

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Judith Davis, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Willa Powell, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Beatriz LeBron.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Daniel Lowengard, Interim Chief of Staff, Linda Cimusz, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, and Acting Clerk Francine Scott.

President White convened the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Powell

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes of the September 20 Finance and Resource Allocation Committee Meeting, October 11 Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting, October 16 Finance and Resource Allocation Committee, and November 14 Finance and Resource Allocation Committee Meeting made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President Elliott.

Motion carries 5-1 with Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner LeBron absent

December 13 Finance and Resource Allocation Committee Meeting made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Vice President Elliott.

Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent

III. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item

No speakers present.

IV. Discussion of Acceptance of Action Plan for Distinguished Educator's Report

President White expressed his many thanks to everyone for the detailed, 110-page response to the Distinguished Educator's Report. President White also added that there was a lot of hard work that went into responding the Distinguished Educator's Report, with a short window of time to address the many recommendations. President White thanked Dr. Mascitti-Miller, Dr. Cecelia Golden, Barbara Deane-Williams, and their team. He also thanked Interim Superintendent Daniel Lowengard and Interim Chief of Staff Linda Cimusz for their assistance with guidance and direction. He also thanked the other Commissioners for their input and hard work. President White stated the Distinguished Educator's Report is a "living, breathing document" that would allow for changes.

Commissioner Hallmark echoed President White's remarks, and thanked everyone that took part to respond to the Distinguished Educator's Report. Commissioner Hallmark also stated that the response is an excellent blueprint to move the District forward. She also stated that the Danielson Framework is a formative and summative assessment throughout process.

Commissioner Davis wrote a letter to the New York State Education Department, Commissioner MaryEllen Elia in response to the Distinguished Educator's Report and read the letter publicly.

Commissioner Sheppard also thanked staff for their work, but had hoped that her concerns and recommendations could have been included in the response to the Distinguished Educator's Report. Commissioner Sheppard expressed that guidance from the State could have helped to negotiate with the collective bargaining units. She further stated that she worked very hard to respond to the recommendations, however, none of her responses made it in the report and that she could not support the Distinguished Educator's Report.

Commissioner Powell stated she witnessed how administration wrestled with what to put into the Distinguished Educator's Report. Commissioner Powell also mentioned that what went into the report could be the strategic plan and would supersede everything else by previous Superintendents. She added that Commissioner Davis made great points in her letter.

Interim Superintendent Lowengard agreed with what was said, and mentioned negotiations are done at a local level not a State level.

Vice President Elliott left at 6:38 p.m.

V. Discussion of Board Goals

President White expressed that the graduation rate is pivotal to the success for our students. Interim Superintendent Lowengard stated four goals as being top priority: Racial Equity; the Distinguished Educator's Report; Budget, and Special Education. Commissioner Powell mentioned keeping our goals narrowed down to four goals would help to stay focused. President White added that Racial Equity and Special Education feeds into the District's graduation rate. President White also added that we must keep real time focus on student graduation with updates at the Board Officers' Meetings as well as Leadership Meetings.

VI. Review of Reading and Literacy Initiatives and CTE Programs

Deputy Superintendent of Teaching of Learning, Dr. Golden, presented on Career in Technical Education and English Language Learners. Dr. Golden started her presentation with stating we need to accelerate student progress to improve the graduation rate and that CTE must meet standards at state level of rigor for college and career readiness. Partnerships with organizations such as Junior Achievement at the 6th grade level is when

students learn about various careers, and CTE begins in the 7th grade. Dr. Golden stated the CTE Enrollment has increased from 170 to 4,167 in the last six years with 36 programs, 30 of the programs are at Rochester City and six are located at East High School, and twelve are NYS Certified. The NYS Education Department approved 14 programs for 2018-19. Executive Director of Career Pathways, Rhonda Neal, stated P-Tech is not a NYS certified pathway, it is its own program and has different NYS requirements, and however, it is a recognized program where students still earn credits toward graduation. She also stated NYS has a specific criterion for a pathway to be certified, which include, three-course credit, four plus assessment by the State and a project the student completes. There are business partnerships and articulation agreements with colleges that are then submitted to the State. Mrs. Neal stated students that do not take CTE related programs have the same requirements to graduate.

Dr. Golden corrected her report that Student Performance K-2 NWEA at or above norm for fall of 2018 was 25% proficiency, it should have read grades 2 only. Dr. Golden added that some of the 2019-20 proposed programming for grades 6-8 include focus on culturally responsive teaching and pedagogy, and incorporation of social emotional learning and literature. She also stated the 2019-20 proposed programming for grades 9-12 include offering AP English courses in every high school that would be funded by a grant and increase the opportunity for students to take IB English.

VII. Review of Agreements with City (SRO and Literacy Aides)

Deputy Superintendent of Administration, Dr. Mascitti-Miller, presented an update on Literacy Aides. Dr. Mascitti-Miller indicated that there are currently a total of 40 students, 20 at I-Roc and 20 working at Rochester Public Library. Students are required to have a working permit. Nydia Padillia does student recruitment and coordination with the City of Rochester. Responsibilities for I-Roc include lesson planning, building rapport with students and engage in literacy activities. Dr. Mascitti-Miller stated students are paid minimum wage and the total cost to the general fund is \$109,000. She also noted that three students were hired permanently last year. Dr. Mascitti-Miller also stated that students are paid for their work at the site and that she is working with Superintendent Lowengard to see how this program would affect the 2019-20 budget. Commissioner Powell stated there should be a decision whether the program should be a recommendation for the 2019-20 budget or perhaps the City of Rochester should take it on as an employee program.

Chief of Operation, Mike Schmidt, recapped that the SRO contract that was approved in August 2018. Currently there are twelve SROs at high schools and one at All City High. The contract is just under 1.5 million, which is an annual agreement.

VIII. Resolutions

2018-19: 637: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Sheppard and Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner LeBron absent.

2018-19: 638: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by

Commissioner Davis. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent.

2018-19: 639: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting, and Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent.

2018-19: 640: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent.

IX. Motion to go into executive session to discuss a matter related to the employment of a particular person made by Commissioner Hallmark, and seconded by Commissioner Davis at 7:15 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Davis at 8:00 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent.

X. Meeting to adjourn made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carries 7-0.