

**Rochester Board of Education
Quality Assurance Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2006
6 p.m.**

Attendance:

Chairwoman Shirley Thompson, Commissioner Jeffrey Henley, Board Staff Linda Dunsmoor, Administrators Cheryl Holloway, Marie Cianca and Jeanette Silvers, Aloma Cason of Research, Evaluation and Testing. Commissioner Elliott excused.

Chairwoman Thompson convened the meeting at 6 p.m.

I) Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)

Commissioners briefly discussed this information request from the October 13, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Henley commented that he appreciates groups that support alternative lifestyles. Chairwoman Thompson said that the initial material presented to QA in November will be insufficient in terms of the information request unless it represents the first steps in the report. She would like to be informed as to how the challenges faced by these groups are identified and how comparisons with non-GSA groups will be drawn.

Action Items (to be forwarded by L. Dunsmoor to K. Dyce-Faucette for response):

- Provide details on what further details will be forthcoming on the information request and when they will be submitted.
- Identify the modifications to the report that will be made to address QA's original information request.
- Inform the committee about how the challenges faced by GSA and other non-school-sponsored groups will be identified.
- Specify how comparisons will be made regarding resources provided to GSA and other non-school-sponsored groups and to school-sponsored groups: for example, which groups have advisors paid by the district or school?

II) Human Resources/Culture Change report

Chairwoman Thompson explained that the Superintendent had sent a memo to the Board leadership regarding the HR/CC information request, which was made by QA and supported by the full Board in December 2005. Chairwoman Thompson had requested a status report on the HR/CC information request; what she received was a copy of the memo to Board leadership that categorized items in the information request. The QA liaisons were not copied on the original memo from the Superintendent to the Board leadership and so could not comment on the situation.

Action Items:

- Board staff to ensure that QA liaisons continue to receive copies of all committee-related information.

III) Project 2006 Report

Aloma Cason walked commissioners through the report using a slide presentation. The cohort being studied for Project 2006 includes 2, 594 students registered in RCSD as first-time ninth graders on BEDS day in October 2002. These students were followed exclusively from Grade 9 through Grade 12. The study will not conclude until August 2007 because a growing number of students (nation-wide trend) need five years of high school to obtain a diploma.

At the end of June 2006:

- 860 students graduated.
- 497 were still attending Rochester City Schools.
- 322 had transferred out of the RCSD.
- 501 dropped out.
- 58 were expelled.
- 312 entered GED programs.
- 8 were incarcerated.
- 1 was deceased.
- 14 left the USA.
- 5 were attending reform school.
- 3 were attending and out-of-state facility.
- 12 were in a youth home.
- 1 was being home-schooled.

Highlights and Commissioner questions/comments:

No other group of students is being tracked in the RCSD the way this group is.

The group is representative of the District's overall population.

Incorrect exit codes keypunched in the system have been found and attributed to human error; Commissioner Thompson noted that the importance of correct exit codes needs to be emphasized.

Ms. Silvers pointed out that NYS requires that students take the Comprehensive English Exam in their third year of high school, regardless of whether those students have taken English 9, 10 and 11.

Ms. Cason said the study will continue through August 2007 because students can take required Regents examinations through that time. Chairwoman Thompson noted that she looks forward to seeing the final results following August 2007.

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Henley, second by Chairwoman Thompson, adopted at 7:15 p.m.