

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm: motioned to approve the November 2014 minutes: seconded by Mary Adams.

Roberto Clemente, School number 8, 7th grade students presented to the ESA committee. The students presented their final expeditionary learning project. The topic was based on research as to how successful RCSD is at helping refugee students assimilate into the Rochester Community and America. Their presentation included an interdisciplinary approach to the experiences and cultures of refugees. Their presentation also included interviews of specific students at Rochester International Academy.

The committee also received an update on the graduation rates for 2014-15. This is an update to the September 2014 presentation from the Administration and answered the following questions on how well the graduation rates of our students are increasing. How many students should be graduating? How many students are on target to graduate? What is being accomplished to keep them on track? What is being done to help students who are not on track?

Findings:

- Out of the total cohort, approximately 46.4% of the students are recognized as “On-Track”. These are students with a minimum of 16 credits and 3 Regents exam scores of 65 or greater.
- 62.6% of students have passed the Math Regents.
- The Global and US History Regents Exams continue to be a struggle for all students.
- Limited English Proficient students have the smallest percentage of students passing in all Regents subject areas.

Additional items discussed included:

- Is Parent Connect a successful tool for parent to keep up to date on student’s progress? Ms. Anderson, Parent Representative provided feedback. Parent Connect is not user-friendly and has systems difficulties making it hard to use.
- What is the percentage of parents using Parent Connect?
- What are the options , alternatives that are offered to students who are failing?
 - Administration to provide principals with more support to track students.
 - Better utilization of the Online Credit Recovery system.
 - School culture shift is needed – brainstorming of ideas to increase success.
 - Better reporting and tracking of students who are failing: too much waiting to end of marking periods/school year to report problems.
- Commissioner Evans request update at the next ESA meeting in February 2015.