

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**January 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** President Van White (Chair), Vice President Cynthia Elliott and Commissioner Mary Adams. **District Staff:** Beverly Burrell-Moore. **Parent Representative:** Craig Cypher. **Board Staff:** Kimberly Turner.

Absent: Commissioner Malik Evans.

I. Commissioner Adams called the meeting to order at 6:10p.m

II. **Cultivating Inspiration presentation:**

“School within a School Proposal” presentation by Mr. John Bliss, Founder of Urban Choice Charter School and RCSD substitute teacher. Mr. Larry Stanley Business Owner and Ms. Jeanine Logan joined him. They both support options and choices for parents and students in the RCSD.

Mr. Bliss’s presentation considered a school environment with a hybrid model. According to Mr. Bliss the model “asserts that every school should be more self-contained. It also balances district centralization and school autonomy”.

**Key features of the School within a School:**

- School management organized differently allowing more attention to students and their families. It frees up the school principal.
- Implementation of instructional and operational best practices, creates high-expectations and consistency.
- Central office participation is based on need rather than tradition.

III. **Questions/Comments:**

1. What is different about the District now, as your proposal seeks to work with the District, yet in the past you left to start a charter school? (Mr. Craig Cypher)
  - New Mayor and Board President.
  - District has problems that have not been resolved.
  - Commissioner King has publically voiced concerns about RCSD.
  - Superintendent is encouraging the community to bring solutions.
  - The time is right for alternatives.
2. How would the parent conference work if the parent was not available or did not have transportation to attend? (Mr. Craig Cypher)
  - This is a key component of the model. Every effort to have a conference with the parent would be made. It could involve visiting the home or providing a taxi for the parent to be able to meet at the school.
3. Why is the salary compensation for the Executive Director a large percent

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of the budget in this school model? (Mr. Craig Cypher)

- The budget in this model is flexible and can be reworked to accommodate the change in structure. For example the Executive Director position could be eliminated if there was a different way to manage the school model.
4. Instead of creating a new model, existing schools that are doing well, i.e. SOTA could be expanded or replicated. (Mr. Craig Cypher)
5. Have you considered the RTA contract, the Living Contract, which has the provisions for parent/teacher to open a new school?
- There are concerns that the “know how” is not there. And there is hindrance to open a school. This is something that could be considered.
- IV. Motion to approve the December 9, 2013 minutes by Commissioner Adams seconded by Commissioner White, Mr. Cypher concurred. Adopted 2-0.

Commissioner Adams nominated Commissioner Malik Evans as Chair of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, seconded by President White. Adopted 3-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by President White at 7:58 p.m.