

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
of the Whole
June 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners M. Campos, C. Elliott and W. Powell;
District Staff: Kirstin Barclay, Latresha Fuller, Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias,
and Beth Mascitti-Miller; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Evans, White and Williams

Commissioner Campos called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. Minutes

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

II. Textbook Presentations

Prior to the presentations, K. Barclay provided the framework to explain why the committee was bringing back the textbook presentations to the committee as they had been presented in May. She noted that feedback from the committee was related to the objectivity and impartiality of both the Math and Social Studies presentations and of the information that was shared in the presentations. There also was concern around the Social Studies textbook recommendation with cultural relevancy and with the vendors around cultural relevancy. It was the hope that the updated presentations would provide a more thorough and objective view.

Social Studies:

Following the introduction, Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, Executive Director of Social Studies, presented a Power Point presentation to the committee which pointed out five courses of action that were considered by the committee:

- ▶ Pearson Scott-Foresman
- ▶ Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt
- ▶ Teachers' Curriculum Institute
- ▶ MacMillan McGraw-Hill
- ▶ Deciding that no adoption is needed at this time.

The five courses of action were narrowed down to three; eliminating no textbook adoption is needed at this time because the committee deemed that the need was urgent and that there is a need to have materials that teachers could use and that would be able to provide rigorous and relevant information that is aligned with the standards in that area in this grade level. MacMillan McGraw Hill was eliminated because they stated that they did not have any intention of publishing the text in Spanish. They could not meet that need; therefore, they were never considered for a pilot.

Dr. Glourlias noted again that the textbooks at the K-2 grade level are over nine years old. It was brought to the committee's attention that for the Rochester curriculum framework a K-2 writing process is going to start in September. When that happens, it is very important for the discipline of Social Studies that materials are available for those writers to incorporate and infuse to ensure a solid foundation in this standard area.

The Committee is continuing to recommend the Pearson Scott-Foresman textbooks for adoption because they feel it provides a comprehensive program with resources that can best support the district's students.

Dr. Gkourlias pointed out that the Social Studies content is aligned with NYS standards and addresses all performance indicators and key ideas. The text also reflects indigenous voice, is provided in major languages (Spanish) spoken by our students, is representative and reflective of all RCSD students. She further noted that the text provides support for learners of varied levels and abilities, multiple intelligences resources and support for ELL/Bilingual learners.

The committee considered the following three criteria in making a recommendation for the textbooks: content, multicultural relevance and differentiation. It was noted that the committee utilized a five point scale using a benchmark of three or more. Anything three or more would provide a product of advantage.

Commissioner Elliott stated that there is a need to begin to push back on publishers to ensure that African and Hispanic history is included in the textbooks; keeping in mind that the district is comprised of 65% African-Americans and 20% Hispanics.

In response to Commissioner White's concerns around multicultural relevancy being included in the textbooks, Pearson provided a proposal that stated that the publisher would be able to develop a series of 39 TE cards with a focus on multicultural issues and local Rochester content.

If Pearson is selected the cards would be available in late August in time for the beginning of school in September.

Math:

Ms. Latresha Fuller, Acting Executive Director of Math, provided a brief Math textbook presentation for Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry.

Ms. Fuller noted that the committee looked at two textbooks; one for Geometry, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. She also noted that the purpose of the committee is to provide the Board with objective information and recommendations for the adoption of new textbooks for Geometry Regents, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Regents.

It was further noted that the textbooks in use now do not reflect the new NYS standards and Regents exams. The committee is continuing to recommend that the Holt McDougal Geometry textbook be adopted and the Pearson Algebra 2 and Trigonometry textbooks.

The last textbook adoption was over 8 years ago. It is felt that without this adoption students will not be prepared for the rigor of the new Geometry standards without appropriate and aligned resources.

The committee used four criteria for evaluating the publishers. They are as follows: content, instructional program, universal access and assessment. The benchmark was three; anything equal to or greater than three had an advantage.

Ms. Fuller noted that as students advance in mathematics they should be in programs that mirror what will happen when they enter into post-secondary. This is what Pearson provided.

Motion to advance Resolutions 1008 and 1009 to the Board for consideration was made by Commissioner Powell; seconded by Commissioner Elliott. **Adopted 3-0.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Williams at 7:52 p.m. **Adopted 3-0** (Commissioner Powell left at 6:57 p.m.).

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting **will be a committee meeting of-the-whole** and is scheduled for July 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 1E-134 (first floor conference room).