

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

February 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner White, Chair; Commissioners Campos and Williams, Jean-Claude Brizard, Cheryl Holloway, Mary Doyle, Marcia Garcia, Cameron Clyburn, Mark Mathews, Brandan Keaveny, Jeanette Silvers; Board Staff: Hazel Washington

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

Commissioner Campos arrived at 5:40 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve January Minutes was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 2-0**

II. Proposal to Phase Out School 14 and Proposal for New School

The Superintendent gave opening remarks and noted that they will be recreating the District's portfolio. This will always be a work in progress based on the District's needs. He also said that the District needs to have systems in place in order not to repeat failures and that schools need to have an integrated population of students. The three major ingredients for success of a school are rigor, personalization, and partnerships.

Mary Doyle pointed out that the role of the Office of School Innovation is to create new schools, redesign and phase out schools. Phase-outs will be done on a multi-year process.

The current strategy includes the following:

1. Redesign of No. 58 World of Inquiry to K-12
2. Phase-out No. 14 Chester Dewey School over a 3-year period (36 kids will be affected this fall)
3. Creation of new Expeditionary Learning elementary school – K-2 in 2009; add two grades annually
4. Redesign of East High School to small learning communities
5. Develop process for vetting new schools

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The rationale for proposals is based on demand, student placement, performance, and facility needs.

School 58 will be adding the seventh grade in the fall and all students will be moving to 690 St. Paul Street in the fall.

School No. 14 – Phase-Out

Parent, Faculty, Community and Communication Engagement Piece:

Letters were distributed to staff and parents regarding meetings to discuss phase-out, e-mails were sent to staff, an expeditionary learning information session was held, session was aired on RCTV-15; sent out questionnaire asking for feedback; Democrat and Chronicle article on phase-out. The parent letter was translated in four different languages and phone calls were made in several different languages. Meeting with staff included union representatives, central office staff and the Superintendent.

Commissioner Williams stated concerns that there were not enough additional services and resources for kids at No. 14 School. Commissioner Campos stated the following concerns: that she did not see an execution plan which includes a change in management, the types of services to be provided, when the services will be in place, the types of conversations that will take place with staff and the plan to keep staff and students moving and engaged. She wants students to have the best possible transition. Commissioner White would like a more concrete transition plan.

Superintendent Brizard said the self-esteem of the school should remain, and it depends on leadership.

Naming of the Facility

The District will follow Board Policy 7500 on the Naming of Facilities. There will be a naming meeting held and the recommendations will be brought to the next meeting.

The rationale for creating another Expeditionary Learning school is the high demand, high performance; we only have one Expeditionary Learning elementary school; the success and demand; seeking to create a similar school; looking for a new location Staffing should be aligned with Expeditionary Learning and committed to professional development.

RESOLUTIONS 637 AND 638

Resolution No. 637

MOTION by Commissioner Campos to forward resolution 637 to the Board for approval, based on the receipt of an Execution Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Williams

ADOPTED 3-0

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 638

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to forward resolution 638 to the Board for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Campos

ADOPTED 3-0

ACTION:

Mary Doyle will provide a chart of applicants for No. 58 School. Superintendent Brizard will provide a plan on how kids and staff will be kept engaged, the transition process, and resources that will be provided to students.

H. Washington will send the proposal to the rest of the Board.

Miscellaneous

Superintendent Brizard may need ½ hour on the March agenda.

IV. Next Meeting Date: **March 12th at 5:30 p.m.**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner Williams

ADOPTED 3-0