

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

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams; District Staff: Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Mary Doyle, Sandra Jordan, Marjorie Lefler; Louise DeLaus, Diane Larter (Project Consultants); Kimberly McKinsey-Mabry (Parent Representative); Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott

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.

**II. Youth in Transition Presentation**

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee was brought up to date on the Youth in Transition Initiative by Marjorie Lefler. This program is administered by the Office of Youth Family Services with Diane Larter and Louise DeLaus as project consultants.

The mission of this initiative (Youth in Transition Initiative) is to develop coordinated, cross-systems support that will improve the success rates of high risk youth returning to the community and the Rochester City School District (RCSD) from long-term juvenile justice and mental health placements.

Students receiving services from this initiative are students who are disenrolled from RCSD and students who are returning from long-term alternatives, i.e. 3-18 months in justice or mental health treatment.

The community agencies that have partnered with the district on this initiative are as follows: Teen Empowerment, RIT, Ibero/PYRD, Community Place of Greater Rochester, Pathways to Peace, NEAD,

Center for Youth, SEAN, Monroe County Jail, United Way, Monroe County, Changing the Community, Hillside, Urban League, Youth Opportunity, Boys and Girls Club, Catholic Family Center, Rochester Housing Authority, St. Joseph's Villa, Monroe Community College, Nazareth College, Mt. Olivet Church and After Care.

Commissioner White noted that this initiative is very positive, and wanted to know how the Board would be kept up-to-date with the monitoring of the tracking of students receiving services and asked if the coordinator would be providing periodic reports to the Board. Ms. Lefler stated that the periodic reporting is being built into the system, and that she would work with Ms. Morgan to determine when she will be placed on the agenda to bring an update on this initiative to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee.

Commissioner Adams stated that this initiative is directly related to the alternative school model and wanted to know how the Youth in Transition Initiative will interface with the alternative school that is being proposed. Ms. Lefler stated that the initiative team has attended the alternative school public meetings and have worked with Sandra Jordan on identifying appropriate the people to work with her.

### **III. Alternative Schools Presentation**

Dr. Vargas began the presentation by giving an overview of the alternative schools proposal to bring clarification about the proposal. He noted that a number of students at Edison will stay there with no plans to be moved because there is a design plan for each of the students that will lead them to success. Students attending Franklin who are on track for graduation will be able to stay at Franklin if they choose to do so to allow them to complete the school year there. Marshall will keep their entire population there. Students attending Jefferson who are not on track for graduating will be maintained there. Students who are on track for graduation at Freddie Thomas will be able to choose to attend schools where seats are available.

Ms. McKinsey-Mabry asked what will the educational plans for the students attending the alternative schools look like. Dr. Vargas stated that the transcripts of all of the affected students would be reviewed along with family engagement. Once this has taken place an educational plan would be developed for students based on their educational needs.

Ms. McKinsey-Mabry asked how options are being communicated to parents. Dr. Vargas noted that there will be one-on-one meetings with families, along with a series of group meetings.

Commissioner Adams noted that there is rejection of putting large, new plans in place without solid planning from the students, the families and the communities. She went on to note that there are a lot of good measures and theories contained in this proposal; but feel that because of strong and vocal resistance to this proposal it should go back to the drawing board.

Commissioner White asked what the major objections to the proposed plan are. Dr. Vargas stated that the objection is that parents were not involved in the planning. The planning committee consisted of members of the RTA and administration.

Commissioner asked what would be the consequences if not moving the proposed resolution tonight. Dr. Vargas stated that is all of the questions concerning this resolution are not answered that he would work with Commissioner White and President Evans to come up with a suitable date for the resolution to be considered.

The resolution was held in committee; and not advanced to the Board for consideration.

**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.**