

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Committee Meeting
November 8, 2012

Attending: Commissioner Cruz (Chair) and Commissioner Powell. Commissioner Campos absent. Parent Representative: Ranika Brown (arrived at 7:05PM). District staff: Ed Lopez-Soto, Chief Counsel; Gary Smith, Purchasing Officer. Board staff: Debra Flanagan.

Commissioner Cruz convened the meeting at 6:30PM.

I. Review and Discuss School Closure Process Policy

Ed Lopez-Soto discussed recommendations presented in the October 18th Policy Committee meeting for modifying the proposed School Closure Process policy. He stated that the current proposal addresses the recommendation to make the sequence of steps in the school closure process more explicit to ensure that input is obtained from the public and from key stakeholders before beginning decision-making.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve the proposed School Closure Process policy.
Adopted 2-0.

III. Discuss Mechanisms for Monitoring Implementation of Board Policies

Mr. Lopez-Soto stated that his recommendation is to adopt the suggestions presented by Debra Flanagan for monitoring implementation of Board policies.

Ms. Flanagan stated that she had presented several options in terms of prioritizing policies to monitor: policies which are legally mandated, and those which have the greatest direct impact on students and parents.

Mr. Lopez-Soto reported that he has been reviewing both of these sets of policies, and has sent a memo to Cabinet members to request their feedback in terms of the efficacy of implementing these policies and identifying challenges or obstacles in implementation.

IV. Proposed Revision of Purchasing Policy (6700)

Gary Smith explained that the NYS legislature recently made a number of changes that will affect purchasing by the District. He stated that bidders may now be selected on the basis of the “best value” for their product or service. Mr. Smith advised that the District continue to award contracts primarily on the basis of the lowest responsible bidder, but the “best value” option allows more flexibility when specific quality standards are of paramount importance.

Mr. Smith also reported that New York and New Jersey are the only two states in the country that do not recognize purchasing under federal GSA contracts. He stated that NYS law was recently changed to allow school districts to purchase under these federal contracts, which would be to the District’s advantage in some cases.

Mr. Smith noted that the final proposed revision to Purchasing policy also reflects changes in NYS law, allowing districts to join other political subdivisions as a consortium in issuing requests for bids.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve proposed revisions to Purchasing policy. **Adopted 2-0.**

V. Update on Cross-Zone Student Placement and Transportation

Commissioner Cruz announced that additional analysis is needed to aid understanding of the factors affecting cross-zone student placement and transportation, particularly because of the complexity involved and the implications for families and other aspects of District operations. He stated that the next summit will be held on December 10th at 5:30PM.

VI. Review and Discuss possible Revision of Values Education Policy (4311.2)

Commissioner Powell stated that she has received requests from parents and various community members to re-examine the current Values Education policy. She encouraged members of the Policy Committee to consider strategies for obtaining public input in revising this policy.

Action Item: Ms. Flanagan will obtain information regarding the composition of the original committee that developed the current Values Education policy, and report back in the December Policy Committee meeting.

V. Feedback received regarding Policies Requiring Deliverables

Ms. Flanagan reported the feedback received so far regarding policies that require deliverables (i.e. Superintendent report or evaluation):

- Equal Employment Opportunity policy (9110): Bethany Centrone, HCI Chief, reported that work is underway to develop processes for collecting equal employment opportunity data regarding employee actions (e.g. new hires, promotions, suspensions, staff reductions, terminations, and resignations). Currently HCI is able to provide a report to the Board only with data regarding active employees.
- Incidental Teaching policy (9460): Ms. Centrone stated that HCI is able to provide a report to the Board of the number of teachers currently teaching outside of their area of certification. She recommended that these reports be provided to the Board in November (after BEDS day) and in March (to allow time for review of the status of teachers whose certification may have expired as of the end of January).
- Medicaid Compliance policy (8600): Anissa Henry-Wheeler, Auditor General, pointed out several revisions needed to this policy and suggested that the Medicaid Compliance Officer provide a report to the Board on a regular basis.

- Suggestion for the Board to establish a process to identify specific deliverables, a timeline by which each report/evaluation is to be provided, and to consolidate this information in one centralized location (rather than in a variety of policies).

Ms. Flanagan noted that a number of the policies requiring deliverables relate to academic standards and curriculum, and Commissioner White has not yet provided input on these policies as Chair of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee.

Action Item: Ms. Flanagan will contact Commissioner White to request his input on the deliverables required under policies related to academic standards and curriculum. Ms. Flanagan will also include this in the agenda for the December Policy Committee meeting.

VI. Review Remaining Policies for Updating the Policy Manual

Action Item: Ms. Flanagan will add this to the agenda for the December Policy Committee meeting, and contact the HCI Chief for feedback regarding policies related to evaluation of RCSD staff.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 2-0, with concurrence of parent representative.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.