

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Excellence in Student Achievement Committee
January 29, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

REVISED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner White, Chair; Commissioners Campos and Williams; Marilynn Patterson-Grant, Mary Andrecolich-Diaz, Joyce Dunn, Vicky Ramos, Susan Kaufmann, Cheryl Holloway, Jeanette Silvers; District Staff: Hazel Washington

Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve December Minutes was made by Commissioner Campos; Seconded by Commissioner Williams; **Adopted 3-0**

II. Freedom School Presentation

Two staff members from the Freedom School attended along with George Moses. They spoke of the partnerships the school has with East High School and the Children's Defense Fund. The discussion included the history, positive program correlations, increased parental involvement and reduction in youth violence. The partnership between the Freedom School and East High School includes 7th grade students who attend East. The focus is on academics and social/cultural capital:

1. Academic indicators, i.e., attendance, grade point average, professional development, Expeditionary Learning opportunities, parental involvement learning assessments.
2. Social/Cultural Capital: mentoring, social action, physical/mental health, gender-based classrooms.

Data was analyzed using SPSS and T-tests. The data analyzed was suspensions, absences, grade point averages, and average time spent on reading. The results found that grade point averages increased, suspension rate reduced, absences decreased and reading time increased, parental involvement increased. The type of parental involvement quantified was parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, collaboration with the community. Several parents gave testimonials on the progress that their kids have made since being in the program; among those areas were academic, behavior and social.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

George Moses acknowledged Dr. Beverley Pringle for her support. The goal is to advance 7th graders to the 8th grade and to bring in 30 additional repeat 7th graders and build on success. Staff trains four times a year for professional development. There are over 200 summer Freedom Schools across the United States. This Freedom School is the only all-day school in the country.

JEFFERSON REDESIGN PLAN

Jefferson is in the third year of SURR for 7th and 8th grade math. They are a Dream School and have a school-based planning team, a redesign team, student leadership team, and a PTO. Their redesign plan includes 5 small learning communities which include; Merchants of Dreams (artistic expression), Merchants of Vision (foundational studies, Merchants of Hope (entrepreneurial studies), Merchants of Inspiration (sport and athletic education) and Merchants of Innovation (applied sciences).

Jefferson has a partnership with the University of Rochester, provides tutors, Upward Bound program, partnership with SUNY Brockport. Inquiry-based instruction will be used which forces staff to plan; they would like to be the second School of the Arts; they would have to change staff in order to do that.

MONROE REDESIGN PLAN

A parent of the school-based planning team created a mission and vision. The vision includes values (commitment, collaboration, responsibility, and sustainability). This design will help to increase scores in math and reduce the suspension rate.

The values, mission and focus is on rigor, relevance, relationships and resilience. Jefferson is a school in motion. Rigor includes a humanities block, partnership with Community College and virtual classes. Relevance includes a greenhouse, smartboards, PENCIL and employment programs. Relationships include creating trusting relationships, restorative justice and expanding parent Saturday School. Resilience includes International School Focus, College Partnerships and building relationships with elementary schools.

Motion to forward redesign plans for Jefferson and Monroe to the Board made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 3-0**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. was made by Commissioner Campos, seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 3-0**