

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019

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

Board Members Excused: None.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

I. President White convened the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item**

No speakers present.

III. **Discussion of the Board's Response to the Distinguished Educator's Report**

The Board discussed the format of the Board's response to the Distinguished Educator's report, agreeing that the format would be altered to present the projected timeline of each action item.

Commissioner Hallmark arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Members of the Board discussed and commented on the following recommendations of the Distinguished Educator's report:

1. Ensure that the Board has a clear understanding of its role as a governing body.
 - a. Engage in ongoing professional development on the following topics:
 - Governance practices
 - Fiduciary responsibilities
 - Policymaking
 - Best practices for improving student achievement
 - Best practices for engaging parents and the community.
 - b. Develop written guidelines that define the Board's common understanding of *governance* as opposed to *management*. The Board President should remind all Commissioners whenever they do not adhere to these guidelines, while explaining distinctions between governance and management whenever these issues arise in Board discussions.
 - c. Implement a process to evaluate Board decisions and actions to ensure they

- are in accordance with the written guidelines defining roles and responsibilities and are supportive and respectful of the role of the Superintendent.
- d. Implement a quarterly Board self-assessment to identify how the Board is functioning. This self-assessment should always ask whether the Board is focusing on what matters most: the students.
 - e. Give the District leadership the autonomy to meet goals for improving student achievement and to effectively manage day-to-day operations.
2. Ensure that the Board prioritizes its focus on improving student achievement by:
- a. Giving responsibility to the Board President to focus all discussions and decisions on the achievement of a vision and strategy for improving student outcomes.
 - b. Having the Board and Superintendent develop a set of leading and lagging indicators to monitor student performance that align with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements. Progress in these should be monitored on regularly.
 - c. Having the Board make financial decisions that align with an adopted strategic plan supporting improvement of student outcomes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.