

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
March 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Commissioners: Malik Evans (Chair), Mary Adams, Cynthia Elliott (Vice President). **District Staff:** Christiana Otuwa, Robin Hooper. **Parent Representative:** Toyin Anderson.

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm: motioned to approve the January 2015 minutes: seconded by Mary Adams.

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17. The Committee received a the following presentations:

Youth Council on Instructional Improvement, created by the Board, resolution 2013-14:629. presented their suggestion and ideas on improving curriculum, in the Rochester City School District. The Council consists of RCSD high school students and focused on three main areas to tackle to make learning relevant:

- Creation of an Urban Life Skills: different content offered to students grades 9 – 12 that help students learn about positive relationships and interactions, mentoring, career exploration, money management and entrepreneurships.
- Pan-African Studies integrated throughout the curriculum; the students stressed the importance of Pan-African culture in a district that is 60 percent African American.
- More Arts and Media courses offered to ALL students

RCSD MAC program: Presentation by Ms. Selene, Mathematics teacher and student, Ms. Wattini Mutombo. MAC, Making a Connection program is currently located at the 30 Hart St, Rochester, NY. within the OACES program at Rochester City School District. It's a program designed to assist youth (17 – 21) refugees achieve academic and job/career success. There are currently 23 students enrolled. The purpose of the presentation was to provide the ESA committee with information on how programs under OACES are helpful in alternative paths toward success.

Update on Graduation Rate/Trend: Ms. Christiana Otuwa presented the updates on the Graduation Class of 2015, that include students in the 2011 cohort. The presentation is located on BoardDoc, under administrative content. Some key points from the presentation:

- 2011 Cohort consist of 2,248 students: 78% are still enrolled, 19.81% dropout, 49.5% are currently on track to graduate.
- On track to graduate: 16 credits, passed 3 Regents exam
- Details on percentage completion of graduation requirements by subgroup and subject area.
- Efforts utilized to engage families in academic, learning and school information.
- Schools supports to help students get on and stay on stack:
 - Academic interventions
 - Extra help – after school, Saturdays, and school breaks.
 - Monitoring School Principals, students' progress on a weekly basis.

Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP) Ms. Jacqueline Cady and Mr. Dirk Hightower presented the details of services, achievement levels and academic performances by the students attending RCSD's Universal Pre-K. The highlighted trends are as follows:

- Continued acceleration of student learning and academic growth.
- Program quality improvement suggestions based on classroom assessments.
- Growth and progress with teacher-student interactions and the instructional programs.
- High-rates of academic growth of pre-k students: especially high in Math & Science and Language & Literacy.

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- Pre-K students have greater needs (social-emotional and economic poverty).
- Pre-k students are entering program at low functional levels, make academic progress but not adequate skills to be successful in kindergarten.
- Comparison of 2013 – 14 third graders (RECAP and Non-RECAP) identified differences in the two cohorts: RECAP students scored higher in ELA and Mathematics.
- Value of summer programs offered to Pre-K students.

The committee received individuals copies of RECAP's seventh annual report, that provides details of the information summarized above.

ESA Resolutions reviewed and agreed to advance to full Board for DISCUSSION.

Resolution No. 2014-15:

562: Community Based Organizations (CBO): to provide services for UPK

CBO offered attendance incentives – for students attending 80% or higher – funding by the state via a grant. Money can be used for classroom supplies, materials and equipment, parent engagement activities, social and emotional services and training

564: Retiring the Charlotte High School and BEDS upon the completion 2018 – 2019.

Building to be used by The Leadership Academy for Young Men.

565:

BEDS Code:

- Retire BEDS code: Dr. Freddy Thomas High School, effective 2015 – 2016.
- New BEDS Code: East High School grade 6 – 8
- Existing East High BEDS Code to be used for East High School grade 9-12
- Name change of Robert Brown School of Construction
- Retire BED Code for Rochester STEM High School