

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
September 16, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Commissioners: Van White (Chair), Mary Adams, and Cynthia Elliott. District Staff: Carlos Leal, Brenda Pacheco, Beverly Burrell-Moore. Board Staff: Kimberly Turner

Absent: Parent Representative: Craig Cypher

I. **Motion made by Commissioner White to approve the August 12, 2013 minutes from the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee (ESAC) meeting. Adopted 3-0.**

II. **School Support Team follow-question addressed.** What is being done to replace what was removed from the budget? Are there suspension policies or procedures at the elementary and secondary levels to cover all types of suspensions: in school, out of school, short term and long term? Commissioner Adams stated that her questions stem from the budget deliberation meetings earlier part of 2013, where restructuring of long-term and short-term suspension occurred, teachers were removed from in-school suspension (ISS) rooms and replaced with teacher assistants and alternative to suspensions programs were eliminated. Commissioner Adams expected the July 15, 2013 ESAC presentation on District's comprehensive plan for meeting student's social and emotional needs would have covered this information, along with the composition of the central Student Support team. She also expected the topic to be addressed in the August 12, 2013 ESAC presentation. It did not occur in either meeting.

Commissioner Elliott stated that the Policy Committee was meeting on September 24, 2013 and would be addressing Districts Suspensions Policies and this would be helpful to address some of Commissioner Adams questions.

Ms. Beverly Burrell-Moore. *Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning* asked for addition time to prepare a presentation to address Commissioner Adams questions. She confirmed that the teachers were replaced with trained teacher assistants in the ISS rooms. She stated that she was meeting with the School Principals on September 17, 2013 for updates on these changes. She also stated that she had visited some schools and the changes were going well. Ms. Burrell-Moore stated that the School Principals were given a suspension policy at the beginning of the school year and Brenda Pacheco, Chief of Schools was prepared to present that policy to the ESAC committee. Alternative to suspension (ATS) programs were still going to be honored with outside resource based on previous arrangements, (i.e. Center for Youth).

Ms. Burrell-Moore stated the central Student Support Team (SST) would consist of Ms. Carleen Meers (Positive Behavioral Supports), Ms. Audrey Cummings (Social Work Director), Ms. Andrea Lemos (Guidance Counseling), Mr. Jerome Underwood (Youth and Family Service), Ms.

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Marjorie Lefler (Human Service Systems). This group will monitor behavior types and work with the SST at the school to deploy the SST plan. Ms. Brenda Pacheo stated that wrap around services were being addressed for students entering the district. Data information will include benchmarks from 2012-2013 school year and measurements of attendance, suspensions, categories of seriousness and data from Chancery also teacher absence as related from student injuries would come from HCI.

Ms. Brenda Pacheo – stated there is more peer to peer violence but a decrease in student to teacher violence. Commissioner Adams asked about Pathway to Peace to help more with issues in the District. Commissioner Elliott suggested that this information be brought up to 3 on 3 meetings with the City and that the District should look internally for solutions to decrease the reliance on City resources, understanding that the City resources are designed for the City. Commissioner Elliott suggested that we train Rochester City School District staff (i.e.security) to meet some of these needs, they may be able to identify with children, many come from the same neighborhood and can be trained in preventive measures.

III. **Harvard Professional Development Plan:** Patricia Malgieri, Chief of Staff provided an overview of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University's Fellowship program. The committee concerns were as follow:

- Commissioner White asked about the Management Efficiency Grant.
- Commissioner Adams: Will funding this proposal compete with other funded programs?
- Commissioner Elliott: Why are we looking outside the district for expertise that we have paid for and should be within District?
- Commissioner Adams: Why do we need fellows? How are we sure we do not have expertise within the District. District data has historically not been forthcoming, is not transparent, often withheld, and overall poor quality.

The plan is a creative way to bring additional resource to the District. This Committee wants it to be a positive, financially responsible and necessary resource.

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IV. **Professional Development Plan:** was presented by *Carlos Leal, Director of Professional Learning*. The plan supports teachers learning opportunities through a structured process and collaboration. Topics covered were Standards for Professional Learning, Standards of Assessment, and Professional Learning methods. The goal of the plan is to impact student achievement, enhance teacher practice and instruction and to motivate staff to continue to explore new and creative collaborations for learning.

Rochester Teaching Center will be an integral part of delivering services. Commissioner Adam requested a parent representative to be part of this as well. Mr. Leal will keep the committee posted on the progress of both items.

The committee does not have any major concerns or issues with the Professional Development Plan being considered by the Board.

Action Items:

1. Ms. Murphy will verify discipline suspension data to confirm accuracy. (from June 20, 2013)
2. Ms. Murphy will provide a report listing the enrollment of students who withdrew/dropped from ACH. (from June 20, 2013)

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 8:05 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Adams.