

Wednesday, May 5, 2005

Call to Order: Commissioner Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:42pm.

Committee Attendees: Bowers, Thompson

Other BOE Members: Powell

Request to move to agenda item V to number 1.

Agenda Item V. 9 go 10 Transfer Process

C. Michael Robinson

- referenced redesign work and link to program transfers
- this is the last year 8th grade students will go through Schools of Choice process.
- reviewed specific requirements, aspects and exceptions of process
- is requesting BOE approval for change in process. Also indicated that the process would start in June to first determine whether or not students are at grade level. It is projected that very few students will participate

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Why has Edison been listed as a “citywide” school?

A. Robinson clarified that it is a “citywide” at grade 10.

Q. Is School of the Arts transfer component really comparable to others, especially given that it has had a ninth grade audition and choice process for years and that it is for the entire school, not a program?

A. Robinson stated that schools request district recognition, so if SOTA wants to offer students opportunity to transfer in, it can.

Commissioner Powell believes that the 10th grade entrance at SOTA is really the same as what has been done for years at 9th grade. Powell speculated about reasons for current transfers and how this process differs.

Robinson clarified that this is for students who meet grade level standards. Currently medical and safety or SPED transfers are the only ones permitted.

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Powell interjected that the transfer gate is being opened wider by allowing for 9 go 10 program transfers.

Robinson stated the reason is because we used to have an 8 go 9 choice process citywide and this allows opportunity for mid-term moves.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Will Douglass students be able to attend only those schools with finalized programs?

A. Robinson indicated that elementary transfers are primarily adult-driven whereas secondary may be driven by students.

Commissioner Thompson

Q. Questioned the eligibility of students to transfer and wanted further understanding of what the Foundation Academy core would be?

A. Robinson indicated that the core would be determined as part of Gates Foundation grants.

Q. Questioned criteria to be used for district programs?

A. Robinson stated criteria include a separate course of study that is unique.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Speculated that SWW would be a viable alternative school and isn't really a "program"?

A. Robinson again responded that if SWW requested District recognition, it could be part of the program transfer process.

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**Agenda Item I: URSON (University of Rochester School of Nursing)
Report/Findings on school health best practice model – Presenters: Mary Beth
Schlabach, Suzanne Rittenhouse, Robert Lowe, Marilyn Aten**

Carlisle introduced Marilyn Aten who introduced the entire research team. Marilyn Aten walked through the key facets of the presentation. After Marilyn Aten referred to Donna Hill's responsibility in the District, Jana Carlisle formally introduced the District's new School Health Coordinator, Donna Hill. Summarized sections from the PowerPoint Presentation.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Asked if URSON is suggesting the doubling of the budget due to changing the nursing mix and asked whether or not the District provided any cost parameters?

A. Carlisle responded that the District has taken several efforts to conserve costs, including re-writing IEPs to include skilled nursing services and receiving Medicaid reimbursement; and billing suburban districts for nursing services for their students attending schools within the City of Rochester. Additionally, URSON has identified and suggested reducing overhead, different annual schedules for nurses, among other cost saving mechanisms.

Robert Lowe expressed willingness to answer questions about the budget modeling.

Commissioner Thompson

Q. Asked whether or not recommendation was 1 to 500 or 1 to 750 students for RN's?

A. Marilyn Aten indicated the recommendation is that the district move first to 1 to 750 and then consider, over time, degree of acuity and chronic illness before further reducing nursing caseloads; may determine to differ by school within the district based on student population.

Q. How many more staff would we be talking about?

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A. Robert Lowe clarified that we have 80 FTEs and that at the 500, would be close to 77 RNs, which is 3 fewer FTEs if we look at 1:750, we're discussing 50 FTEs.

Mary Beth Schlabach clarified that NYS law indicates that LPNs cannot triage students.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. What is the cost in the funding for 2005-06 budget?

A. Carlisle stated approximately \$5.5 million approximately \$1 million of which we've carried for years; and the remaining \$4.5 million is approximately the same budgeted for nursing services in 2004-05.

Commissioner Thompson

Q. What is the line that we draw?

A. Carlisle stated we are attempting to recover costs and reduce costs where possible.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Asked why BOCES was not present at the presentation?

A. Carlisle indicated that BOCES has been very much involved and that this was a presentation to the Board. BOCES will modify services as the District as a customer dictates.

Q. Concurred with Thompson that the District has taken on more than it should.

A. Carlisle stated the conundrum is that if the District wants to focus on its core mission of education and wants to delegate social services it still has to manage/coordinate its partnerships.

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Marilyn Aten concurred that the student body has changed and that the District has had to take on more.

Robert Lowe indicated that the cost analysis as well as conversation with partners speaks to the need to demonstrate cost savings across the community.

Commissioner Powell

Q. Asked about responsibility for the Children's Zone and the link between it and health care?

A. Carlisle indicated that certain best practices would be piloted in the Rochester Children's Zone and then cascaded out.

Agenda Item II: Social Studies Textbook Adoption - Marie Cianca introduced Kevin Klein, Director of Social Studies.

Klein summarized the Social Studies textbook selection process and recommendation, emphasizing technology component of this selection and the desire to upgrade technology within Social Studies in order to excite and engage students. Klein also discussed model classrooms to demonstrate to teachers how to use technology.

- Klein reviewed the textbook selection process, including the committee, the range of texts considered, the finalists, and the criteria for selection.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Asked for assurances that there would be books purchased for every 7th and 8th grader in district.

A. Klein and Cianca stated Yes.

Commissioner Powell indicated that with some modular scheduling, we actually do not need a textbook for every student?

Klein indicated that we have budgeted one textbook to one student.

Commissioner Bowers

Q. Is money centrally allocated?

A. Cianca indicated, yes.

Q. Do we have assurances that principals will make sure that each student will be allowed to take a textbook home?

A. Cianca indicated the issue was one of replacement and upgrades.

Commissioner Thompson

Q. Asked that when the District writes a policy it take into account the modular scheduling issues?

Commissioner Powell

Q. Expressed concern that rubrics seem to result in a top 2; a wide gap between the top 2 and remaining options. Is this coincidental?

A. Klein does not believe there is a conscious effort for such a result to come about.

Commissioner Bowers motioned to forward resolution, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Brown absent.

Agenda Item IV: Update of Elementary Basal Textbook Series – Cianca stated that the Basal textbook is simply an upgrading of the series and that we are coming to the Board because the date was put on the 1996 resolution.

Commissioner Bowers motioned to forward resolution, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Brown absent.

Agenda Item IV: School 37 Closure – Boundary Adjustments and Resolution

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Commissioner Thompson asked for a word change #5 from “accommodate” to “balance”.

Commissioner Bowers motioned to forward resolution as amended, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Brown absent.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 2-0 at 8:04 p.m. with Commissioner Brown absent.

Next meeting: *June 9, 2005, 6:30pm*