

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
of the Whole
July 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner V. White (chair) Commissioners J. Cruz and W. Powell; District Staff: Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, and Beth Mascitti-Miller; Parent Representative: Jodi Maurer; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Commissioners Campos, Elliott, Evans, and Williams

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Ms. Jodi Maurer was presented to the committee. Mrs. Maurer is the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Parent Representative.

Ms. Maurer has spent seven years in the classroom teaching junior high school Spanish, and brings that experience to the committee. While teaching, she worked with other teachers in her department to choose textbooks that best supported the NYS curriculum. She also was successful in arranging and chaperoning a student based trip to Mexico.

Ms. Maurer is a city resident and has a child attending School 57, Early Childhood School.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve June minutes was made by Commissioner Powell; seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 3-0.**

II. K-2 Social Studies Textbooks Discussion

Dr. Gkourlias noted that, at Commissioner White's request, she researched other publishers in the custom publishing market to ascertain if any other companies and/or Pearson could offer us additional content that better reflects the ethnic and racial makeup of our District. At Commissioner White's recommendation she connected with Curriculum Concepts International (CCI). First and Second grade textbooks that were developed by CCI for the Detroit School District were reviewed by the Committee that displayed visually and content wise

appropriate materials that would meet the Districts Core Curriculum, as well as the NYS Standards.

It was noted that CCI works for the big publishing companies by providing custom work for them. They have done custom work for a variety of schools, including the New York City School District.

Dr. Gkourlias had the following concerns regarding CCI:

- No rights to leveled readers.
- Ancillaries would have to be purchased in addition to or bundled with the actual product.
- CCI charges an additional cost for professional development.
- CCI lacks depth for expansion.
- Cannot guarantee reprints of material.
- Additional cost for Spanish translation.

Dr. Gkourlias noted that Pearson has now directed her to their Custom Department to customize textbooks for the RCSD. In collaboration with Rochester teachers, Pearson will create content and identify photographs that focus on multicultural issues and local Rochester content. The customized content will correlate to 39 lesson cards that the Pearson team will create for the teacher editions.

Pearson will not only create the textbooks, but will also be able to provide all ancillary materials that will enhance the District's core reading standards.

Pearson will keep all materials on file for 10 years, enabling the District to order reprints of materials if needed.

Materials will be printed in both English and Spanish at no extra cost.

Pearson also provided a custom textbook that was created for Chicago to be reviewed by the committee.

Ms. Maurer noted that from her experience as a former teacher, Pearson seems to be the recommended publisher for the K-2 Social Studies textbooks because of all of the ancillary materials that are included. She noted that while the textbooks are important all of the supports are also very important for both the students and teachers.

The Social Studies Department will move forward with creating and developing K-2 textbooks with Pearson and report the progress to the committee at an upcoming meeting to be determined.

III. **Summer School Program**

Ms. Leone-Mannino highlighted the summer school offerings for RCSD students. She noted many of the offerings are enrichment based opportunities. Included are academic intervention programs that are driven by the State regulation to provide additional support via extended time or additional number of days to students who are not meeting grade level proficiency standards. This is in place for K-8, as well as students entering kindergarten. Students who were registered for kindergarten, but did not have any pre-K experience were placed in kind of a ramp up program for kindergarten.

Commencement summer school for grades 9-12 was expanded. This involved keeping the traditional three sites that we had district-wide, and then adding an evening academy program for students to recover an additional credit, as well as Regents and RTC tutoring prior to the exam administration in August.

Action Item:

- ▶ Provide June and August (2009-2010) graduation rates.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. was moved by Commissioner Cruz.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee is scheduled to meet on August 17, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 1E-134 (first floor conference room).