

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee of the Whole
April 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioners Mary Adams and Cynthia Elliott; District Staff: Susan Hasenauer-Curtis, Dr. Deasure Matthew, Beth Mascitti-Miller, Shuan Nelms, Armando, Anne Brown Scott; Kimberly McKinsey-Mabry (Parent Representative); Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Commissioner Adams; seconded by Commissioner White. There are no March minutes for approval, as the March meeting was cancelled.

Commissioner Elliott abstained from voting as she did not attend the February Meeting.

The committee chair, Commissioner White, requested that the minutes from the brainstorming session available for the next committee meeting.

II. SOTA II Update

The Committee received an update on the creation of a new performing arts school from the Department of School Innovation. A presentation was given to the committee that outlined how Monroe High School could possibly meet this need by integrating art and music into its program.

Ms. Hasenauer-Curtis noted that the presentation was being given would focus on the key genre areas of students who were denied access to SOTA. It also looked at the ELA and Math scores, as well as the schools that these students are attending at this time.

The genre most requested in 2010 and 2011 was vocal music first, and instrumental music following. For those who were accepted; cut scores went down to 6.9; and for those not accepted the cut scores ranged from 6.9 down to zero.

Commissioner White asked if the cut scores also reflected grades. Ms. Hasenauer-Curtis responded no; and that acceptance is based solely on the interview process and the auditions.

When looking at the 2012 data; you find that the genre that is most sought after is music as it was in 2010 and 2011. The cut scores for students not accepted ranges from 6.9 to zero.

Armando Ramirez, who will be the principal at Monroe High School in the upcoming 2012-13 school year, talked about the information that was presented and expressed how it would be implemented at Monroe High School. He stated that he would build on what's done at SOTA to provide opportunities for enhanced choices in the areas of creative writing and music.

Commissioner White asked how Mr. Ramirez would fix attracting teachers with the skill sets required for the building. Mr. Ramirez stated that he would do this by utilizing the job descriptions. When jobs are advertised they will be very firm on the skill set that's needed to attract those individuals.

Commissioner Elliott asked Mr. Ramirez what was the graduation rate at Marshall (the building where Mr. Ramirez came from)? He stated that it was 60%. Commissioner Elliott stated that she is looking for a graduation rate of 100%; and asked Mr. Ramirez what would change at Monroe under his leadership.

Mr. Ramirez stated that he would create course work that attracts and raises the bar for students. He would also create a culture where teachers feel validated and have the tools that they need.

Commissioner White expressed concern that parents, students and the community at-large will not know of the changes at Monroe High School and suggested that the name of the school be changed to reflect what is going on inside the building. The name has to reflect that it is a music school. Mr. Ramirez stated that he does intend to do some branding.

Commissioner White asked when will the concentration of ELL students at Monroe stop. Ms. Hasenauer-Curtis stated that one of the four key areas that will be focused on at Monroe is a dual-language program. There will also be a focus on parent and family engagement. She also stated that music and art are just one of the four of these key areas.

Extensive outreach is being done in different areas to get feedback and hear what the school's vision is; and then work to solidify vision through the FMP and seeking funding.

Commissioner Adams that SOTA involves having specialized resources and expertise. She noted that at SOTA there is an active effort to not have too many Special Education students or too many English Language Learners. This is part of the format of School of the Arts.

Commissioner Adams further stated that what being proposed at Monroe is to take a struggling school and put two different approaches that both require extremely extensive resources. She also stated that she is not clear on whether the proposed Monroe model is a bilingual program or if it's English language focused. While she fully supports strong creative expression, she feels that having a bilingual or dual-language program and music specialties will result in a good solution of the creation of a performing arts school.

Commissioner Adams expressed her concerns about trying to have too many programs in the building and it being done well. She suggested that one of the focuses is selected and that it be done well.

Commissioner White concurred that too much was trying to be fitted into one building without fixing what is wrong with that school. His suggestion is that the concentration ELL students at Monroe be broken up. Fix what was wrong with Monroe and add all of the other ELL and dual-language programs there; and create another SOTA in another building.

He further stated that the proposed model does not satisfy the SOTA II proposal and does not address a second performing arts school.

It was consensus of the committee that the integration of art and music does not satisfy the SOTA II proposal and that the proposal requires further review and discussion.

III. 2008 Cohort Graduation Data

Commissioner Elliott expressed her concern over the low graduating numbers. She asked what is being done differently to graduate the students going forward.

Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that they are considering how they support schools with input from the zone chiefs. They have been working on the ELA and the aspiration work. They have also done Title I work, and have

introduced more robust data systems and curriculum that is more engaging across the district's portfolio schools.

Commissioner Elliott asked what percentage of active students attending Charlotte will graduate in 2012. Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that 50% of active students will graduate.

Commissioner White wanted to know the graduation percentage for all students who are on track for graduation. Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that the percentage is around 53 percent.

Commissioner White wanted to know the percentage of August graduates. Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that that percentage would be 3-5 percent.

Commissioner Elliott requested a narrative of the data binder.

Commissioner Elliott requested that she be provided with the graduation rate for Charlotte High School.

Commissioner White asked what we can do to go beyond the 50% graduation rate. Dr. Matthew stated that change won't come until we look at K-12; not wait until the senior year. High school principals should partner with elementary principals at the elementary level. Mr. Nelms stated that highly successful schools have high successful principals, and that their work needs to be replicated. He further stated that they are collecting data quantitatively and qualitatively, trying to replicate what's working and sharing it with principals and teachers.

IV. Draft Board Monitoring Plan for the All City High School

Commissioner Adams presented a draft Board Monitoring Plan to be considered by the committee for the All City School. In addition to the draft Board Monitoring Plan being presented, members of Coalition for Justice in Education brought recommendations for using evidence-based programs as the foundation for organizing the All City High School.

Commissioner Adams noted that the All City High resolution stated that the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee would establish a monitoring plan with particular focus on the elements that are aimed at ensuring significant parents, students, staff and community involvement in getting the alternative school off the ground in terms of implementing it during the transitional year and making decisions about whether this model should go forward in going into a phase two in the subsequent year.

Commissioner Adams further stated that the draft plan is an attempt to allow the ESA Committee and the Board to monitor the revisions that were approved.

Dan Drmacich from the Coalition for Justice in Education stated that there is concern about the lack of research that has not been evident in the All City High proposal. They feel that it has been rushed through without any in depth research that identifies programs that actually work that could be adopted within the program. Mr. Drmacich presented some ideas on how to proceed with the development and staffing of the school.

Commissioner Adams asked if the framework for what Mr. Drmacich is proposing can be used in the implementation of All City High.

Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that she would be will to meet with Mr. Drmacich to further discuss the recommendations of the Coalition for Justice in Education.

Commissioner White asked how far the administration is in the planning process for the school. Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that the administration is not far along at this time. She noted that the structure is there, but they are in the beginning stages.

Ms. Mascitti-Miller will schedule a meeting with Mr. Drmacich to further discuss his ideas and bring an update to the committee at its May meeting.

Action Item:

- Ms. Morgan will schedule a meeting to address School Choice.
- The Teaching and Learning Department will provide a narrative of the data binder.
- Ms. Scott will provide Commissioner Elliott with the graduation rate for Charlotte High School, including identification of active students via email.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams at 9:07 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.

The next meeting of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee will be held on **Monday, May 14, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**