

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**November 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Marge Bannico, Emilee Bellamy, Beverly Burrell-Moore, Barbara Gagliano, Deborah Harloff, T'Hani Pantoja, Jennifer Quinn; Ruth Childs (Parent); Dr. Craig Cypher (Parent Representative); Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the October 5, 2012 and October 22, 2012 minutes was made by Commissioner Adams; seconded by Commissioner White.

**II. School 46 Arts Integration Strategies Plan**

Ms. T'Hani Pantoja, principal of School No. 46, along with teachers and parents, from School No. 46, and Deborah Harloff, Executive Director of Visual and Performing Arts, shared the goals of their Arts Integration Strategies Plan. They demonstrated how art and music can successfully impact students by igniting their imagination, increasing their motivation, increasing academic performance, decreasing disciplinary issues and increasing school pride.

The Arts Integration strategies were developed by engaging the School Based Planning Team, PTA members, building staff, parents and Central Office staff. All involved in the decision making process agreed that including arts integration strategies in the curriculum would be a positive step for increasing academic performance.

Ms. Pantoja noted that the goal of the plan is to take a look at how arts are being integrated into the curriculum in an attempt to reach more students in a multi-faceted approach.

Commissioners White and Adams commended School No. 46 for using the arts integration approach to increase student achievement.

Ms. Deborah Harloff noted that the Executive Summary of the District's 2006-2009 Arts Impact Study showed statistic gains in ELA and Math when this work was done in 10 of the District's schools. Ms. Harloff will be invited to present the entire study and its findings to the committee at an upcoming committee meeting.

Ms. Harloff did an activity that demonstrated to the committee how arts integration could be beneficial in the classroom and in helping to achieve academic success.

It was noted that this first year of arts integration would be spent planning and developing partnerships with other arts organizations in the community. Professional development will also be a big part of the training of the first year so that it can be infiltrated into the program to determine how students will best become successful. For the first year teachers will be responsible for implementing at least one arts integrated unit. Next year will be a continuation of building on developing partnerships, professional development and implementing more units of arts integration into the curriculum following the Common Core Standards.

The committee requested that Ms. Pantoja attend another meeting of the ESA Committee to present a progress report with data on the academic growth.

**Action Items:**

Ms. Morgan will schedule Ms. Harloff to return to the committee to present findings from the District's 2006-2009 Arts Impact Study.

Ms. Morgan will schedule a time for Ms. Pantoja to return to the committee to present a progress report on academic growth utilizing arts integration.

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams at 7:15 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.