

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
January 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioners Mary Adams and Willa Powell; District Staff: Coalition for Justice in Education Representatives: David Adeis, Elaine Erbland, Judi Flanders, Jack Kleingrek, Lori Thomas, Coji Schroder; Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott and Dr. Craig Cypher (Parent Representative)

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve December 10, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner White; seconded by Commissioner Adams.

II. Coalition for Justice in Education Presentation

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee received a presentation from the Coalition for Justice in Education (CJE), a community coalition comprised of concerned and active retired educators, administrators, college professors, business people, parents and concerned citizens.

The coalition wanted to present to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee because their concerns about the direction of education in the Rochester City School District, as well as in New York State. They are particularly concerned about the privatization and standardization of education through the corporate based education reform strategies, the excessive use of high-stake standardized testing to access students, schools and educators, the inequity of funding for urban and other poorly funded school districts, the impact of poverty related issues on students in classrooms and schools, the lack of literacy education, the need for stronger elementary education programs, the lack of curriculum emphasis on critical thinking skills, student interest,

the arts, music and the joy of learning. They are also concerned about teacher training that does not encourage active student engagement and creativity.

The CJE presentation focused on Early Childhood Education, arts integration practices and educating for the 21st century. After presentations were made in each of these areas, the presenters offered recommendations on how to incorporate their ideas into the District's curriculum.

Early Childhood Education

- Properly train stakeholders in early education
- Ensure that all pre-school age children are attending school
- Provide young parents with the tools to successfully nurture their child(ren) and prepare them for learning and the learning environment
- Include arts integration practices(Wolf Trap program model)

Consortium School Model

- Proposed that the district begin to create two more consortium schools in addition to School Without Walls to allow consortium schools in each zone
- Convert closing schools into small consortium schools
- Allow CJE to assist in building consortium schools by training leadership and staff in terms of what consortium schools are, how they operate and how they can be successful

Action Items:

Ms. Morgan will provide a copy of the recording of this meeting to Beverly Burrell-Moore for her review.

Commissioner Powell requested that the ESAC Committee advocate for a CTE program that will allow students to become certified as child care providers.

Ms. Morgan will invite Mr. Dan Drmacich to an upcoming ESA Committee Meeting to present on literacy in March or April, 2013.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 7:36 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Adams.