

**Rochester City School District Quality Assurance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2004**

Attendance: Commissioners Bowers, Garcia, Porter and Powell

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

She took nominations for chair of the Committee.

Commissioner Bowers nominated Commissioner Garcia as chair. Seconded by Commissioner Powell.

Commissioner Garcia accepted the nomination.

Approved 3-0

Commissioner Garcia assumed the chair

Agenda Items:

1. Edison Redesign & Grade Configuration
2. Programmatic Transfer
3. Jump Start
4. Montessori Program Grade Configuration

1. Edison Redesign & Grade Configuration

Dr. Rivera and Jana Carlisle presented an update on BOE and Superintendent decisions & discussions about Edison's Redesign to date (Rivera), on national data and the local perspective reviewed to arrive at recommendations for the redesign of Edison (Carlisle), and on the Superintendent's recommendations for moving forward (Rivera). Dr. Rivera's recommendation was Option 3 as presented.

Commissioner Porter asked if staff could develop a specific program with Douglass similar to IB at Wilson; students would enter into that program to take some of the guess work out

Dr. Rivera indicated that we could do something similar

Commissioner Powell asked if we are boxing secondary seat into citywide draw programs and preventing the zone option at the secondary level

Ms. Carlisle indicated that the sentiment on the part of staff is that secondary choice should be city wide so as to allow secondary schools to be on a level playing field

Commissioner Bowers expressed concerns about Douglass being developed solely as a feeder for Edison

Dr. Rivera agreed that we need to develop the link carefully

Commissioner Bowers said he wants to make sure that Douglass students all have rigor and programs that fit their needs

Dr. Rivera expressed the desire to have time to develop the program before committing to anything specific

Commissioner Bowers suggested that we provide "houses" at Douglass with specific 10-12 school links.

Dr. Rivera indicated that we may want to look at transition programs for facilitating ninth grade entry to Edison and other schools

Commissioner Garcia asked whether Dr. Rivera was looking for a vote on his "option three"

Dr. Rivera said that he wanted a "reaffirmation" of the 10-12 Edison and 7-9 Douglass link with Douglass as a feeder to Edison.

Commissioner Bowers asked whether or not this would be as one "house" all feeding into Edison.

Dr. Rivera again indicated that he didn't want to limit or proscribe exactly what the organization would be

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Commissioner Garcia asked Commissioner Bowers if he wanted to give the superintendent the flexibility to design the program

Commissioner Bowers said "No", that he doesn't want to commit the entire student body at Douglass to attending Edison. He said he "wants less than the whole"

Commissioner Powell said she found the model to be problematic but that she respects the professional judgment of the Superintendent with reservations and that she will be watching the schools carefully for results to determine if a single link between schools can cause a better outcome than District links. She indicated a willingness to go with the recommendation.

Commissioner Bowers drafted and shared the following motion: "move that Option 3 as proposed by the Superintendent be accepted and recommended by this committee with the proviso that less than the whole student population (at Douglass) serve as a recruitment pool for Edison."

This Option Three read as follows:

- o 7-12 – shared between Douglass (7-9 Foundation Academy) and Edison (10-12 Commencement Academy)

Commissioner Bowers introduced the motion, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 3-0. IN addition, Commissioner Porter (not a QA Committee member) indicated his support for the motion.

2. Programmatic Transfer

C. Michael Robinson presented information on secondary programmatic transfers. Mr. Robinson indicated a need to clarify the process for secondary students – who have successfully completed their Foundation Academy work (are on grade level at the end of ninth grade) – to transfer for programmatic reasons from one 7-12 to another. He indicated that the programmatic transfer is predicated on the belief that the vast majority of students will complete programs at the 7-12 schools they selected but that options for transferring for specific programmatic reasons need to exist. Additionally, staff will identify the programs to which students may transfer, distribute criteria to students, and project available seats.

Commissioner Garcia asked Mr. Robinson if he was requesting a specific action

Mr. Robinson indicated this was information sharing

Commissioner Bowers said he felt the programmatic transfer piece was largely administrative in nature and wondered why Board members were being asked to approve it.

Ms. Carlisle indicated that approval was not necessary and that the QA Committee members had asked for the overview.

3. Jump Start

Ms. Holloway introduced the Jump Start presentation and the two additional presenters: Patti Brockler, Susan Kaufmann, and >Cheryl Holloway.>>

The Jump Start presentation covered the following information: the program's goal (provide instructional support needed to accelerate student achievement), the program's purpose, the nature of the curriculum, the associated professional development, the monitoring and evaluation, the staffing, the parent and partner roles, key features, student placement & profile, expected outcome, program and District capacity.

Commissioner Bowers questioned which schools have been chosen?

Ms. Holloway indicated that most have been identified but the list is not yet finalized.

Commissioner Bowers wondered about the criteria being used to select schools.

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Ms. Holloway indicated that the criteria used were those elementary schools with three or more second grade classrooms and considered to be low performing schools

Commissioner Bowers asked what the ten worst performing schools are
Staff will provide him that list

Commissioner Bowers expressed a desire to make sure that we don't make too many of the ten schools identified for this program "high performing" because that would ensure success of the program and skew the results
Ms. Holloway assured him that we wouldn't do that

Commissioner Bowers asked how we control in the evaluation for other programs that may have a positive impact on student achievement.

Ms. Holloway indicated that this is a parallel program that is complimentary; not different from others that are built on best practices, just more intensive.

Commissioner Bowers went on to ask if we have a "control" issue with the data

Ms. Holloway did not feel that was the case

Ms. Cianca indicated that we need to return to the original purpose, which included providing intensive readers' and writers' workshops emphasizing literacy , among other key purposes.

Commissioner Bowers said he was not convinced that the District needs something "new" and questioned why we can't already identify students for special services.

Dr. Rivera also responded that some of the program components included added costs for professional development, intervention, technology, etc.

Ms. Holloway indicated that not all of our classrooms have complete classroom libraries and leveled readers and that the program is designed to provide something extra for these students that is intensive around literacy and that extends beyond the regular classroom, using an integrated approach.

Dr. Rivera further elaborated that these are young people who would already be receiving Title I or AIS services, which are funded by grants intended to provide intensive or add on instruction

Commissioner Bowers asked if staff have tried to project added transportation costs associated with the student staying in program even if they move from a school's area

Ms. Holloway said there would be approximately 200 students, or 10 classrooms of 20 students, and that she did not anticipate added costs.

Commissioner Bowers followed up with the question: "no added costs?"

Ms. Holloway said this was "right."

Commissioner Powell expressed concern about the link of this program's requirements to other policies such as zone and elementary schools of choice and what if the pilot goes well and the District wants to expand it

Ms. Holloway indicated that this is an opportunity to spread best practices across the District's elementary schools.

Commissioner Powell asked how we plan to track / monitor students and asked staff to break those numbers out.

Ms. Holloway said staff would be looking at development reading assessments and mathematic assessments.

Commissioner Powell asked how much of the budget is tied up in professional development and if the pilot goes well do we replicate costs or can we use train the trainer

Ms. Holloway indicated that the model has partners in the building to do just that

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Commissioner Powell asked what percentage of the \$800,000 is professional development
Ms. Holloway indicated that the amount is \$90,000 or 10%

Commissioner Powell asked how much is going to agencies or to expanding libraries
Ms. Holloway said it is the intention to use the District's own people and that purchased services may be on line

Commissioner Bowers asked why, if we are using our own people, we are spending \$90,000 on professional development
Ms. Holloway responded that this is for summer pay

Commissioner Porter asked if the District had identified performance measures
Ms. Holloway referenced the kinds of best practices used in school 33 and the 14 most improved District schools

Commissioner Porter asked how this is different from what is going on now with Comprehensive School Reform and whether or not this is a duplication of what we're already doing, and suggested that we focus on programs already working

Ms. Holloway reiterated that this program is not an "add on" or an "on top of" program and that staff have looked at best practices in given models, to give students an extra boost, to offer AIS during the school day when students are fresh and not focus on remediation or acceleration. She indicated a need to plan for ourselves to build our own internal capacity and to stop relying on outside programs over time

Ms. Cianca said the District is targeting second grade students because this is the largest retention grade.

4. Montessori Grade Configuration

Ms. Carlisle presented Dr. Rivera's recommendation to alter the Montessori School at Franklin's grade configuration from that of a k-8 to that of a k-6 because of enrollment and because of the school's lack of readiness to commence a K-8 program.

Commissioner Bowers said he had another idea, which was to completely close the Montessori school because of its low enrollment and high per pupil and capital costs.

Commissioner Garcia asked if there was a motion to forward the change in grade configuration and Commissioner Powell indicated in the affirmative. There was no second and thus the motion died.

Dr. Rivera observed that a number of program evaluation questions arose and asked that the Committee devote time at another meeting to identify target programs and associated benchmarks so we can produce program evaluations and be prepared to present them to the Board.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Bowers motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 3-0 at 7:39 p.m.

Actions:

Provide Commissioners with a list of schools indicating their performance