

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting
of the Whole
May 17, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner V. White (Chair), Commissioners M. Campos, W. Powell and A. Williams; District Staff: Kirstin Barclay, Latresha Fuller, Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, Dr. Jeanette Silvers, Robert Ulliman; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Elliott and Evans

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve April minutes was made by Commissioner Powell; seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 4-0.**

II. High-End / Low-End Graduation Rate Projections

Robert Ulliman presented information on how the graduation rate projections for students in the 2006 Cohort/2010 graduation year were calculated. Each of the principals in each building met with the registrars, the counselors and the school chief and went student by student to determine what their projected graduation rates would be.

Mr. Ulliman provided buildings with data on their graduations rates based on the New York State verification. The first thing that was looked at was the total cohort. Students were pulled from the total cohort membership district-wide and then by building and compared those students to information that was in the Data.cation system.

Mr. Ulliman looked at which students had a total of 16 credits regardless of what subject those credits were in; that would be the high end. The second criteria that was looked at was specific subjects where credits were obtained to see if they aligned the expectations for 11th graders proceeding to the 12th grade. We also calculated which of the students had 3-5 regents with a 65; that would be the high end.

Some of the things that are not taken into consideration is what is the students current schedule, because this is based on credits that the

student has already obtained. The Data.cation systems does not know where to populate courses designated with an N/A for a course name, so it recognizes them as electives. The system does not recognize RTC exams with a score; they are recognized as pass or fail.

The Office of Accountability is providing each school chief and principal with a report of students that the NYSED currently recognizes as a member of the District's 2006 total cohort. The report indicates students who are off-track by subject area and/or are missing Regents exam scores. The report allows school chiefs to have concrete data in support of meaningful communication with principals to ensure more of our students graduate. In addition to these supports, an invitation has been offered to principals and/or their instructional teams to discuss the report in greater detail if needed.

III. **Textbook Presentations**

Ms. Latresha Fuller, Acting Executive Director of Math, provided a Math textbook presentation for Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry. Ms. Fuller began the presentation by noting the reasons for the textbook adoptions is that the standards for mathematics at the high school level have changed, as well as how students are being tested. She also noted that there has not been a math textbook adoption in over five years.

The process for selecting the textbooks was done over a ten week period with a committee of 14 individuals comprised of parents, administrators (supervisors of mathematics) Bilingual teachers, Special Education teacher, Algebra 2 and Geometry teachers, and the Director of African/African American Studies.

Each publisher that was considered presented their books to the committee. Each committee member ranked each book utilizing a rubric. After all of the presentations were completed the committee reviewed the information. Teachers who piloted the books provided feedback to the committee. Each textbook was ranked for content, instructional, assessment and universal access.

Presentations were given by the following publishers:

- Amsco
- Glencoe
- Holt
- McDougal
- Pearson.

The Holt and Pearson textbooks are the ones that were recommended and selected by the committee to be used by our schools.

Commissioner Powell noted that she would like to see each textbook rated individually. She also suggested that the ESA Committee consider asking the textbook committee to go back and generate an analysis in a way that leads the Board to agreement.

Rosiland Brooks (parent) was excited and pleased to have a textbook that offered online assistance that corresponded exactly to the textbook that also allowed the parent to be able to have hands-on assistance to help the student.

Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, Executive Director of Social Studies, provided a Social Studies textbook presentation. The Department of Social Studies formed a committee comprised of parents, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers, lead teacher, RTA representative, bilingual education teacher, elementary school principal and the Director of Early Childhood Education. Eight meetings were held. Nyree Strong, Director of African/African-American Studies, provided training to the committee on culturally responsive resources.

Dr. Gkourlias noted that 1999 was the last adoption of core Social Studies textbooks for grades K-2 and that the current Harcourt materials in the schools are over 10 years.

The committee utilized a rubric to select the textbooks that are being recommended. The rubric focused on the following:

- Multicultural relevance
- Cultural and linguistic supports
- Content
- Content area literacy
- Assessments
- Standards alignment
- Performances/Skills
- Differentiation
- Technology

The committee is recommending the Scott Foresman textbooks.

Melissa Parrish (parent) recommends the Scott Foresman textbook because it does an excellent job of carryover in themes that are being presented in the classroom.

Commissioner White noted that he would like to recommend changes in the recommended textbooks by including African American and Latino history in the Social Studies textbooks prior to a contract being awarded.

Action Items:

- ▶ J. Morgan and Dr. J. Silvers will workout a schedule for graduation projection reports to be presented to the ESAC that in turn will be shared with the full Board.
- ▶ Dr. J. Silvers will provide the actual numbers for the projected graduation rate from SED.
- ▶ Dr. J. Silvers will provide the Committee with a printout from the SED warehouse of the 2006 Cohort graduation data.
- ▶ Commissioner White will forward his recommendations to J. Morgan.

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 June 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 1E-134 (first floor conference room).