

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
August 27, 2015

Attendance: President White and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Evans and Powell; Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a young audience member from Henry Lomb School No. 20 selected by President White.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the June 18th Business Meeting, July 28th Business Meeting and July 28th Contract for Excellence Public Hearing was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Cruz absent.
- III. Recognition:** None.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Jomar Miranda and Juan Justiniano spoke about the value of the programming at the Boys Academy of Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9. Parents Iliana Justiniano and Maria Class spoke about the value of the programming at the Boys Academy of Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9.
- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Clara Forbes spoke about the need for improved student achievement throughout the District. Community member Abigail McHugh-Grifa spoke about the need for the District to pursue energy efficient solutions.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Nelms provided the Board with an update of activities and occurrences related to the start of 2015-16 school year at East HS under the direction of the University of Rochester as the Educational Partnership Organization. He delivered a presentation on the efforts that the East HS community have undertaken to increase student achievement. Dr. Nelms noted that the school has facilitated several community meetings and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) and planning team meetings to collect input on the community's vision for the school. He highlighted the schools partnership with the Center for Youth in acknowledging the agency's donation of book bags and books for all incoming 6th grade students. Dr. Nelms spoke about various ways in which the school has worked to engage and empower students through small-group sessions and surveys. And lastly, Dr. Nelms mentioned the school's attendance initiative which involves deploying social workers and counselors to combat truancy.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vargas provided the Board with an update of activities and occurrences related to the start of 2015-16 school year.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Monday, August 24th to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 134 through 149, and 174. This was a very productive and informative meeting in which a number of substantive items were discussed, such as conducting an organizational study to identify potential efficiencies and cost savings; services provided by the District's Workers' Compensation program administrator; plans for the use of funds under the Smart Schools Bond program; and selection of the Program Manager for Phase 2 of the Facilities Modernization Program. The Finance Committee discussed Resolution No. 2015-16: 149 regarding an agreement with IBM to conduct an organizational study of the Student Placement Office and Information Management & Technology Department. Committee members recommended that a more comprehensive study be conducted of all Central Office departments and functions to identify potential efficiencies and cost savings, rather than limiting the study to only two departments. In addition, members of the Finance Committee advised restarting the bidding process to ensure that the broader organizational study is performed by a vendor with the appropriate areas of expertise.

Chris Hoch provided the Committee with an overview of the District's Workers' Compensation program, and the process of selecting a vendor to administer the program. Out of the five responses received to the RFP, POMCO, Inc. was ultimately selected for the quality of service and additional amenities provided, such as an on-site adjuster and a nurse case manager to assist injured employees and to facilitate their return to work. POMCO, Inc. has also conducted safety audits and ergonomic assessments as preventive measures to minimize the risk of employee injury and to contain costs. The most recent contract with POMCO, Inc. was approved in June and based on a flat fee that is less than the amount the District has paid for the previous four years.

Annmarie Lehner gave a presentation regarding the guidelines for the use of Smart Schools Bond funding, \$47M of which has been allocated to the District. However, the Smart Schools program is based on reimbursement of eligible project expenses and the District will have to advance the funds for these projects. A Smart Schools Improvement Plan is currently being prepared for submission to the NYS Education Department by August 31st, and includes expansion of PreK classroom space to reduce the use of transportable classrooms, security projects, and purchase of instructional technology. In addition, the opportunity to create WiFi access for all City residents is currently being explored, with plans to conduct a feasibility study regarding the most effective and efficient ways to pursue community-wide wireless access. This project involves extensive collaboration with the City and various institutions, such as the Monroe County Library system. Governor Cuomo supports having WiFi access for residents across the entire state, and Rochester could become a pioneer in this effort. If this project is pursued, the work would begin in 2016.

A resolution regarding the Program Manager for Phase 2 of the Facilities Modernization Program was also discussed in this month's Finance Committee meeting (Resolution No. 2015-16: 174). The Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board Selection Committee has recommended entering into contract negotiations with the firm of Dewolff Epic, LLC and the resolution requests Board approval for conducting these negotiations. A similar resolution will be presented to City Council for approval in their September meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22nd, following the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, August 18th, and received a presentation from Dr. Otuwa regarding the District's APPR plan and evaluation process. Highlights of that presentation included: development of Assessments at the K-2 Level, use of a software system (EDOCTRINA) to facilitate data collection, and improve the accuracy and transparency of scoring under APPR, development of Student Learning Objectives for all courses not linked to 3-8 NYS assessments or Regents exams, professional development provided to principals and teachers on use of the software system and the APPR process, training provided to Lead and Peer Evaluators regarding the use of the rubric for observations and scoring, and Advance Blueprint of assessments to enable them to provide input into the final test administered to students.

Dr. Otuwa reported that all principals and 97.56% of RCSD teachers have been evaluated to date under APPR. The next steps are to follow up on any missing scores; complete the review of Student Learning Objectives; and obtain teacher growth scores from the NYS Education Department. After these scores have been provided, the District will combine them with the scores for courses with Student Learning Objectives to identify any teachers that do not yet have growth scores.

In terms of the outcome of APPR scores, Dr. Otuwa stated that principals and teachers rated below "Highly Effective" are placed on a Performance Improvement Plan and given supports specific to the areas in which their performance has been lagging.

The agenda for this month's meeting originally included review of the School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEPs) for Monroe High School and School No. 9, but these plans have not yet been finalized. The plans are due to be submitted to the NYS Education Department by September 30th, and the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee will review them in next month's meeting.

The next ESA Committee meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22nd at 5:30p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, August 18th to discuss developing a framework to implement a communications plan for the Board. The members of the committee uphold that a role of the Board is to inform the community of education priorities, issues, and changes within the District in ways that can be easily understood. The District as a whole has not done the best job in relaying such information. The Board, elected by the people, should inform parents and community members, but also recognizes that it is not equipped to address all stakeholders and will need the resources of various departments including the Office of Parent Engagement.

Communications Chief Chip Partner and Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Christiana Otuwa were invited to discuss current efforts being used to inform parents and community members. Mr. Partner described how the District needs to do more in providing such information and access to parents and community members and using the resources the District already has including the studio, YouTube channel, advertising, and video on demand. Dr. Otuwa described a meeting with the President of the Parent Advisory Council about ways to engage parents in the curriculum decisions and ensuring that letters sent home are understandable for all. Parent Representative Mr. Jacobs expressed that the Parent Connect system is underutilized and at times not up to date. In response, Dr. Otuwa

suggested strategizing ways to use the Parent Connect system to engage schools to communicate with parents.

Commissioner Campos suggested that the members of the Board select two activities and topics for each stakeholder outlined in the draft Rochester Board of Education Communications Plan: 2010-11. The next steps will include creating working subgroups around the development of a communications plan. The committee also discussed hosting receivership forums throughout the city for families and community members. Commissioner Adams described a receivership forum she hosted for the Southwest Common Council who was concerned about the community engagement component of receivership for School #44. She believes that the participants gained an understanding about what receivership is.

The next steps will include planning for future receivership forums.

The committee was also encouraged to start thinking what will be on the upcoming legislative agenda. Committee members also discussed safety/security issues that may arise during the summer, and Ms. Goldammer offered to provide an overview of the summer programs and student transportation arrangements designed to deter altercations among students.

The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th, at 6:00PM.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee did not meet during the month of August. The following items will be discussed at the next committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2015.

Policy Deliverables due to the Board for Administration

Due for July 2015:

- Policy 4090 Pathways to High School Success
- Policy 4314 Service Learning – Reported late in March 2015
- Policy 8100 Health and Safety

Due for August 2015:

- Policy 0220 Small School Units
- Policy 0400 School Improvement Plan
- Policy 1100 Public Information Program
- Policy 4000 Instructional Goals
- Policy 4311.2 Values Education
- Policy 4325 Compensatory Education
- Policy 4326 Instruction of Limited English Proficient Students (LEP); Regulations

Due for September 2015:

- Policy 4314.2 School-to-Work Transition Initiative Policy
- Policy 7010 Lead Safe Schools

The Committee will discuss newly delivered reports to determine what constitutes as a report and a recommendation for policy change.

Re-Adoption of a Full Policy Manual: The Committee will discuss the re-adoption of a full Rochester City School Board Policy Manual. The last full adoption occurred in 1998.

Policy 5153 Parent Preference/Managed Choice: The Committee will discuss establishing a committee of stakeholders to review the “language” and compliance of the Parent Preference/Managed Choice policy.

Code of Conduct: The Policy Committee wants to review the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct from the Rochester Area Community Foundation School Climate Committee and The Advancement Project, a civil rights organization.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 5:30p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee did not meet in August. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th following the Policy Committee Meeting when the Committee will discuss Board development activities for the coming year.

VIII. Resolutions

2015-16: 107: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 108-116: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 117: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 118: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott absent and Commissioner Evans dissenting.

2015-16: 119-127: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 128: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship.

2015-16: 129-133: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 134-137: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 138-148: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 149: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Rejected 2-4 with Vice President Elliott absent and President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Evans, and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2015-16: 150-157: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 158: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship.

2015-16: 159-174: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2015-16: 175: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 2-4 with Vice President Elliott absent and President White, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz, and Commissioner Evans dissenting.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2015-16: 176 made by Commissioner Adams to include the following language: “Resolved, the reporting and supervisory structures of RPPP and UPK will remain unchanged from 2014-15 with the exception of changes in titles approved by the Board in the 2015-16 budget;” seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion fails 3-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Campos absent and Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Evans dissenting.

2015-16: 176: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: None.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of specific individuals made by Commissioner Cruz at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 11:14 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 11:19 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.