

Rochester Board of Education
Policy Committee
August 18, 2011
5:30PM

Attendance: Commissioner Cruz (Chair) and Commissioner Powell. Commissioner Campos absent. Parent Representative absent. District staff: Charles Johnson, Bethany Centrone, Gladys Pedraza-Burgos, and Dave Brown. Board staff: Ms. Debra Flanagan.

Commissioner Cruz convened the meeting at 5:42PM.

I. Review and Approve July 2011 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve the July 26, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting minutes.
Adopted 2-0.

II. Presentation from Dream Ministries regarding proposed Condom Availability Program (CAP)

Members of Dream Ministries (Clive Wilson, Sarah Lenhard, and Kirsten Smith) provided input regarding a proposed CAP program, citing research of teen brain development and capacity for making moral decisions, negative psychological and emotional outcomes from underage sexual activity, and the failure of condoms to protect against pregnancy and/or STD infection. In addition, information was presented of comparative studies in Uganda, Thailand, and the Philippines regarding the efficacy of CAP programs in reducing the incidence of unwanted pregnancies and STD/HIV infection. They reported that abstinence and a reduction in the number of sexual partners were more effective in reducing the incidence of HIV infection in Uganda and the Philippines than the use of condoms. Similarly, promotion of condom use in Thailand was reported to have failed to reduce the incidence of HIV infection.

In addition, the members of Dream Ministries submitted a large number of petitions signed in opposition to the District establishing a CAP program.

III. Report of Data regarding the impact of CAPs in reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy and STD/HIV infection

Gladys Pedraza-Burgos presented data from research studies comparing sexual activity and condom use by adolescents in New York City and Chicago. While rates of sexual activity among teens were similar for both cities, condom use was significantly greater in NYC, which has a CAP program. Ms. Pedraza-Burgos reported that a study of Health Resource Centers in Philadelphia schools, which provide comprehensive education and a CAP program, showed a reduction in sexual activity and increased use of condoms. She stated that students in schools without these Centers had an increased rate of sexual activity during the same time period. Ms. Pedraza-Burgos noted that a review of the research indicates that adolescent sexual activity does not increase as a result of providing comprehensive sex education and condom availability. She also reported that condoms have been found to be the most effective method of preventing STD/HIV infection for sexually active adolescents and adults.

Ms. Pedraza Burgos announced that RCSD students have organized a Youth Forum to discuss issues regarding sexual activity and STD/HIV prevention. The Youth Forum will be held on Wednesday, September 14th, from 6:00-8:00PM and the location is being finalized.

The Parent Council will host a Parent Forum sometime in late September or early October.

IV. Review and Discuss Audit Committee Recommendations regarding the Internal Audit Reports policy

Chuck Johnson reviewed the requirements under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) regarding public disclosure of information, noting that opinions and recommendations do not have to be disclosed because they are not factual.

Commissioner Powell stated that she had no interest in forwarding this alternate policy proposal to the Board.

Commissioner Cruz stated that he is conflicted about this alternate policy proposal because of his sensitivity to potentially litigious situations, and his concern for being accountable to the public. He described the responsibility of the District to protect staff and students, and indicated that he is not comfortable with requiring all final audit reports to be posted publicly in their entirety on the website.

V. Information regarding New Superintendent Regulation, “District Computer Passwords”

Mr. Johnson informed the members of the Policy Committee of a new Superintendent regulation, “District Computer Passwords”, which was approved on June 28th. He noted that the current version of the regulation contains recommendations from the staff in the IM&T Department:

- The system will log out after 10 failed password attempts – at this point, a staff member would have to contact IM&T to reset their password
- Staff are required to set their computer to lock the screen after 15 minutes of inactivity

Mr. Johnson reported that these provisions are designed to enhance the security of the District network.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to adjourn. **Adopted 2-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Next Policy Committee Meeting: September 15th at 5:30PM