

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting**  
**March 11, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioners Campos, Cruz, Elliott, Evans, Powell, and Williams; District Staff: Superintendent Brizard, Mary Doyle, Michael Allen; Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve January minutes was made by Commissioner Elliott; seconded by Commissioner Evans. **Adopted 7-0.**

**II. School Portfolio Plan**

Superintendent Brizard introduced Mary Doyle, Sr. Director of the Office of School Innovation and Michael Allen, Director of School Innovation. Following the introductions Mr. Brizard talked about the strategy needed to move students forward; secondary school reform, creating innovative high quality choices for families, creating a sense of urgency for change, a clear focus on priorities and reliable data systems.

Mr. Brizard noted that high school completion is a multilane highway with some students finishing in five or six years; as some kids require a different path. Four years is the benchmark, but some kids will finish in five or six years, and that cannot be discounted.

There are three things that have to be included in a very good secondary school design: academic rigor, personalization, partnerships, i.e. school designers, intermediaries. The Office of School Innovation will support the new secondary schools by providing high quality school options for students and families, overseeing planning and development of new schools, school closures and school redesigns. This office will also align district practices with the vision of each school.

Special attention must be paid to students with special needs as this is not a special education problem; it is a general education problem. Too many students are being classified and they are not achieving. This is where a lot of work is for us, as schools are rebuilt to make sure that they can handle the students with special needs.

The State is looking for a 20% increase in graduation rates every year, or the school will be in danger of being labeled a SURR school.

There are four options available to turn around the persistently lowest-achieving schools. The UNSED/US DOE Interventions Models are as follows:

- ♦ Turnaround Model  
School is phased out and replaced by a new school over time or school is completely redesigned.
- ♦ Restart Model  
School is converted into or replaced by a charter school.
- ♦ Transformation Model  
School remains identified as persistently lowest-achieving until it demonstrates improved academic results.
- ♦ School Closure  
School closes immediately and all students and staff are dispersed throughout remaining schools.

Mr. Allen noted that the transformation model will be used for East High School. East High School is in the transformation phases of small learning communities (SLC). East High School currently has four SLCs at the commencement level and one at the foundation level. The four SLCs at the commencement level are theme based, providing students with small communities; a small group of students assigned to a small group of staff members, one counselor, and one program administrator. The SLCs are responsible for creating and developing a rigorous curriculum. Some of the things being worked on at the present time includes block scheduling, inquiry based instruction, and team teaching.

Ms. Doyle noted that work is being done regarding the turnaround of the Franklin High Schools, The Edison High Schools and John Marshall High School. The proposal is to fade out the three existing schools at the Franklin Campus; International Finance, Bioscience, and Global Media Arts, starting with grades 7 and 9 in the fall. Three schools will then be phased in; the Integrated Arts & Technology High School (2010), the Vanguard Collegiate High School (2010) and a Charter High School (2011).

It was noted that the phase out of the Edison Schools; the School of Business, Finance and Entrepreneurship, the School of Engineering and Manufacturing, the School of Imaging and Information Technology, and

the School of Applied Technology are planned to begin being phased out as well, beginning with grade 9. Two new schools will be phased in; a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) school and a Construction Trades and Design school.

John Marshall High School will begin phasing out this fall starting with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Work is being done around developing two new schools at Marshall for 2011.

The District is looking to increase the number of K-8 schools. Mr. Williams noted that research shows that students receive additional nurturing associated with an elementary school setting, students are better prepared for the transition to high school, students become leaders in the school community, parental satisfaction increases, and teachers build relationships with students and collaboration increases within and across grades as a result of K-8 buildings.

The proposed changes to take place include Wilson Foundation Academy from 7-9 **to K-8**, Wilson Commencement Academy from 10-12 **to 9-12**, Nathaniel (School No. 3 School) from K-9 **to K-8**, and School No. 19 from PreK-6 to **PreK-8**; with grades 6-8 becoming a STEM school.

Ms. Doyle noted that the expected costs associated with the schools are not expected to exceed \$400,000.00 per school. She indicated that the district is eligible for up to \$2 million per year per school for up to 3 years to receive school improvement grants under 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

It was noted by Mr. Brizard that the grant money is part of NCLB. This is not Race to the Top money. This is not a competitive grant as long as we meet the criteria for the grant. He also noted that the schools are able to get \$500,000.00 up to \$2 million in grant money if the criteria is met.

Commissioner White offered an opportunity for each commissioner to ask questions related to the School Portfolio Plan which were answered by the administration

**Action Item:**

- ▶ Mr. Brizard will provide a listing of districts where school turnaround model has been utilized.

**Motion** to advance Resolution 725 to the full Board was made by Commissioner Evans; seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0.**

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans at 7:20 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 7-0.**

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.