

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance Committee

September 11, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 3A

MINUTES

Attendance: Chairman White, President Evans, Commissioners Campos, Williams and Powell (not a Committee member), Board Staff: H. Washington, District Staff: Superintendent Brizard, J. Capezzuto, K. Dyce Faucette, J. Fenton, C. Holloway, E. Mascitti-Miller and M. Patterson-Grant.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Agenda Items:

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the August Minutes was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0**

II. World of Inquiry High School (#58) Presentation

Superintendent Brizard presented his proposal of establishing a World of Inquiry High School. He pointed out that a number of parents explore options outside of the City School District once their child has completed the 6th grade. Our goal is to begin to radically change its portfolio and provide the types of opportunities that our kids need to be successful after high school.

The Superintendent introduced Marcie DeJesus who is the School Designer with Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound. The mission of Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound is to get the best possible tools and ideas into the hands of the teachers and into the classroom so that kids can benefit. The organization has been in existence 15 years and has over 150 schools across the country. They will be opening 25 new secondary schools around the country, especially in urban areas, with the assistance of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Marcie noted that Expeditionary Learning High Schools are college prep, have high expectations, work through active teaching and learning, and learning expeditions and have a culture and climate that kids can succeed in. The lessons learned from the schools are that smaller class sizes give bigger results (improved graduation rates), school leaders are critical, teachers want to teach differently, everyone must work together; and parents, students and families must be well known and cared for by teachers and administrators.

E. Mascitti-Miller distributed a storybook that was created by the school called "School #58, Please Get the World for Us, A Community of High Expectations." The school explained their vision for the future through story. Through high quality professional development, implementation of effective school structures, community building, using

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best instructional practices, and engaging parent and community activities, student achievement began to improve. With the assistance of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the District would like to expand #58 School through the 12th grade. If the school begins expansion in the 2009-10 school year, the first graduating class will be in 2015. Three parents of students at #58 School spoke in support of the expansion to a high school.

J. Fenton reviewed the history of the building that School #58 is housed in. He presented two options for expansion at the school. Option 1 includes 2 sections of each grade level and costs approximately 5.8 million dollars. Option 2 includes 3 sections for each grade level and costs approximately 8.8 million dollars. E. Mascitti-Miller noted that teacher to student ratio will stay the same at approximately 1 to 20. J. Capezzuto explained the current enrollment at #14 and #58 Schools and pointed out that there is a waiting list for #58 School.

Superintendent Brizard requested that #14 School be phased out or moved to another location and that #58 School be expanded at the current site. Zenia Cox, Consultant/Architect for the Districts stated that a number of things factor into the decision-making process. Among those are educational priorities, the number of spaces funded and an engaged master planning process, which includes the community and the District.

E. Mascitti-Miller stated that kids currently enrolled in #58 School would have preference to the 7th grade if the school is expanded. Commissioner Campos expressed a concern about option 1 not offering enough flexibility to kids outside of #58 School. Commissioner Powell said that the model does not offer equity and that we are not replicating the successful schools. Superintendent Brizard replied that he is open to replicating the existing model, but needs the right leadership. Commissioner Powell recommended that the following options be considered; remove School #14 and expand into their space as a K-6; move #58 School to another location, such as Nathaniel Rochester; and/or consider having a multi-building campus.

Adam Urbanski suggested that the Administration meet with parents, students and faculty at School #14 to discuss the proposal for expansion and noted that he will support this proposal. The Superintendent will begin to work on a process for engaging the parents, students and faculty of School #14.

Commissioner Campos recommended that we capitalize on the success at Washington Heights. The Superintendent noted that there are currently not a lot of options for English Language Learners (ELL) secondary students in the District. Superintendent Brizard pointed out that we will be creating a portfolio of options for all students.

III. Miscellaneous

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Action Items

The Administration will provide the Board with a copy of the ELL action plan and an estimate of attrition rates for LEAP students.

Superintendent Brizard will provide a response to Commissioner Powell's recommendations on other options.

Next meeting date: October 9th @ 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Campos at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0**

Prepared by H. Washington