

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting of the Whole**  
**May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending: Commissioners:** Malik Evans (Chair), Mary Adams, Cynthia Elliott (Vice President), Willa Powell, Van White (President). **District Staff:** Adele Bovard, Christiana Otuwa, Ray Giamartino. **Board Staff:** Debra Flanagan.

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm: motioned to approve the March 2015 minutes: accepted by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Elliott.

Dr. Otuwa responded to Commissioner Adams question regarding the hiring of an Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services/Guidance Counseling. Currently in the process of looking for candidates. Dr. Otuwa will send a copy job descriptions for this position as well as the Executive Director for Social Studies position.

The Committee received the following presentations:

**I. Update on graduation rates:**

- Review of the 2010 Cohort graduated in 2014; district level is 51% and data is available by subgroups: Race, General Education, Students With Disabilities (SWD), ELL and Economically Disadvantage.
- Review of “on-track” criteria as previously reported this year. These are students with 16 course credits and 3 regents exams credit. More accurate data for semester 3 will be available next week.
- Review of 2011 Cohort 2246 students; 55% recognized as being on track to graduate; project 60% by August 2015, 15.6% drop out: Hispanics, LEP and SWD students have a higher dropout rate
- March 2015 46.7% projected to graduate. Increase due to NYSED changes in graduation requirements for regents exams.

What is being done to keep students on track:

- Identify students who have passed the regents but not awarded credit.
- Senior Exit interviews.
- Transcripts reviewed by Central Office.
- Regents review classes held after school and on weekends.
- Principals are reviewing course grades, credit accumulation, regent exam scores, attendance and discipline on a regular basis.

Discussion:

- Principals should make calls to student’s home earlier, as soon as intervention is needed, to give more time to improve the chance to graduate.
- Guidance supervision is needed: Director of Pupil Services is currently an open position.
- School culture is changing; Principals are collaborating and taking “ownership” for the success of the students in their building; accountability of success in the building.
- Next update to be held at the June 2015 meeting.

**II. Receivership: Update on Priority Schools:**

- NYSED released regulations on May 18, 2015. June 15, 2015 Board of Regents to approve regulations.
- 1 year receivership schools will be identified on July 1, 2015.
- RCSD has received a preliminary list: East, Charlotte, Monroe and School #9.
- East has the EPO as receivership, Charlotte is slated to close, Monroe and School #9 in process of developing a receivership plan.
- 2 year receivership schools on priority list since 2013-14: Schools #2, 3, 8, 17 and 22, 41, 44, 45, North East, North West.
- Data on all schools available on presentation and saved on Board Docs.
- Appeal in process to reclassify school #34 from priority to focus school.
- Presentation pointed out opportunity to challenge classifications by showing growth and trajectory of schools.

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting of the Whole**  
**May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

- Receivership states that the Superintendent is an Independent Receiver and can make changes such as length of school day or year, teachers and administrators, professional development for teachers, class size, programs, and collective bargaining.
- Demonstrable improvement is necessary to be reclassified; more definition, and quantifiable data is needed by the Administration from NYSED. Schools are eligible for more state aid to be release after their designations and the school submits a plan.
- One Year Schools are given one year to show demonstrable improvement.
- Two year schools are given two years to show demonstrable progress in 2 years, if not made then Board has to determine a new receiver to be approved by the NYSED Commissioner: three years due to the progression of the receiverships and additional 3 years due to renewals totaling 6 years.
- Each school has to establish a plan – SCEPS and DSTE, attendance, discipline and other services (counseling, mental health, emotion and social supports) and improve or expand excess to child welfare services? Commissioner Elliott asked for clarification on expansion of child welfare services: what does that mean? Collaborations with community services to ensure that all students needs are met. May include a strategy to work with Department of Social Services to break down barriers to poverty. Career and Technical Services; school climate, behavior, and mentoring
- Clarification is needed on difference between one year and two year receiverships. It appears that state aid is the difference. Commissioner Powell pointed out that the grants may realign the following year for the 2 year school and making them eligible for state aide. Other questions: Is the Superintendent the receivership for 1 year and 2 year? How many schools are currently receiving SIG grants?
- Commissioner Campos addressed concerns about the number of Latino students in schools in receivership and planning for the success of these children. Changes to programming are in the works; bilingual wrap up programs. Curriculum is not culturally diverse and may be beneficial to student and schools. What is the communication to Latino families?
- DTSE plans are currently being written addressing all tenets and SCEPs that are more focused and address the issues; waiting for templates from NYSED; schools are being ready at end of June.
- PowerPoint outlines the progress of priority school is available on BoardDoc.
- Appeals have been submitted to NYSED to be removed School 34, 46 and SOTA from focus/priority designation:.
- Key measures in the designation: Student growth percentile (SGP), Combined ELA & Math PI, 10% PI Gap or met 10% Reduction Gap, SGP above State Average, Northwest Evaluation Association assessment test (NWEA).
- PI: Performance Index of student's in priority school must be above 50 – indication of performance levels on. Should PI be different for urban schools or other criteria be factored in to consider it a more accurate and fair performance measure?
- Expeditionary learning, CSTE helps student performance.
- Commissioner Evans asked Administration for updates at the June 2015 meeting.

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting of the Whole**  
**May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**III. Review of Resolutions:**

- Resolution 2014-15: 668 – Special Education Program Providers: authorizing an agreement with New York State Education Department approved Special Education Program Providers, to provide special education programs, services and/or residential treatment for District students who are placed with the Providers as recommended by the District’s Committee on Special Education (CSE) and/or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for the period September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Committee voted to forward this resolution to the full board for consideration.
  
- Resolution 2014-15: 672 – Supplemental Academic Services (SAS) and/or Enrichment for Expanded Learning Time (ELT), to support rigorous academic and enrichment programming, including project-based learning, targeted intervention and acceleration for students and/or youth development programming including ELA/Math, literacy, STEM, civic engagement, health and wellness, arts and culture, and/or college/career readiness, with the goal to improve student achievement as demonstrated by accelerated student learning rates in literacy and mathematics, improve resilience and increase protective factors and improve student engagement, for the period June 29, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Committee, Commissioner Elliott abstained, voted to forward this resolution to the full board for consideration.