

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**Quality Assurance Committee**

**June 12, 2008**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Conference Room 3A**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Chairman White, Commissioners Campos, Williams and Powell (not a committee member), Board Staff H. Washington, District Staff Marilyn Patterson-Grant, Sue Kaufman, Margaret Porter, Jeanette Silvers, Gloria Sullivan, Brandon Keaveny and Robert Ulliman.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. Commissioner Campos arrived at 5:48 p.m.

**Agenda Items:**

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the May Minutes with an amendment was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 2-0**

**II. School Based Budgeting**

R. Ulliman gave a brief overview of School Based Budgeting concept, budget allocation process, the Education Resource Strategies and the proposed scope of the work. This model addresses the inequity and the lack of flexibility inherent in a centralized budgeting allocation model. The five key principles are: funding should follow the child to the school that they attend; per-student funding should vary based on the child's need and other relevant circumstances; funding should arrive at schools in real dollars, not as teaching positions, ratios, or staffing norms, that can be spent flexibly, with accountability systems focused more on results and less on inputs, programs or activities: Principles for allocating money to schools should apply to all levels of funding, including federal, state and local dollars; and funding systems should be as simple as possible and made transparent to administrators, teachers, parents and citizens. He also pointed out that you have to take into consideration total school funding, constraints and capacity/support.

R. Ulliman noted the benefits, which include increases in equity in school budget spending, provides flexibility at the school level, opens the door for more decentralized control of budgets, supports accountability, limits political influence in the budget process, simplifies the budgeting process and promotes horizontal and vertical equity. The total cost of the project is 660k. The Superintendent is seeking other forms of funding to reduce the total cost.

Commissioner Campos suggested that we network with other school districts and inquire about the obstacles encountered. R. Ulliman stated that there will be several leadership team meetings to discuss analysis, implementation and transitioning to a weighted student

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budgeting process. The Education Resource Strategies would like the District to assign a point person to coordinate the process. Commissioner Williams suggested that a leadership meeting be held prior to the Board making a decision on the matter. Commissioner White asked why we are paying a consultant 400k for work that our staff should be able to perform. R. Ulliman responded that there is a major shift in philosophy, staffing and budgeting that the District is not acclimated to. M. Patterson-Grant pointed out that this is a major paradigm shift and that we need to do a better job managing resources. She suggested that we start with Principals handling school based budgeting and eventually move toward involving the school based planning team. Commissioner White recommended that parents be included in the process. Commissioner Powell said that we need to make sure that there is a balance in schools and that we should not be loading up schools with special education children for funding nor should we be labeling kids inappropriately. Commissioner Williams pointed out that this is a key piece to the Superintendent's plan to turn the District around.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner White to forward to the Board resolution #841 for Education Resource Strategies to analyze and make recommendations for system changes as the District moves toward school based budgeting. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 3-0**

Commissioner Campos recommended that the Committee be updated on how the process is going at the October meeting.

### **III. The Biennial Review**

S. Kaufmann explained that the Biennial Review process is required every 2 years; and that 2 years ago a survey was done in every school, the results were compiled and it revealed that parent groups were concerned that the ratings of the Biennial Review were too high and that the District needed to work on the parent component. The report gets filed with the State and no feedback is provided. Commissioner White suggested that an analysis of this report and the graduation rates be done.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Campos to forward resolution #851 for the Biennial Review to the Board for approval and the President's signature. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0**

### **IV. The School Improvement Template**

S. Kaufmann distributed replacement pages to the handout that was previously submitted to the Committee. Every school in New York State is required to complete a school improvement plan for each year to move student achievement. The school improvement plan is also referred to as the corrective education plan. The template has the overall goals for each school, which should be aligned to the District's essential standards, which also includes evaluation measures. Principals, Zone Chiefs and School Based Planning Teams also use this template to set their goals.

Commissioner Williams requested a copy of the templates for each school. Research and Evaluation provides each school with a summary of their profile. Commissioner White

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suggested that the school improvement plan cover page include the graduation rate. M. Patterson-Grant noted that the due dates for School Improvement Plans moved to November instead of the end of June.

### **V. Dropout Report**

Commissioner White asked Mary Hale and Margaret Porter to comment on the Dropout Report. Commissioner White thanked Mary for assistance with preparing the report and Margaret for her recommendations in the report. He also pointed out that there was only one transitional worker to work with students who have been incarcerated.

Mary pointed out that the students are willing to let people in, but need caring adults and support from schools and community. She also noted that there are shortcomings in the services provided by the District; that the young adults interviewed noted that there are no supportive services; that the way the system is created pushes students out of school; lack of connection with adults that cared; violence; students felt safer in jail than in school; the loss of significant individuals and ending up in jail were reasons cited for dropping out of school.

M. Porter noted that students come from a highly structured population while in jail and into an environment with no structure, once they are out of jail. She stated that we need to have all the doors open for students and pointed out that Rochester Works would not let kids apply for jobs if they have received long-term suspension, because they did not meet the attendance requirement. M. Porter also pointed out that students felt a lack of hope; some thought that they would be dead soon and with no money and no support they turn to the streets. She also said that the District needs to define what transition is; provide support services, starting when kids arrive to jail; that addictions need to be addressed and that there should be collaboration with truancy and attendance.

M. Patterson-Grant recommended the creation of a video that outlines expectations and welcomes students back to school; she noted that re-entry is difficult at times, because of labeling; that a viable transition model is needed. Commissioner Powell suggested that we draw on the expertise of the SHAPE Program. Mary Hale said that there needs to be a transition and retention specialist and the District should partner with employers to provide training opportunities. Commissioner White suggested that a Blue Ribbon Commission be assembled to address transition issues.

### **VI. Changing Committee's Name**

The Committee reviewed the list of suggested name changes for the Quality Assurance Committee.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Campos to recommend to the Board that the Quality Assurance Committee be changed to the Committee for Excellence in Student Achievement. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0**

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**VII. Miscellaneous**

**Action Items:**

H. Washington will amend the May Minutes to note that no Committee action was taken with respect to READ 180.

H. Washington will send request to consider name change to the Policy Committee.

S. Kaufmann will provide the Committee with a copy of the School Improvement Plans for all schools.

**Next meeting date:** August 14th @ 5:30 p.m. (Quality Assurance will not be meeting in July).

**Adjournment**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Campos at 8:06 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Adopted 3-0**

Prepared by H. Washington