

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee of the Whole**  
**June 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Beverly Burrell-Moore, Enid DeJesus-Lopez, Chris Donaldson, Sandra Jordan, Marjorie Lefler, Gladys Pedraza-Burgos, Vicky Ramos, Diane Larter (Project Consultant); Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott and Kimberly McKinsey-Mabry (Parent Representative)

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Adams; seconded by Commissioner White.

**II. Youth in Transition Update**

Gladys Pedraza-Burgos noted that the Youth in Transition is a cross systems program where we work with 19 other alternative school setting agencies with students who are re-entering from long-term placements, such as juvenile detention facilities and mental health facilities as well. She also noted that this is a multi-tier taskforce that been together for quite some time.

Enid DeJesus-Lopez, RCSD Association Director of Transition Systems, shared that between January-May 2012, 49 students have been transitioned back into the district and enrolled in the Rochester City School District. These are students who (as previously stated) were withdrawn from RCSD because they were in placement for 3-12 months.

Demographics of students transitioned back into RCSD:

49 transitioned students, 35 were male and 14 female. The returning students ranged between 11-18 years old; with the majority of them falling between 15-16 years of age. The majority of the students were in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Of the students transitioned, 40 were African American, 4 Hispanic and 5 Caucasian.

Placement Agencies:

- Department of Health and Human Services placed 21 of the students
- The Office of Children and Family Services placed 20 students
- The Office of Mental Health placed 3 students
- The balance of the students were placed by unknown agencies (these 2 students were coming from other districts, therefore there was not information on the placing agency)

Ms. DeJesus-Lopez provided data regarding the schools that the returning students were placed. If students were previously dual enrolled they were given the option of being placed at either of the two schools or programs, if possible. Three students opted for a GED program.

Commissioner White asked if Ms. DeJesus-Lopez had staff to assist her. Ms. DeJesus-Lopez stated that a part of that piece is going to be systems that are being put into place with partnerships. She will also be working with the RTI Teams (Response to Intervention) at the schools. However, in the meantime she has been the one who has been working with the families and bringing everyone onboard.

Commissioner White asked if we are advocating for keep RCSD students in the county rather than having them shifted out of the county. Ms. DeJesus-Lopez stated that there have been discussions around keeping students close to home. Members of the Re-entry Task Force are advocating for keep our students in the county.

Commissioner White asked what systems are in place that ensure that the re-entry system is successful; and how will the Board know if this is a successful program. How will outcomes be measured for the students?

Ms. Larter stated that the Re-Entry Advisory Group will be meeting at least quarterly to monitor the program for student success.

Commissioner Adams noted that it has been announced that a protocol for truancy and attendance is being developed with involvement from the City and the District; and requested the administration provide the protocol to the committee; and to review the protocol and report back at the July 14, 2012 meeting.

### III. **All City High Update**

Ms. Sandra Jordan noted that students are enrolled for the 2012-13 school year at All City High; and 53% of the enrolled students are on track to graduate on time. She also noted that only 8% of the students (150 students) are age 18 or higher and have less than three credits.

Commissioner Adams asked which phase-out schools are most of the 18+ year olds coming from. Ms. Jordan stated that most of these students are coming from Franklin and Edison.

The total enrollment to date is 1,183 students.

Commissioner Adams asked if All City High is a program or a school. Ms. Jordan stated that it is a program. Commissioner Asked if there would be accountability feeding back to the students' home schools in terms of graduation rates, test scores. Ms. Jordan stated the home schools would be credited for all State testing and graduation.

Commissioner Adams asked what will the reading program be, as the community is very concerned about fundamental reading. How will that be assessed, what kind of specialists will be there? What is the plan for accessing and improving reading? Ms. Jordan stated that Springboard is the program that will be utilized. Commissioner Adams asked who would be accessing and implementing Springboard? Ms. Jordan noted that English teachers and Special Education teachers would be accessing and implementing the reading program.

Commissioner Adams asked if there is anything systematic in the program that will guide teachers to do something different than what they've done in their other schools where they're transferring from. Ms. Jordan noted that there will be 35 hours of professional development along with much more use of data.

Commissioner Adams noted that she does not feel that the reading program is adequate. Commissioner White concurred.

Ms. Jordan stated that she will work with Connie Lucchese to find ways enhance the reading program.

**Action Items:**

Ms. DeJesus-Lopez will bring another Youth in Transition update to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee at its December 10, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Pedraza-Burgos will provide the protocol for truancy and attendance that is being developed; and report on the protocol at the July 16<sup>th</sup> Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting.

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.

The next meeting of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee will be held on **Monday, July 16, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**