

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Review and Development Committee Meeting

January 21, 2016

MINUTES

Attending

Commissioners – Commissioner Willa Powell (Chair), Commissioner Mary Adams, and Commissioner Jose Cruz

Parent Representative – Barb Van Kerkhove

Presenters – Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias (Chief of Curriculum and Programs), Erin Graupman (School Health Coordinator)

District Liaison – Charles Johnson (General Counsel and District Liaison)

Board Staff – Mia Johnson

Commissioner Powell called the meeting to order at 5:36PM and made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz

I. Review Minutes of December 10, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of December 10, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 3-0 with concurrence from the Parent Representative.

II. Presentation of Policy Report Deliverables/Responses: Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education - Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias

Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias explained how Policy 4350: Multicultural/ Global Education was first reviewed for compliance and stated that it is currently enforced evidenced by the formation of the Curriculum Council in June 2015. She stated a function of the Curriculum Council is to review all areas of curriculum to ensure academic rigor and regular cycles of review using the lens outlined in Policy 4350 making sure that diverse cultures are represented. She stated that the policy was broad and talked about the development of teachers, professional development, and the selection of textbook, software, and supplemental materials. She stated that under the leadership of Dr. Otuwa (Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning), the Pan-African course expanded to be offered on every high school campus with students enrolled and students and the writing of the course with students and outside expert. There is evidence that the course had expanded and deepened the depth of cultural teaching in the high schools. The Curriculum Council is looking towards the K-2 curriculum and working with the Rochester Teacher Center to create primary materials in response to this policy.

Dr. Gkourlias stated recommendations on the policy including changing the title of the policy because currently the language of the policy represents Africana and African American culture and there is an increasing number of students from around the world. She questioned if the policy should be called the African and African American policy or remain the Multicultural/ Global Education policy and make the language more inclusive.

Commissioner Cruz stated that he was going ask that if the title remained, the policy language should be more multicultural. He stated that the Latino population represents about 25% of the student population and recommended that the policy becomes more generalized. He also asked if Dr. Gkourlias is working with Dr. Donna Harris, the consultant for the Latino Initiative.

Dr. Gkourlias stated that she is working with Dr. Harris and provided her with course materials to create a similar Latino course to offer students and ensure enrollment. Dr. Harris is working on adapting the Latino curriculum for a high school model. Commissioner Cruz stated that the building staff is critical in helping students understand what is available and there has to be buy in among the building staff.

Commissioner Adams stated that the risk of talking about multicultural education is that it does not get deep and solid expertise from implementation to development. She described the New York State curriculum of inclusion in the 1980s with experts in various key multicultural representatives and multiple key developments. The Commissioner at the time wanted to sign, but faced push back. She stated the need for local responsibility and appreciated the current work of Dr. Gkourlias and Dr. Otuwa.

Commissioner Powell stated that the policy was adopted a long time ago and one of the original policies that the Board passed in the 1987 Reform Agenda. She stated that it survived untouched in the 1998 revised manual and regarded as the best language put to paper. She stated that she would like to see a preamble that outlines the history and articulates the Board's commitment to hiring of an African and African American Studies Director, adding a Latino Affairs Director, and the Administration's development of specific coursework. She also suggested making a statement about honoring the traditions and cultures of new comers.

Dr. Gkourlias stated that similar to the way the Part 154 law protects the language needs of new comers to revise the policy language to name dominate cultures that exists and address the tenants of the new comer's cultural needs. Commissioner Powell stated that it would not bind the District to be responsible for implementing a course and curriculum. Commissioner Adams stated that there are standards and professional expectations for inclusivity.

Parent Representative Barbara Van Kerkhove stated that her 10th grade daughter is currently overwhelmed with course work and would like to see a multicultural approach outlined in the policy implemented in her existing and required coursework, not in additional coursework.

Commissioner Powell stated that Dr. Gkourlias would have free range to act upon the Committee's recommendations and return in March with a recommendation.

Commissioner Cruz suggested creating mini seminars and courses as an introductory aspect Dr. Gkourlias responded that there is a currently a 2 week model where high schools and middle schools offer burst courses based on students' interests and could a districtwide initiative. She also

stated that in the work of the Curriculum Council in every subject the cultural standards are reviewed along with what and how are taught. Commissioner Adams stated if Innovation Greenhouse remains with expeditionary, language enriched, and arts integration as a summer school program, it would be a place to implement, develop, model, and practice multicultural education as a practice site. Dr. Gkourlias stated that she would carry that recommendation to the summer school meeting.

III. Review: Resolution No. 2015-16: 364 - Booster Clubs – Dr. Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias

Commissioner Powell stated that Booster Clubs were presented as a resolution by Carlos Cottos, Executive Director of PE/Athletics/Health, and it was referred to the committee because it appears to be a policy. Commissioner Adams asked if Mr. Cottos' feedback on urgency can be solicited. Commissioner Powell moved this to the February Policy meeting.

IV. New Policy Consideration: Students with Serious and/or Life Threatening Medical Condition – Ms. Erin Graupman

Ms. Graupman described her role as overseeing the health services contract with BOCES for school nurses and under the contract, there is a medical director who drafted the new policy for consideration in response to a new NYS education law that allows naloxone to be stocked in school in the event of an opioid overdose. The new policy addresses opioid overdose as well as guidelines for students with serious and/or life threatening medical conditions. All the aspects in the policy occur with the exception of the delivery of naloxone. She described the general aspects of the policy: providing necessary precautions and general training for staff; providing initial and periodic training to supervisors; creating emergency health care plans, IEPs, and 504 plans to accommodate medical conditions; standing emergency medical protocols; following specific medical legal documents; allowing students who are assessed by the school nurse to carry lifesaving medication with prior approval by the principal, parent, and physician; and ensuring appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place.

She stated that she reviewed the current Board Wellness policies and not sure where such a policy would fit. Commissioner Powell requested that Board Staff Mia Johnson ask the New York State School Boards Association if they have a similar draft policy.

Ms. Graupman stated that policy was initiated in response to the State's Opioid Overdose program that gives the medication, but requires a Board policy to support it. Commissioner Powell asked if there has been any recent issues. Ms. Graupman responded that there has not been any issue, but best to have just in case. Parent Representative Van Kerkhove inquired about the AED being covered under the policy. Ms. Graupman responded that it is a regulation that all schools have the AED. Commissioner Powell asked if the AED is covered under the Board Wellness policy as a follow-up item.

Commissioner Cruz suggested added the new policy to the existing Wellness Policy and stated that the Legal Department needed to review it. Commissioner Powell asked the committee if they wanted to roll it into the Wellness Policy or create a separate policy. She expressed concern that the Wellness policy could become too large. Ms. Graupman responded that there is a brief statement about health services in the Wellness Policy. Commissioner Adams suggested pulling the health services section out of the Wellness Policy and add to the new policy because it may be

easily located. Ms. Graupman agreed that it should be its own policy. Commissioner Powell requested a review of the Wellness to determine what should remain or be joined with the new policy as a follow up item. Commissioner Adams suggested adding a section about infectious diseases and epidemics. Commissioner Powell requested that the action items be channeled to General Counsel Charles Johnson within two weeks and have a packet prepared in preparation for the next meeting to vote.

V. Annual Review of Policy 5300: Code of Conduct

Commissioner Powell stated that the Code of Conduct is currently under review. Parent Representative Barbara Van Kerhove stated that the Code Group of the Community Task Force of School Climate met and are finalizing the code to the best of their ability to transition to the District as a draft code. She stated that there are sections that need significant and expert review. Commissioner Powell asked about the issue regarding arrests in schools. Commissioner Adams responded that there have been efforts in the SRO contract revisions to create the expectation that school administrators have a high level of responsibility to determine a student behavioral act or a criminal act that would result in arrests. She stated that draft code has an appendix with input from the ACLU, the Advancement Project, and other codes from around the country to delineate this and the language calls on both administrators and police to assess the situation and if there is difference in decision, the SRO supervisor is call. She stated that in an initial conversation with former Interim Superintendent Daniel Lowengard, he agreed that building administrators should make such decisions regarding student arrests. Commissioner Powell stated that the current Code of Conduct calls upon a third party vender, Rochester Police Department, to make that decision when the Board should be driving the contract. Commissioner Adams described a story involving a student being arrested at school and how she started with to draft a Board policy, but was told she could not do by the Legal Department at the time. Commissioner Powell stated there is a new opportunity with a new General Counsel and Interim Superintendent. She also further stated that the Administration did not want to take on the City of Rochester in the third party contract. Commissioner Adams stated that it appeared the Rochester Police Department would have to change its General Order. Commissioner Powell stated that she would poll fellow Board Members insisting upon such changes. She requested that the Legal Department review the draft once supplied. Parent Representative Van Kerhove stated that the document is not ready to be supplied because she is conducting one more edit review and there is an upcoming Community Task Force meeting for a sign off of the draft Code of Conduct to give to the Legal Department and Dr. Otuwa.

Commissioner Adams asked if the draft will be available for the Policy Committee to discuss at the February meeting. Parent Representative Van Kerhove stated that she was unsure and thinks that buy in is needed by ASAR and RTA. Commissioner Adams replied that the process has been authentic and inclusive. Parent Representative Van Kerhove expressed concern that the Code Group has not received any parent input from the parent focus groups and wants to make strong recommendations based on the feedback. Commissioner Powell re-capped with asking who has the final say on arrests. Commissioner Powell upheld that buy-in is important, but the policy is the policy and the Code of Conduct is overdue. Comssioner Adams concurred by stating that the Board is anxious to act and is very supportive of the Community Task Force's work. Parent Representative Van Kerhove stated that she would convey this to the Community Task Force.

VI. Review of Current Board Polices with Deliverables – District Goals (Series 0000)

Commissioner Powell stated that Board Staff Mia Johnson has created a matrix to support her initiative of re-issuing the Board Policy manual. She stated that language around policy deliverables needs to be addressed: what do we want to see reports on and what should they contain. She described the Small School Units policy as one policy that is not being actively enforced based on new school design and budget – should this policy be rescinded or continued. She stated that based on current funding process and looking at the Capital Improvement Plan and Facilities Modernization Plan, the optimal school size is 600 students. Commissioner Powell asked the Committee to review the matrix and offer feedback to create a recommended course of action by next month. Commissioner Powell asked General Counsel to review the policies that have deliverables and if they have a state requirement. There currently exist a calendar that spreads the policy deliverables to see if the dates work, then they could be added to the policy language officially. Action were deferred to next month based on the feedback.

VII. Follow-up Items

Commissioner Powell stated that she spoke to Commissioner Hallmark about co-chairing an ad-hoc committee on Policy 5153 Parent Preference/Managed Choice to review its goals and objectives, and evaluate its implementation. She stated that the policy may not be working because the Placement Office is not doing everything it can to inform parents about the best options they have and encouraging families to choose their neighborhood schools even though it grants them preferential treatment. She stated that she still need names of interested community members and parents and asked the Committee to forward any suggested names. Parent Representative Van Kerhove stated that she will forward the request to the Parent Advisory Council to parents with elementary students.

Commissioner Powell stated that General Counsel will work with Board Clerk Shanai Lee regarding the Board By-Laws.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Powell to adjourn. Adopted 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52PM.