

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement
October 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioners Cynthia Elliott and Willa Powell; District Staff: Tyra Lewis, Connie Lucchese, and Jeffrey Mikols; 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 June minutes was made by Commissioner White; seconded by Commissioner Powell. Commissioner Elliott refrained from voting as she was not present at the June meeting. **Motion** to approve the September minutes was made by Commissioner White; seconded by Commissioner Powell.

II. Teaching and Learning Department Updates

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee was brought up to date on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as well as Mathematics. These standards outline what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level, from Pre-K to 12, in order to meet the national standards for college and career readiness.

The new standards help to push our agenda on a rigorous education for our students. Previously, the standard said to teach a particular subject, but it did not cite the depth of knowledge and skill that needed to be instilled in students to allow them to be critical thinkers and prepared for college and career readiness.

By utilizing these standards teachers for each grade level should be able to build off the model that was used in each previous grade level.

These new Common Core Standards will be tied to teacher evaluations beginning this year with 4th to 8th grade English and Math teachers; and next year all teachers will be evaluated using the new Common Core Standards.

ELA and Literacy:

Commissioner White asked about the relationship between the new Common Core Standards and the Rochester Curriculum. Ms. Lucchese stated that there is a strong correlation. In the Rochester Curriculum for ELA every embedded assessment and ramped up the assessment to include content knowledge and aligned all of the Core Standards that kids to learn to perform at the high end of the assessment.

Commissioner Elliott noted that by 3rd or 4th grade African-American boys seem to stop reading and wanted to know what's included in the curriculum in 3rd and 4th grades to support them in this model. Ms. Lucchese stated that research shows that boys are more drawn to fiction than non-fiction. She is hoping that the shift in the balance will play more into male students. She and the Director of African-American Studies Department are beginning to explore this issue at a deeper level. Commissioner Elliott noted that she wants to be sure that this segment of students is focused on.

Math:

Mr. Mikols noted that the three Common Core shifts that are being focused on this year in district schools are fluency, deep understanding and applications. He stated that these shifts are being infused into the Rochester Curriculum. Kids should be fluent in computation, but also understand why it works.

Commissioner Elliott asked how the new Common Core Standards would tie into the Regents exams. Ms. Lucchese stated that the standards address the skills needed to master the English and Math exams.

Commissioner Elliott requested that Ms. Lucchese and Mr. Mikols come back to the committee at a future ESAC meeting to bring a status report on where we are with following the new Common Core Standards.

Mr. Mikols suggested that in addition to bringing a status report during the 2011-12 school year that they also are invited back during the 2012-13 school year because that is the year that all State exams will reflect the Common Core Standards.

Action Items:

Ms. Morgan will invite the ELA and Math directors to bring a status report to the committee at a future Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 7:09 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.

The next meeting of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee will be held on **Monday, November 7, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**