

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018

Minutes

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

Board Members Excused: None.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, Deputy Superintendent Cecilia Golden, Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Chief Financial Officer Everton Sewell, Chief of Operations Michael Schmidt, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, General Counsel Karl Kristoff and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

- I. President White convened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.
- II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present
- III. **Discussion of Safety and Security Protocols at Student Athletic Events:**

President White opened the meeting by introducing Chief Operating Officer Michael Schmidt to discuss student safety and security concerns. Mr. Schmidt spoke about the District's development of the security plan, noting that the plan consists of five elements including pre-game activities, arrival of teams and spectators, during game activities, exit from sporting venue, and contingency planning.

In discussing a recent meeting with the Mayor and other representatives of the City of Rochester including Interim Police Chief Mark Simmons and members the East High School administration, Mr. Schmidt stated that he felt confident in the proposed safety and security put forth by the work group.

Commissioner Elliott spoke about the need to engage students in activities and job placement programs.

Citing long entrance lines into sports venues, Commissioner LeBron spoke about the overall logistics of the recent football game, East High School Eagles versus Joseph C. Wilson High School Wildcats on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Marina Auto Stadium. Mr. Schmidt noted that the entrance to the stadium has been considered, and mentioned that the District is working to institute pre-game ticket sales. He added that the District is reviewing the safety plans of varsity events at larger stadiums as they require a higher degree of security.

Mr. Schmidt discussed that the current safety planning for student athletic events, noting that the plans are developed in a decentralized manner subject to the discretion

of school-building athletic directors. He clarified that though the current safety and security planning involves School Resource Officers from participating schools, going forward the safety, and security protocols will involve the engagement of other Rochester Police Department (RPD) representatives to address a wider array of safety concerns. Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino commented that, based on his observation, the District often establishes systems in reaction to specific events, versus implementing standard operating procedures to address mishaps before they occur.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the increased security measures involving RPD could cost as much as \$16,000 per event. He added that the District plans to also engage Pathways to Peace for added safety personnel. Mr. Schmidt referenced the recent investment in athletic fields, facilities and programming and noted that they should be preserved for students, families and the community as a whole.

Commissioner Sheppard asked about the funding source for the proposed increased safety measures. Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller stated that the increased security could cost as much as \$160,000. She added that the District has not yet identified a funding source.

Commissioner Sheppard stated that she attended the recent football game held at Marina Auto Stadium, and recounted her experience and observations at the game. Commissioner LeBron asked why the District decided to use Pathways to Peace; she noted that there are several organizations and agencies in the city that can perform similar duties at a lower cost to the District. Mr. Schmidt indicated that he is willing to engage other entities for safety and security services.

Commissioner Elliott indicated that the recent incident involving a series of fights among spectators at a student athletic event was perhaps unpreventable. She suggested that resources be reallocated to fund increased safety and security measures.

Dr. Aquino stated that systems should be improved to account for the necessity for increased safety and security measures.

Vice President Powell suggested that the District consider adjusting ticket prices to fund increased security provisions.

President White recognized the District's effort to address safety and security and noted that the incident involving spectators may have been unpreventable.

Commissioner Funchess noted that she commends the District's efforts to increase safety and security measures, and indicated that the safety of student athletes and spectators is of equal importance.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a particular person and matters related to a particular vendor (corporation) was made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner Sheppard at 7:45 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 11:45 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.