

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee of the Whole
November 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Van White (Chair), Commissioners Melisza Campos, Cynthia Elliott, Willa Powell, Allen Williams, Sarah DeLaus (Student Rep), District Staff: Joyce Dunn, Ray Giamartini, Cheryl Holloway, Susan Kaufmann, Marilynn Patterson-Grant, Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Commissioners Thomas Brennan and Malik Evans

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

I. Minutes

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

II. Presentation of Comprehensive Educational Plans

Mrs. Patterson-Grant briefed the committee for the reason that the district is being asked to produce comprehensive educational plans now instead of the school improvement plans that were produced in the past for schools not meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).

Mrs. Patterson-Granted stated that for a number of years the district partnered with the New York State Department of Education and was allowed to use our own document known as the School Improvement Plan (SIP). After a NYSED participation in an audit with the US Department of Education, our district was informed that going forward we no longer use the SIP document and format. Instead, any schools in accountability status would have to submit the Comprehensive Educational Plan. This change now brings our district into compliance with the reporting mandates of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Comprehensive Education Plans are required for all schools identified by New York State as not meeting AYP for two or more consecutive years, whether they receive Title I funding or not. SIP plans are written for two year periods and revised annually. All revisions must be submitted to NYSED.

Each principal of schools needing to prepare a CEP was given the opportunity to formally present to the Board the highlights of their plan to increase student achievement in the area(s) where their school was cited. These plans should be formally approved at the November Board Meeting.

Joyce Dunn, the Special Assistant to the Deputy for Teaching and Learning, and the lead on school improvement, met with Marilyn Patterson-Grant, the school zone chief, key departments; such as HCI, Accountability, the Division of Youth and Family Services, the Budget Department, for Office of Professional Learning, the Office of Early Childhood and the Office of Career and Technical Educations to map out a process to ensure completion of this task.

Ms. Dunn noted that the reason for the CEP process is that the state is requiring it. We would not be able to receive Title I funds for our district if don't have CEPs for our schools in accountability status that receives Title I funds. The SED could withhold all of our money, plus our school improvement money. In order to suffice the needs of NCLB and continue to be a Title I district and receive Title I funds, we must do these plans. Commissioner White wanted to know why we were doing these plans previously. Mrs. Patterson-Grant stated that the reason is that we previously had an agreement with SED to accept our SIPs instead. Ms. Dunn also noted that SIPs are embedded in the CEPs, but there are a lot of other questions included in the CEP such as staff rosters, years of staff and teaching positions, how many teachers are teaching outside of their certification areas, how much money is driven to the school. The state and the federal government are now saying that they want to see this additional information, which is included in the CEP. CEPs are only required for our schools that are in accountability status; the other schools that are in good standing will continue to do their SIPs.

Mrs. Patterson-Grant requested that the CEPs be presented by zones and that comments and questions be held until the end of each zone presentation. However, Commissioner Elliott requested that the Chair allow her to ask questions that would help her to understand where we are now in terms of receiving background information relating to the CEPs in order to have a framework reference. Mrs. Patterson-Grant stated that the principals would explain the area(s) they were cited for; and how that serves as a foundation for what they will present.

SOUTH ZONE SCHOOLS:

School No. 16 – Sylvia Cooksey, Principal. Area of citation – Students with disabilities in ELA.

School No. 28 – Susan Ladd, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

East High School – Jennifer Rees, Assistant Principal. Area of citation – Secondary ELA

Monroe High School – Vicky Ramos, Principal. Area of citation – ELL

School Without Walls – Daniel Drmacich, Principal. Area of citation – Failure to have 95% or more of seniors to take the ELA exam.

Wilson Commencement Academy – Pamela Rutland, Principal. Area of citation – ELA for 11th grade student.

Upon conclusion of CEP presentations from principals in the South Zone, Commissioner White questioned if there is a systemic reason that our schools seem to struggle with ELA. Mrs. Patterson-Grant noted that the onus is on us as a central office in terms of how we populate our schools with ELL and special education students.

Commissioner Campos noted that when you look at the funding per ELL student you find that there has not been any additional funding for the ELL population.

NORTHWEST ZONE SCHOOLS:

School No. 5 – Joanne Wideman, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

School No. 9 – Sharon Jackson, Principal. Area of citation – ELL (Spanish speaking students and Special Ed.)

School No. 17 – Patricia Jones, Principal. Area of citation – ELA (students with disabilities.)

School No. 42 – Richard DeRose, Principal. Area of citation – ELA (Students with disabilities.)

School of Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship at Edison – Joseph Baldino, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

Charlotte High School – Jeff Mikols, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

School of Engineering & Manufacturing at Edison – Linda Kantor, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

School of Imaging & Information Technology at Edison – Bonnie Atkins, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

Jefferson High School – Mary Andrecolich-Diaz, Principal. Area of citation – ELA and Math.

Marshall High School – Rick Smith, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

School of Applied Technology at Edison – Matthew Laniak, Principal. Area of citation – Graduation rate.

Once the presentations for the Northwest Zone were completed, Commissioner Williams cautioned all principals to review the numbers in their plans as a lot of the numbers seem to be off, i.e. BEDS enrollment data, graduation rates, teacher certification numbers. Ms. Dunn noted that every Central Office department took ownership of the data that they keep. They were to compile the data and provide it to the school. The data is as accurate as the data that we have in our systems. The data came from the Office of Accountability, from HCI, the Budget department. That's the data that we have to use, because that's the data that we report to the state. Commissioner Williams also noted that in a lot of cases the narratives do not match up with the numbers that are in the chart; also in the case of some of the elementary schools the percentage of the certified teachers don't match up. Ms. Dunn noted that schools developed their plan, Central Office then had certain pages that they had to do. At that point, the principals emailed their CEPs to the Teaching and Learning Department who then embedded the data into a template that was started with all of the Central Office information. Once this was done the plans were sent back to each principal for review and revision. She also stated that the plans would be sent back to the principals for them to verify the information.

NORTHEAST ZONE SCHOOLS:

School No. 6 – Miriam Miranda-Juarado, Principal. Area of citation – ELA and Math (Special Ed.)

School No. 45 – Shirley Green, Principal. Area of citation – Students with disabilities in ELA.

Bioscience and Health Careers High School @ Franklin – Beverly Pringle, Principal. Area of citation – ELA, Math, Science (in 7th and 8th grades.)

Dr. Freddie Thomas High School – Sandra Jordan, Principal. Area of citation – ELA and Math.

International Finance and Economic Development Career High School @ Franklin – Uma Mehta, Assistant Principal. Area of citation – Not stated.

Global Media Arts @ Franklin – Samuel Rodriguez, Principal. Area of citation – ELA.

Northeast College Preparatory High School – Mary Aronson, Principal. Area of citation – Not testing 95% of general education students and not testing 95% of special education students.

Commissioner Elliott restated her concern relating to data compilation and its impact. She noted that it is critical that the data is accurate.

Resolutions Nos. 393 – 416 will advance to the Board without recommendation due to the lack of a quorum.

Commissioner Williams exited the meeting at 7:00 p.m.; Commissioner Campos exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Powell at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 3-0 with Commissioner Williams and Campos absent.**

The next meeting is a committee meeting of the whole that is scheduled for November 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.