

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

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Beverly Burrell-Moore, Susan Hasenauer-Curtis, Caterina Leone-Mannino, Gary Smith, Cheryl Wheeler; Dr. Craig Cypher (Parent Representative) ; Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

I. **Minutes**

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

II. **School of the Arts (SOTA) Replication**

The Committee continued discussion of the feasibility of the creation of another performing arts school as part of the District's choice portfolio.

The Administration noted that as a result of researching the feasibility of the creation of a SOTA II a key finding was that visual arts and music were the most sought after genres and must be an integral part of all schools/programs and offered to all students whether or not the school is branded as an arts school.

It was also brought to the committee's attention that since the discussions began around the creation of an additional performing arts school there have been significant changes in the District. As of August 30th the District no longer in preliminary status, but has been deemed a Focus District by the State of New York. This means that this district is among the lowest performing districts across New York State, and that there is one or more priority schools.

Currently, there are 25 priority schools. These schools have not shown adequate progress in both ELA and Math combined, and graduation

rates have been below 60 percent for the 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 cohort four year graduation section.

There are also 30 schools that have been deemed focus schools. This means that they fall into a percentage or that the total population of students has a significant number of subgroups that do not perform in comparison to the State. SOTA is included on the focus school list.

The Administration noted that all schools will begin a very rigorous review process this year, starting in November. The Comprehensive School Rubric will be used to evaluate the schools. It will be an evaluation of all priority and focus schools.

The District will also undergo a rigorous review process and will use the District rubric for evaluation called the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness.

The District must have school plans for the priority schools that fall under the School Improvement Grant or a plan must be created for them using the turnaround principles identified by the State for the 2013-14 school year.

It is felt by the Administration that because of this the focus has to be on creating comprehensive schools that have consistent, rigorous academic core at the foundation with varied opportunities and supplemental offerings. This must be the primary focus in all schools; with art and music becoming an integral part of everyone's opportunity in everyone's school.

There was no proposal for the creation of a SOTA presented to the Committee at this time.

III. Supplemental Academic Services (SES)

The Committee discussed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver and its implication on the way the District will provide supplemental academic services. The Administration provided the Committee with background information and the history of how Special Education Services have been provided to District students prior to the waiver.

Under the old model there was not much flexibility in how the services were provided or who the providers were as long as they were on the State's list of providers; with no collaborative coordination of services with the schools.

The ESEA Waiver gives the Districts more flexibility on how to operate effective extended learning time programs in collaboration with community partners.

This waiver does not eliminate the District's responsibility to provide interventions for students that need them. As part of this reform, a minimum amount of expanded learning time must be incorporated into the redesign of the school day.

As a result of obtaining the waiver, the District issued an RFP to notify vendors of the change and to give them an opportunity to present a proposal for consideration. Twenty proposals were received before the August 9th deadline, nine of which will be recommended to be supplemental academic service providers:

- Baden Street Settlement
- Dial a Teacher
- EnCompass Resources for Learning
- FallView Academy
- Huntington Learning
- IBERO
- Iglesia Educational Services
- Mercier Literacy
- Personal Education Trainers (dba Sylvan Learning).

All of these providers will be providing their services at the schools that the students attend and not provided at the vendors locations as was the past practice prior to the ESEA Waiver. Because of this change one provider opted out of the process.

The Committee did not agree with providers not being able to provide services at their locations as was the past practice because they felt that the students provided with more than the academic tutoring that was needed, but also was provided with other needs of the students.

Because the resolution recommending the providers was not provided at this meeting of the ESA Committee, the Committee will convene a Special Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting to review the resolution at that time.

Action Items:

Ms. Hasenauer-Curtis will provide copies of previous Power points relating to the creation of another performing arts school to Dr. Cypher and Ms. Burrell-Moore.

Gary Smith will provide a copy of Mr. Papo Villarrubia's opt out letter. Mr. Villarrubia is the president/owner of Greater Rochester Martial Arts, Inc.

Ms. Wheeler will provide copies of surveys provided by parents, principals and providers.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.

The next meeting of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee is to be determined to convene a Special Meeting.