

Rochester Board of Education

Quality Assurance Committee

September 7, 2004

Board Committee Members Present

Domingo Garcia

Jim Bowers

Willa Powell

Other Board Members Present

Shirley Thompson

Agenda

- I. Review SED Biennial Report and make recommendations regarding Board action and next steps
- II. Review, discussion, and next steps regarding Parent Preference / Kindergarten Choice results and status
- III. Review, discussion and next steps regarding data included in Quarterly Report to Quality Assurance
- IV. Discussion about HOLA program and feasibility of forming committee to study possible program expansion

Staff Presenting

Susan Kaufmann (Biennial Review)

Diana Hernandez (Parent Preference)

Quarterly Report (Michael Christman)

Commissioner Garcia convened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Agenda Item I: Biennial Review

Ms. Kaufmann presented information on the Biennial Review for School Based Planning and the process staff had gone through to complete it and to obtain feedback from the Executive Committee for School Based Planning. The plan, after the Board endorses the report at its September meeting, will be submitted to SED.

Powell moved to forward the report to the full Board for approval, Garcia seconded it. Adopted 3-0.

Agenda Item II: Parent Preference

Diana Hernandez presented a PowerPoint presentation to outline the progress on the Parent Preference / Managed Choice policy and the kindergarten lottery. Components of the presentation included:

- Background
- Implementation
- Lottery
- Review
- Summer Process
- Results
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps

Rochester Board of Education

Quality Assurance Committee

September 7, 2004

She shared the following results on the lottery:

- 1553 Children were Registered, Compared to 647 Last Year.
- 86 Percent will be Placed in Their First-choice School.
- 100 Percent of Those Who Chose their Neighborhood School as Their First Choice will be Placed There.
- 100 Percent of Those Requesting to be Placed in the Same School as a Sibling will be Placed in the School

Commissioner Powell asked for further clarification of the lottery results.

- Ms. Hernandez indicated that 46% of lottery participants chose schools other than their neighborhood schools in their zone, 33% chose their neighborhood schools, and 21% chose city wide schools.

Commissioner Bowers noted that 67% of lottery participants did not choose their home school and remarked that these results actually fly in the face of the neighborhood concerns that were raised about the possibility that more families would demand their neighborhood schools than actually did and for whom seats would be available.

Commissioner Powell wants staff to break the numbers down independent of neighborhood boundary lines in order to examine whether or not the Board should make the transition back to the concentric circles (note: staff could look at ½ mile and ¾ mile boundaries around schools).

Commissioner Bowers asked why a child would be unassigned.

- Ms. Hernandez answered that this was most likely because all four choices would have been for "high demand" schools.

Ms. Hernandez identified "high demand" schools as 1, 12, 15, 23, 46, 50, 52, & 58. She also indicated that 86% of students had received their first choice selection, 4.6% their second, 2.7% their third, and 2.3% their fourth. 4.4% were unassigned.

Commissioner Thompson asked whether or not those students were currently assigned, why seats would be held until the very end and why they would be opened up.

- Ms. Hernandez indicated that there are priority waitlists and that seats at five high demand schools were released to satisfy some of the demand posed by unassigned students. Other unassigned students have selected other assignments but will be contacted, in the event a seat becomes available, if they asked to remain on the waitlist for their first choice school. Ms. Hernandez also indicated that the District made decisions to open seats based on home-school projections. She further indicated that 35/73 students have been placed in their chosen schools; and that others have been placed in other schools but may still be on a first-choice waitlist. However, some parents have chosen not to move when given the option. Ms. Hernandez stressed that there are no waitlists other than for those who participated in the lottery.

Commissioner Thompson asked for clarification of why there might be a difference in the numbers of students in the Bilingual classrooms.

Rochester Board of Education

Quality Assurance Committee

September 7, 2004

- Ms. Hernandez speculated that this may be because of the transitional students.

Commissioner Powell asked how many seats are still being held in reserve for neighborhood students.

- Ms. Hernandez indicated that all seats have been released at this point and that only transfers currently occurring are medical and safety or NCLB.

Agenda Item III: Quarterly Report to Quality Assurance

Mr. Christman summarized two pieces of information for the Committee members: the last quarterly report for academic year 2003-2004, and the Projected NYS Accountability status report, which reflects the student performance data analysis for end of year 2004.

Commissioner Powell asked about the waiver for School Without Walls.

- Mr. Christman explained that SWW wasn't required to meet all Regents because of its alternative status and that it is in its last year of a waiver. He stated the District has had to annually remind the state of the waiver agreement, so they expect SWW to be cited this year, but to come off the list.

Mr. Christman walked the Committee through various charts and showed how different schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO), and targets for disaggregated groups.

Commissioner Bowers noted that the scores in certain *Watch Schools* were quite low and that certain subject areas may be at the expense of gains in other subject areas. He also revisited a theme from earlier meetings and asked what variables come into play when looking at student performance.

Commissioner Thompson asked if the Board should ask staff to delve into the reasons for poor performance and have the information presented formally to the Board.

Commissioner Powell posed that the Board should request something specific, especially regarding teachers performance.

- Mr. Christman referenced the Cohort study currently underway, and that a variety of factors can affect performance. He also indicated that we will, as a District, be better able to dissect data once we move to our E-Scholar data warehouse system.

Commissioner Powell asked if the budget cutbacks on Peoplesoft would further delay implementation of the data warehouse.

- Mr. Christman indicated that this was a separate endeavor.

Commissioner Thompson asked what E-Scholar would do for the District.

- Mr. Christman indicated that E-Scholar was a data warehouse that would allow staff to access and develop reports technologically from different currently unconnected databases.

Agenda Item IV: HOLA Program

This was an agenda item included by the Board of Education to raise Commissioner Powell's concern that there was no dual language program in the NW zone.

Rochester Board of Education

Quality Assurance Committee

September 7, 2004

Commissioner Powell suggested that a staff-BOE working group examine whether or not a third dual language program or a single city-wide program should be developed in order for there to be zone equity of choice for the Dual Language programs.

Commissioner Garcia asked what action was required of the Board and after Commissioner Powell asked for a formal motion, Commissioner Garcia asked for a formal motion to form a working group.

Commissioner Powell motioned to form the working group and Commissioner Bowers seconded it. Adopted 3-0.

Commissioner Garcia designated Commissioner Powell to lead the workgroup.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Actions

Commissioner Powell will work with Mr. Silver, who is responsible for both Bilingual Education and Parent Preference / Managed Choice, to establish a Committee to examine the feasibility of establishing a third dual language program in the NW zone or consolidating the existing dual language programs, currently located at School 33 and School 12, into one Citywide program.

Mr. Silver will follow up on Commissioner Powell's request for staff to break the numbers down independent of neighborhood boundary lines in order to examine whether or not the Board should make the transition back to the original policy, which was organized around concentric circles (note: staff could look at ½ mile and ¾ mile boundaries around schools) instead of existing neighborhood boundaries.

Research staff will reconvene with Commissioner Bowers to develop the best format for future quarterly reports.

Carlisle will work with the Division Chiefs for School Development and Operations to present additional data on what drives improvements in performance and how the District is studying this.