

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Quality Assurance Committee
February 20, 2008
5:30 p.m.
Conference Room 3A
MINUTES

Attendance: Chairman White and Commissioners Campos, Board Staff H. Washington, District Staff Jana Carlisle, Jeanette Silvers, Gloria Sullivan, Sue Kaufmann, Brandon Keaveny and Margaret Porter.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m. Commissioner White noted that Commissioner Williams was in transit from out of town. He also noted that citizens will be allowed to speak at the QA meeting.

Agenda Items:

I. Minutes

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

II. Presentation on Youth Programs

Margaret Porter of the District's Youth and Justice Program presented the different programs that are available to at-risk youth. M. Porter described the population of students that are served by the programs as students in the court system, secondary students who have not been successful in mainstream schools, chronic truants, long term-suspended, juvenile delinquents, on probation, pre-trial release, chemically dependent, gang involved and students with mental and emotional problems. M. Porter also presented charts on the percentage of students that are served at local agencies in Monroe County.

M.Porter noted that the students in the Youth and Justice Program are provided a core curriculum which includes Physical Education, Keyboarding, Health, Participation in Government and Economics. Students in jail receive New York State standardized testing and are also offered a GED program. Among the various initiatives are Rochester Educators and Probation Officers (REPO) for students that are assigned to adult probation. Fast Track Rochester for incarcerated mothers who have kids in the RCSD. The Watertower Academy is for students who have repeated long-term suspensions, probation and PINS petitions. NYS Council on the Arts is a grant that enhances writing, reading and comprehension skills through the arts. The Perkins Grant is for vocational education in the jails, such as construction building trades. Barbering classes are offered in the jail with apprenticeships with local community barbers. The RCSD will collaborate with OCFS to begin a program for youth returning from Industry and detention centers. Watertower 2 is a program for students from St. Joseph's Villa and will begin in September.

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III. Presentation on Dropout Rate

Commissioner White noted that he had a number of focus groups with youth to discuss why they dropped out of school and that he would be hosting one at the jail next month. Commissioner White also noted for the record that he was not allowed to invite any of the Commissioners to the session at the jail, because it would violate the open meetings law if two Commissioners are present at the same time. He encouraged Commissioner Campos to set up a separate visit if she was interested in pursuing a visit to the jail and that the District staff can assist with setting up a visit.

J. Carlisle did a presentation on the dropout rate for RCSD. She suggested that the Policy or CIGR Committee review what's law, what's regulation and the interpretation on sharing information on student data. J. Carlisle noted the 2006-07 graduation data was not available from NYS ED. She also noted that the five and six year graduate rate is not used when the percentage of graduation is calculated. Graduation percentages are based on a four year graduation cycle. GED graduates are also not factored into graduation rates; therefore the numbers will appear to be lower.

J. Carlisle noted that there is an assessment being done on why our data system is not communicating the information that the District wants effectively. Historical data needs to be loaded in order to obtain the information that is desired. The information may not be available until the end of the year. The goal is to get real-time data, but there are currently design flaws, reporting flaws and training flaws. J. Silvers pointed out that data comes from several different places within the District; then the state does an analysis. Counselors retrieve their data from the Chancery system. The state's system has changed several times and the codes need to be updated. J. Silvers also noted that the definition of cohort changed last year; all states have changed to common definition of cohort. The new definition will make the dropout rate appear higher. Kids are considered dropouts, even if they move to another state.

IV. Goals for 2008

Commissioner White requested this item be adjourned to allow the Superintendent to come up with his goals; once they are in place, the QA Committee can address this item.

V. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Campos suggested that the QA Committee consider changing the name of the Committee. Her recommendation was to change the name to Excellence in Student Achievement Committee. Commissioner White recommended that this item be placed on next month's agenda.

Lori Thomas stated that the 5th grade math program curriculum is not aligned with State standards and that the Investigations model should be supplemented with textbooks and workbooks.

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Action Item:

H. Washington will check with the Superintendent to see if he is aware of the concern regarding the 5th grade Math curriculum.

Next meeting date: March 12th @ 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Campos at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner White.

Adopted 2-0

Prepared by H. Washington