

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
December 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Beverly Burrell-Moore, Patricia Dangler, Robin Hooper, Andrew MacGowan, Suzanne Menz, Karen Spawton; Dr. Craig Cypher (Parent Representative); Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott

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

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the November 5, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Adams; seconded by Commissioner White.

II. Pre-K Funding, Assessments and Benchmarks

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, December 10th, and received a presentation from the Department of Early Childhood regarding Pre-k funding, assessments and benchmarks as related to programs in the Rochester City School District and participating community based organizations (CBOs).

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee is interested in doing more in the area of early childhood education by looking into ways to extend all programs to a full day and also to include more 3 year olds. At present, 3 year olds are only able to participate after BEDS day if seats are left over from 4 year olds. RCSD is capped at the number of 4 year old students that are funded by the State. No State funding is provided for 3 year olds.

RCSD is capped at the number of 4 year old Universal Prekindergarten students that are funded by the State. No funding is provided for 3 year olds. The current cost per child in our district is \$5,942.07. Included in

this dollar amount is professional development, evaluation and attendance, and recruitment and advertising.

Areas of funding needs are transportation, programs for three year olds, more opportunities for full-day programs (6 out of 50 District classrooms are full-day programs.) With the new Common Core Standard and the curriculum requirements that are coming out from New York State Education Department for Pre-K, as well as all grade levels, makes it very important to advocate for full-day programs for the District's Pre-K programs because so much is being required it's hard to fit it all into a two and ½ hour program.

When asked by Commissioner White if the Head Start programs and the District program are comparable, the administration noted that they are because the District has been collaborating with Head Start. They are using the same curriculum and doing professional development together. This allows the District to get a clear picture of the students who are coming in from Head Start to kindergarten as the majority of the Head Start students come to the Rochester City School District.

Commissioner White asked how much it would cost the District to have 50 full-day Pre-K classes. Ms. Hooper stated it would be approximately \$11,278,000.00. Ms. Menz will provide the exact amount to the committee via email.

The District will be using a new assessment district-wide beginning 2012-13 called the Brigance Early Childhood Screen. This assessment is widely used across the country. This screening is used for three and four-year old students attending UPK and Pre-K programs during 2012-13. The results of this screening will indicate if a child is in need of further evaluation for special education services, if the student should be monitored, average functioning and if there is possible giftedness.

After children are screened, the results of the screening are shared with the parents. Parents then have the opportunity to decide if they want to proceed with further testing for their child based on the initial Brigance Screening.

Dr. Cypher asked if there is a recommended process for sharing results with parents about the assessments. Ms. Hooper stated that it's being recommended that teachers conference with the parents.

Commissioner White asked when this assessment is made. Ms. Hooper stated that it is done when three and four-year olds enter Pre-k.

All teachers and agencies have been trained on using this assessment. This assessment is required by Part 117 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Commissioner Adams asked if there is any impact of the programs that intensively better parenting and parent education.

Ms. Dangle spoke briefly about a program that was piloted last year called Parents as Teachers. This program was successful. She is looking for more funding to continue the program.

Commissioner Adams requested a report on relationship between special education and the lack of exposure to content and a report relating to prescription drugs and a potential cognitive issue.

(Commissioners Adams exited the meeting at 7:08 p.m.)

Dr. Cypher requested a socio-emotional report that documented the number children coming into the District who have experienced traumatic events.

Commissioner White asked that Ms. Hooper provide the committee with what is working with the Pre-K program at her next presentation.

Because of time constraints, the presentation was not able to be completed. The Early Childhood Department will complete the presentation at an upcoming ESA Committee meeting.

Action Items:

Provide the cost of funding full-day UPK district-wide to the committee via email to J. Morgan. (S. Menz)

Provide a report detailing the relationship between special education and the lack of exposure to content; and a report relating to prescription drugs and potential cognitive issues. (A. MacGowan)

Provide a socio-emotional report that documents the number children coming into the District who have experienced traumatic events.

Describe to the committee what is working with the Pre-K program and how to build on it at next presentation. (R. Hooper)

Invite the administration to attend an upcoming Excellence in Student Achievement Committee to address the possibility of extending the school year to prevent summer learning loss.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 7:16 p.m.