

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**April 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair) – *via skyping from the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, One Market Place, San Diego, California, 92101*; Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Jose Cruz and Willa Powell; District Staff: Beverly Burrell-Moore, Tim Cliby, Kathleen Eisenberg, Karen Gerew, Jacquie Gilmore, Kevin Lydon, Jeff Mikols, Glen Van Derwater, Annmarie Lehner, Mary Munoz, Anthony Smith, Susan Towey, Larisa Useda; State University of New York Representative: Alicia Ward; Parent Representative: Dr. Craig Cypher; Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve March 11, 2013 minutes was made by Commissioner White; seconded by Commissioner Adams.

**II. eLearning Presentation**

The Administration was requested to attend the April Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting to provide information on the proposed Florida Virtual School licensing purchase. The proposal is to purchase perpetual licensing – the curriculum content. The District will have the use of that content which will have the curriculum content modified to make it Rochester City School District specific for the use of District students. In addition to purchasing the license, the District will have access to course materials as well.

The Administration gave an overview of Rochester eLearning. The following programming is contained in the District's eLearning space:

- Credit recovery
- Virtual Advanced Placement
- Regents prep courses
- Professional Development
- Common Core Curriculum
- Smart board lessons

Ms. Lehner noted that the District will be offering four virtual AP courses next school year as well as two foreign language virtual classes. All RCSD

secondary school students will have the opportunity to take these online courses.

Commissioner Adams asked who determines what the minimum contacts are in the AP environment for certified teachers. Mr. Cliby stated that contact requirements for students in those classes will be determined by the District. Teachers will have contact with students both by skyping, direct contact and by interactive chat on the computer. He further noted that he would expect that the teachers will perform as they would in a classroom.

Ms. Lehner stated that the online courses will be built into students' schedules; and students will also meet live two days per week with the teachers.

Dr. Craig Cypher asked how students who have no computer access will be able to take advantage of eLearning. Ms. Lehner stated that students will be provided with equipment and internet service.

Commissioner Elliott noted that virtual learning opportunities should be available for remediation as well as AP courses; and asked if there will be capacity for students who are not able to attend school. Mr. Van Derwater stated that there will be and gave examples of students who are hospitalized.

Commissioner Elliott and Dr. Cypher asked how information about virtual learning is being provided to students and parents. Ms. Burrell-Moore stated that the information is being disseminated via website and informed when they sign up for summer school. She also stated that they are working with the Office of Parent Engagement on ways to get the information out to students and parents.

The Administration noted that all teachers who will be teaching the virtual courses are certified in the areas that they will be teaching.

In addition to the online courses that will be available, Professional Development will also be available online. These are courses that the Administration is developing in order to train teachers and administrators how to use and access the Common Core Curriculum that in the Rochester eLearning platform.

The cost of the Florida Virtual Licensing is a one-time cost.

The committee recommends Resolution No. 543 to be advanced to the Board for approval.

**Motion** to advance Resolution No. 543 to the Board by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Adopted 3-0;** and aye advisory vote by the Parent Representative.

### III. **Miscellaneous**

The Committee also received a short presentation from Alisha Ward from the State University of New York regarding the Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) program. ATTAIN is a statewide technology based employment initiative funded by the New York State Legislature. ATTAIN provides communities access to new technologies, education and technology training. This is offered at Baden St. along with other locations across the state.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Mr. Cliby will provide definitions to be forwarded to the Committee.
2. Mr. Cliby will provide memo to Committee (that was sent out by Mr. Van Derwater) listing release dates for professional development and the opportunity for students.
3. Mr. Cliby will provide updated slides that were not included in power point.
4. Ms. Lehner will provide a comparison of GPAs of traditional classes with virtual classes in January, 2014 and provide a year-end analysis.

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Adams.