out of high stakes testing and suggested that this be a legislative issue.

V. **Miscellaneous**

The Committee discussed briefly the feasibility of students receiving STEM and CTE diplomas.

Action Items:

1. Ms. Burrell-Moore will provide accurate data on the 2014 Cohort student retention rate.
2. Ms. Gushue will provide data on Habitat for Humanity's involvement with Robert Brown High School of Construction and Design partnerships and any other partnerships.
3. Commissioner Elliott will make arrangements for a school visit.
4. Ms. Malgieri will invite No. 30 School community families to be involved in the planning process for the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.
5. Mr. Grant will provide the number of current students remaining in the 2014 Cohort since 2010.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 7:41 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Adams.