

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee
May 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner White (Chair), Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Williams, District Staff: Luanna Andrews, Robby Hodges, Yelena Melnichenko, Marilyn Patterson-Grant, Denise Schultz, Nyree Strong, Deija Brooks (student), Amanda Mora (student), Colleen Murphy (Holt representative), Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve April minutes was made by Commissioner Campos; Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0.**

II. Presentation and Discussion of Resolution 846 – Purchase of Math Books for Grades 6-9

Sal Noto, the Executive Director of Mathematics, gave a presentation to the committee on how and why Holt McDougal was selected to provide math textbooks for grades 6-9. The presentation team consisted of the following individuals:

Sal Noto, Executive Director of mathematics
Colleen Murphy, Holt representative
Luanna Andrews, Secondary lead teacher
Denise Schultz, Elementary lead teacher
Nyree Strong, Director of African/African-American Studies
Yelena Melnichenko, Math teacher piloting textbook
Robby Hodges, Math teacher piloting Spanish Edition
Deija Brooks, Student
Amanda Mora, Student

The pilot sites for the textbooks were at the following schools:

- Edison, Franklin, Wilson Commencement, Dr. Freddie Thomas, Jefferson, Marshall, Monroe, Nathaniel Rochester, Northeast College Prep and School of the Arts.

Mr. Noto gave a brief summary of the timeline and history of the textbook selection process and the key elements of the textbook and resources.

The following companies presented textbooks to the committee:

- Pearson Prentice Hall, Holt and McDougal Littell, Glencoe, Amsco and CPM.

Holt and Glencoe were asked back for a second presentation at the request of the textbook committee. After the presentations the committee met again. Each grade level was asked which textbook of those presented throughout the meetings did they prefer, and to justify its decision. Each group expressed a preference. Among the groups, the Holt textbook rose to the top of the list of textbooks to be presented to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee for adoption.

Mr. Noto stated that the reason for the request for new books is that the current math textbooks are out-of-date and do not prepare students for what the State is asking. He also noted that the new textbooks tie in with the Rochester curriculum and will support the core curriculum. The State provides a list of what students should know, and the teachers put the list in sequence.

Mr. Noto stated that every student would have a textbook, and that each classroom would also have a set of 30 textbooks.

It was also noted that teachers will receive all appropriate teacher materials, both written and online. The textbook comes with Spanish editions for the ELL students and addresses the needs of the special education students by offering tiered assignments with varying levels of difficulty and reading levels.

Initially, there will be three days set aside for teacher training sessions, in addition to other opportunities for professional development.

Mr. Hodges gave a presentation relating to ELL resources. As part of this presentation, Amanda Mora (a student from Jefferson) talked about how she has benefitted from the use of the Holt textbook and its accompanying resources.

Mr. Hodges noted that the Holt program is a tool that exposes students to math. Prior to Holt he had to come up with his own resources, but they are built into the Holt program. This program has lots of homework; and there are online editions. Mr. Hodges stated that he is very happy with the success of this textbook for ELL students in that it provides learning skills for math and includes a program for language. He also pointed out that there is a PowerPoint for every lesson.

Deija Brooks (student from Marshall) demonstrated how to use the textbook. She stated that there is a Smart board in every classroom that students can utilize. She stated that she likes the program very much.

Ms. Strong, Director of African/African-American Studies, stated that she thinks the book is appropriate for use by RCSD students.

The meeting concluded with Commissioner White thanking the presentation team for their efforts to ensure that the textbooks incorporated all students, and that the textbooks are user friendly to all users.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Commissioner Campos at 7:05 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0.**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.