

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee of the Whole
January 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), President Evans, Commissioners Powell and Williams; Jodi Maurer (Parent Rep), District Staff: Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard, Beth Mascitti-Miller, Principals: Sherri Armstrong, Jacquelyn Cox, Tracey Del Grego, Tim O. Mains, Mark Mathews, Marion Whitfield, Toyia Wilson; Mary Doyle, Michael Allen, Waliki Moore; Jacqueline Morgan (Board Staff)

Absent: Commissioners Campos, Elliott and Cruz

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve November minutes was made by Commissioner Powell; seconded by Commissioner White.

II. Presentation of Comprehensive Educational Plans

Comprehensive Educational Plans (CEP) are required for all schools identified by New York State as not meeting AYP for two or more consecutive years.

Each principal of schools identified by the State as needing to prepare a CEP was given the opportunity to formally present to the Excellence in Student Committee Meeting-of-the-Whole the highlights of their plan to increase student achievement in the area(s) where their school was cited.

The schools were cited in the following areas:

School No. 8 – Mark Matthews, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

School No. 34 – Tracey Del Grego, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

School No. 41– Marion Whitfield, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

School No. 44 – Sherri Armstrong, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

School No. 50 – Tim O. Mains, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

Wilson Foundation Academy – Jacquelyn Cox, Principal. Area of citation – English Language Arts.

Northwest College Preparatory High School – Toyia Wilson, Principal. Area of citation –English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The following themes were included in the CEPs:

- Comprehensive professional development in areas identified as areas of need by the State.
- Teacher training in literacy intervention.
- Ensuring that every staff member understands the content and actions plans that is included in the CEP.
- Continued use of assessment data for tracking students who are not doing well are receiving remedial work in the areas where they are failing.
- Aligning instruction based on data.
- Increased use of the Rochester Curriculum.
- Targeting basic needs of students.
- Better use of benchmark assessments.

Some of the concerns of the Committee are as follows:

- Dumping of students with disabilities.
- Equitable placement of SPED and ELL students.
- Excessive absenteeism.
- Social promotion.
- Parent engagement.

Motion to advance the CEP resolutions to the full Board for consideration was made by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 4-0.**

III. School Portfolio Plan Part II

Mary Doyle began the School Portfolio presentation with a brief overview of the plan beginning with a walk through of the Strategy Map. Ms. Doyle noted that the District does have options in its Portfolio, but that the District wants to ensure that those options are high quality options.

Commissioner White expressed concern over conversion charter schools; and wanted to know what plans the District has for opening charter schools. Ms. Doyle stated that at the present time, there are no plans for conversion charter schools.

The following is a summary of Portfolio Plan strategies:

New High Schools

- 1) Rochester Early College International High School
- 2) Integrated Arts & Technology High School
- 3) Vanguard Collegiate High School
- 4) Robert Brown School of Construction and Design
- 5) Rochester STEM High School

High School Phase Outs

- 1) At the Franklin Campus: BioScience & Health Careers High School, Global Media Arts High School and International Finance Career High School
- 2) At the Edison Campus: School of Applied Technology, School of Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship; School of Engineering & Manufacturing, School of Imaging & Information Technology
- 3) John Marshall High School

K-8 and 9-12 Schools

Joseph c. Wilson Foundation Academy	7-9	➔ K-8
Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School	10-12	➔ 9-12
Nathaniel Rochester Community School No. 3	K-9	➔ K-8
Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19	PreK-6	➔ PreK-8

Phase out Thomas Jefferson High School. Jefferson will not enroll 7th and 9th grades in 2011. But, will begin to phase in Newcomer Academy starting in 2011.

Reasons for a Newcomer Academy:

- A program to assist English Language Learners (ELLs) new to English and to the U.S. transition to school
- Increase in number of ELLs in the District over the last 5 years, including new arrivals who are beginners to English
- To improve the 20% graduation rate gap between graduation rate gap between ELLs and non-ELLs
- To address the need of Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)

Charlotte High School will be transformed by co-locating an All-boys school with grades 9-12 starting in 2011. The All-boys school will enroll 9th grade in 2011.

Reasons for an All-Boys School

- A school to provide a supportive single-sex learning environment to males
- RCSD males are more likely than females to drop out of high school and are more likely to still be enrolled four years
- To address the underperformance of males in ELA, Math and graduation rate

Dr. Freddie Thomas High School will transition to a K-8 school model. This school will not enroll 9th grade in 2011.

Reasons for K-8 Schools

- Students receive additional nurturing associated with an elementary school setting
- Students are better prepared for the transition to high school
- Parental satisfaction increases

K-8 Expansion Schools

George Mather Forbes School No. 4	K-6	➔ K-7
John Williams School No. 5	K-6	➔ K-7
Roberto Clemente School No. 8	K-6	➔ K-7
John Walton Spencer School No. 16	K-6	➔ K-7
Enrico Fermi School No. 17	K-6	➔ K-7

Adlai E. Stevenson School No. 29	K-6	➔ K-7
Gen. Elwell S. Otis School No. 30	K-6	➔ K-7
Lincoln Park School No. 44	K-6	➔ K-7
Mary McLeod Bethune School No. 45	K-6	➔ K-7

Commissioner White noted that in the past new schools have been opened, but in reality only the names of the schools have changed; and wanted to know if this is what will happen with the new schools in the Portfolio. Ms. Doyle stated that the District is hiring an analyst to access the progress of the new schools.

Commissioner White asked what would happen at Franklin when the old schools are phased out. Ms. Doyle noted that two new schools are at Franklin now; and that a third school is being considered.

President Evans and Commissioner White asked if SOTA is being left alone. Mr. Brizard stated that no one is looking at changing SOTA to a 9-12 model. He also noted that SOTA's PTA has requested a meeting; and one is being scheduled. He went on to state that SOTA will not be forced the community to do something they did not want to.

Commissioner White noted that he would like to attend the meeting with Mr. Brizard and the SOTA PTA.

Commissioner Williams noted concern about students who are K-6 and K8 transitioning to 9-12 noting that all other schools will have to be K-8 in order to make space in transition.

Commissioner Powell pointed out her concern regarding the Newcomer Academy in that students will be dual enrolled in schools where they are not known by the principals or staff; but these schools will have to take ownership. Ms. Mascitti-Miller stated that this program will be designed to have the best instruction around how to prepare students to be in a different setting that not's going to provide some of the extra supports. There will be a community-based organization that will work the District to transition kids.

Commissioner Williams wanted to know where the funding was coming from for the Newcomer Academy. Ms. Doyle stated the Office of School Innovation has had conversations with SED to ensure that the District's plans align with their model to be able to get as much funding as possible. But, if not the District is committed to providing funding through its budget process for this program.

Regarding the All-Boys High School at Charlotte, President Evans asked if a partner has been identified for the school. Mr. Moore stated that SAM (Scaffold Apprentice Model) is the academic partner.

Commissioner Powell asked why we aren't look at other buildings to house this school other than Charlotte, such as Monroe since it was built as two separate buildings. She noted that she doesn't think the Charlotte community would be willing to receive this type of school. Mr. Moore stated that he has community support; and that this change will be welcomed.

President Evans wanted to know how staff will be selected for this school. Ms. Doyle stated that staff would have to apply for positions in this school.

Motion to advance the School Portfolio Plan resolution to the full Board for consideration was made by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 3-1; with Commissioner Powell dissenting.**

Action Items:

Mr. Brizard will invite Commissioner White to attend meeting with SOTA PTA.

Ms. Doyle will connect with Ms. Morgan to place conversation charter schools on an upcoming Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Powell at 10:50 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement meeting will be held on March 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.