

-

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of the City of River Rouge, Wayne County, Michigan was held in the said offices of the Board of Education on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

The President, William White, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Cornelius Cooper, Marcella Cora, Francis Krupinski,
William Watson, William White and Ingrid Wilson-Johnson
Members Absent: Sam Arapakis-Excused

Member Cora offered a motion, seconded by Member Watson, to approve this evening's consent agenda.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

At this time President White introduced Mr. Al Cotter from Stakor & Associates, Inc. he presented options for changing the retiree medical insurance from our current Blue Cross/Blue Shield paid through the district to Blue Cross/Blue Shield through MPERS (Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System) which would be a great cost savings to the district. The changes under this option would be the deductible and co-insurance levels and would be covered by establishing a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) which would be handed by a Third Party Administrator (TPA). At retirement, Medicare is still the primary carrier and BCBSM/MPERS is secondary carrier and the HRA would reimburse the difference in deductible and co-insurance. The new option can be structured so that retirees will be made whole and nothing is taken away.

Under discussion Member Cora explained that Mr. Paul Bryant from the district auditing firm, Plante Moran has discussed this option with the Finance Committee in the past and stated that we are the only school district currently doing this. There are currently 54 retirees and the cost to the district is staggering. It is not necessary to negotiate this change with the retirees.

Superintendent Lopez stated that at this time he would like to recognize Ms. Judith Flowers with a certificate and gift of appreciation for her participation as the Superintendent's Student Coach. He said that Ms. Flowers has been attending all of the Board Meetings since he became Superintendent and she meets with him periodically to let him know how he is doing his job as well as suggestions she may have from a student's perspective.

Ms. Jan Meek, Director of Finance/Business stated that each of the board members had received a copy of both the Revised Budget Amendment and the Revised Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP) and presented both revisions for the 2009-2010 School Year. She explained any changes that are made to the budget must be reflected in the DEP. Ms. Meek answered any questions pertaining to these plans. Board action will be taken this evening to accept/decline these plans.

At this time, Superintendent Lopez made a presentation explaining the High Tech High School Project Based Learning (PBL) concept and described the current schools that he and Dr. Arlene Gibson, Principal, River Rouge Middle College High School visited during their recent trip to California with representatives from Wayne County ISD. The High Tech High School is funded through the Bill Gates foundation and we qualify for some of the grant monies.

Dr. Gibson also shared her opinions on the changes that are being made and her input on the PBL visitations. She said recently that she shared progress reports with students and stated that as educators we have failed them as well as them failing themselves. She stated that the

Minutes
Page 2
12-16-09

Member White asked why our students aren't achieving. Dr. Gibson stated that students are not being engaged and that a connection must be made between school and parent. If a student appears to be disconnected and absents arise, teachers must reach out and make a connection to the student and parent. Technology must also be increased. She explained there are six computer carts with 32 computers per cart that were purchased from grant monies and four are up and running. The last two are currently being set up and should be up and running by the second semester. She also said that Peer Mediation groups have been set up.

Superintendent Lopez also described the other experimental programs that he would like to move forward on such as the E-Three Lab for solar energy.

In regards to the Section 15 (3) (h) PERA that would require both the River Rouge School District (RRSD) and River Rouge Education Association (RREA) to sign before it is able to be instituted, Superintendent Lopez stated that we cannot continue to do business the same way and expect different results. We must stand solid on the changes that need to be made.

Both Superintendent Lopez and Dr. Gibson answered any other questions asked.

Communications/Correspondence

Member Cora stated there were no communications or correspondence at this time.

Comments from the Board

Members Krupinski, Cora, White and Cooper thanked both Members Sam Arapakis and Member Ingrid Wilson-Johnson and noted her passion, compassion and commitment for the students and all that she brought to the board and Member Sam Arapakis who was always at the forefront for the athletics and was involved in the baseball teams. Member Cora stated that being a board member was a hard job and that they would both be missed.

Superintendent Lopez thanked the Members of the Board for holding him accountable for being Superintendent.

Member Wilson-Johnson thanked the board members and Superintendent for their kind words and said she lived in River Rouge not by option but by choice and although she would not be a representative of the board any longer she would still be involved in the River Rouge School District.

Attorney Update

Attorney Joseph McCarroll stated there was an exclusion hearing for student #01-09-10 for a serious violation of misconduct. He proceeded to read the resolution:

Student Exclusion #01-09-10

Upon the recommendation of the Board Committee, Member White made a motion, seconded by Member Cooper that Student #01-09-10: 1) shall be referred to the Wayne County RESA Special Education Services to determine whether, under the provisions of the Individuals With Disabilities Act (IDEA) and MCL 380.1311 and MCL 380.1711(1) (k), the student's reported ADHD and bi-polar disorders qualify him for special educational services under the Act: and, be it further 2) That if the evaluation of Student No. 01-09-10 discloses that Student No. 01-09-10 does not qualify for educational services under the federal Act and above cited Revised School Code provisions, then he shall be suspended from the School District for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year for the serious misconduct evinced at the hearing on November 23, 2009; and be it further 3) Student No. 01-09-10 and his mother, Ms. Zulema Bonner,

shall be referred to the Guidance Center for counseling and therapy services for his diagnosed ADHD and bi-polar disorders; and, be it further

4) That before re-admission to the School District for the City of River Rouge, after completion of this suspension, Student No. 01-09-10 shall appear before a Committee of the Board to demonstrate that he is receiving on-going counseling through the Guidance Center, is regularly taking the medication(s) prescribed for his ADHD and bi-polar disorders, and will obey the District's Code of Conduct and the instructions given to him by Principal Brandon Cox and all other School District staff members; and, be it further 5) That the District shall cause a copy of this resolution to be served upon the parent or guardian of Student No. 01-09-10 and Wayne County RESA Special Education Services within five (5) business days of the date of this resolution, by personal service or registered mail, return receipt requested. The District shall cause a copy of this resolution to be served upon the parent or guardian of Student #01-08-09 within five (5) business days of the date of this resolution by personal service or registered mail, return receipt requested.

Each member of the Board of Education was either present at the hearing and/or has read a copy of the hearing transcript in its entirety).

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed this evening.

New Business

Exclusion Hearing #08-09-10

President White stated that an exclusion hearing will need to be held for student #08-09-10 which will be held on January 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. The committee will be composed of Members Krupinski and Cora with Member Cooper serving as chairperson.

Exclusion Hearing #09-09-10

President White stated that an exclusion hearing will need to be held for student #09-09-10 which will be held on January 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. The committee will be comprised of Members Krupinski and Cora with Member Cooper serving as chairperson.

Service Consolidation Plan Agreement (there will be three separate actions

Items-A, B & C)

- A)** Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that in the best interest of the district, the board resolved to give authorization to the Superintendent of Schools, Carlos Lopez and the President of the Board of Education, William White to enter into a Service Consolidation Plan Agreement with Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to allocate the \$165.00 per pupil membership deduction loss to 31A At Risk Categorical funding in the amount of \$201,795.00. Each board member has received a copy of the Service Plan Consolidation Agreement resolution.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

- B)** Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that in the best interest of the district and the districts deficit position as well as the Service Consolidation Plan Agreement to be submitted to the state the positions listed below cannot be supported by the general fund. The board resolved that effective immediately, Thursday, December 17, 2009 these positions will be removed from the general fund budget.

Chester Franklin – Reflection Room Behavioral Specialist
Carmen Munoz – Translator
Lyllette Woods – Counselor; River Rouge Middle College High School Academy
Phil Phillips – Social Workers/Administrative Assistant
Kate Monagin (65%) – School Psychologist.

Under discussion, Member Watson wanted clarification that even though these positions will be removed from the general fund and that it will not affect their retirement. It was clarified by Ms. J. Meek, Director of Finance/Business and Superintendent Lopez.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

- C)** Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded Member Cooper that due to the newly acquired 31A At Risk Categorical funding the board resolved that effective immediately, Thursday, December 17, 2009 these funds will be used to support the following positions

Chester Franklin – Reflection Room Behavioral Specialist
Carmen Munoz – Translator
Lyllette Woods – Counselor; River Rouge Middle College High School Academy
Phil Phillips – Social Workers/Administrative Assistant
Kate Monagin (65%) – School Psychologist.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

E-Three Lab Project

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Watson made a motion seconded by Member Cooper the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Info E-Three labs to begin the E-Lab Project that will begin both an adult and student training program for solar thermal employability skills. They will run classes that will be available during the day, after school and on weekends. We will come to an equitable fee to charge for the use of one classroom that will cover both custodial and security at RRMCHSA. One of the many benefits to this collaboration is that the program will install solar panels in the swimming pool area.

Under discussion, Attorney McCarroll was asked and discussed issues regarding the funding that will be granted to implement the program as well as any problems with adults and students occupying the facilities during the same hours. Following the revised school codes I-Chat Criminal Records will be required on all “adult students”.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Cancellation of Nursery and Latchkey Programs – Second Semester

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that the general fund cannot support the current Nursery and Latchkey Programs at Ann Visger K-5 Preparatory Academy which is currently a cost to the district of \$49,000.00. The board authorized the Superintendent to close the Nursery and Latchkey Programs for the second semester, effective at the end of the day on Friday, January 22, 2010. All appropriate notifications will be given to the parents of the Nursery and before and after school Latchkey Program students so that they will have ample time to make other child care arrangements.

Under discussion Member Cora wanted to be sure that the River Rouge School District would work with parents to help in the transition of these students to participate in the current After School Programs. Member Cooper questioned fees that had previously been collected for these services and Ms. Meek and Superintendent Lopez explained that the program wasn't generating enough funds and parents were not paying their bills which caused a strain on the general fund.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Layoff of Local 2555 Teacher Aides

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that due to the fact that the Nursery and Latchkey Programs are being cancelled at the end of the day on Friday, January 22, 2010, there will be a need to layoff of 1 full time Teacher Aide and reduction of one Teacher Aide to part-time. These layoffs will be in accordance with the Local 2555 Collective Bargaining Agreement and based on seniority, qualifications and certifications. This layoff and reduction will be effective at the end of the day, Friday, January 22, 2010.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Budget Amendment – 2009-2010 School Year

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that the board resolved to accept the proposed revised budget amendment for the 2009-2010 school year.

Under discussion Superintendent Lopez thanked Ms. Meek and the Finance Committee for their integrity and diligence working to amend the budget. Member Watson wanted to clarify that even with the acceptance of this budget amendment the board would still have the right to change budget items.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson

Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Deficit Elimination Plan

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that upon the recommendation of Director of Finance, Janice Meek, and the board resolved to accept the proposed revised plan and authorize the Superintendent to

Minutes
Page 6
12-16-09

Under discussion Member Watson wanted clarification on whether the Superintendent has the right to eliminate jobs without coming before the board first and Superintendent Lopez stated yes because the Deficit Elimination Plan must be presented to MDE with the intent to balance the budget and this plan must be presented to the board for approval. Member Cora questioned that for the 2010-2011 if concessions can be found in other areas can that help to avoid additional layoffs, Superintendent Lopez and Ms. Meek both agreed that would be a factor.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: Watson

Motion Passed.

Race To The Top – Memo of Understanding Collaboration

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cora made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that the board give advanced authorization to the Superintendent, Carlos Lopez and the Board President, William White to sign the MOU for the Race To The Top Initiative. It is with the understanding that in order to proceed with the application process the agreement to the MOU must also be signed by the RREA. It is necessary for both parties to sign the MOU in order to proceed with this initiative. The district allocation would be \$561,486.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Race To The Top – Resolution

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Cora that the board resolved to accept the resolution listed below regarding the Race To The Top competitive grant funding:

Whereas, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides, amount other things, 4.35 billion dollars for the Race To the top Fund, a competitive grant program designed to encourage and reward states that create the conditions for education, reform and achieve significant improvements in students outcomes;

Whereas, as a condition for receiving Race to the Top Funds, the State of Michigan is required to adopt a statewide plan in conformity with ARRA requirements, a condition that has not been met as of the date the Board adopted this resolution;

Whereas, regardless of the State of Michigan's failure to adopt a statewide plan as required by the ARRA, the River Rouge School District is required to submit its application for Race to the Top Funds on or before the January 7, 2010 deadline;

Now, therefore, it is resolved, that the District's Superintendent is authorized to sign the Michigan Participating LEA/ISD Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto.

It is further resolved that the District's Superintendent, after receiving direction from the Board of Education, is authorized to rescind the District's participation in Race to the Top in the event the yet-to-be adopted statewide plan includes terms or conditions that are not in the best interest of the District's students.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

New Tech Network

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Cora that the board resolved to give advanced authorization to the Superintendent, Carlos Lopez and the Board President, William White to sign the copy of the contract and any necessary documents regarding the five (5) year plan for restructuring the River Rouge Middle College High School Academy for the cost of \$450,000 to proceed with New Tech Network. The monies for the New Tech Network will come from the following grants:

Title I A	\$25,000
Title IID	\$200,000
Title IID PD	\$25,000
Race To the Top	\$200,000

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Section 15(3) (h) PERA

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Wilson-Johnson that the board resolved to give advanced authorization for the Superintendent to exercise the district's right to implement a Graduation/Dropout Experimental Program at River Rouge Middle College High School Academy. Section 15 (3) (h) of PERA describing the modifications that are required to turn our high school around as described below:

Under Section 15(3) (h) of PERA as added by PA 112, prohibits collective bargaining over (h) decisions concerning the use of experimental or pilot programs and staffing of experimental or pilot programs and decisions concerning the use of technology to deliver educational programs and services and staffing to provide the technology, or the impact of these decisions on individual employees or the bargaining unit.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Bus Discipline & Student Transportation Policy

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that the board adopt the revised Transportation Policy so that we will have documentation on file that states that riding on district provided transportation is a privilege offered to students and that while being transported they are under the authority of the bus driver and must obey his or her requests. This policy will also address necessary procedures and safety rules to help ensure the safety and protection of each student and failure to meet these standards will have an order of consequences that will be followed. It also states that parents of students who damage bus property are responsible for retribution to the bus company. All parents will receive a copy of the Bus Discipline & Student Transportation policy once approved.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Use of Building Request

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion

Minutes
Page 8
12-16-09

of River Rouge to use the cafeteria of the high school for their Annual Brotherhood Banquet on Saturday, February 27, 2010. They have contracted with ARAMARK to cater the event and have also requested a waiver of the insurance and fees. Following the approved Use of Building Language from November 11, 2009, the required minimal fee for rental of facilities will be \$120.00 as well as a required certificate of insurance.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Use of Building Request

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that the board approve the request from Dolores Reid to use the cafeteria of the high school for their Family Reunion Meet & Greet on Friday, July 16, 2010. They will be providing their own meal for the event and have also requested a waiver of the insurance and fees. Following the approved Use of Building Language from November 11, 2009, the required minimal fee for rental of facilities will be \$120.00 as well as a required certificate of insurance.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Use of Building Request

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that the board approve the request from Ingrid Wilson-Johnson to use the cafeteria of the high school for a Kwanzaa Celebration on Friday, January 1, 2010. They will be responsible for providing their own meal for the event and have also requested a waiver of the insurance and fees. Following the approved Use of Building Language from November 11, 2009, the required minimal fee for rental of facilities will be \$120.00 as well as a required certificate of insurance.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None
Abstain: Members: Wilson-Johnson

Motion Passed.

Recall RREA Teachers

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Watson that in the best interest of the school district, the following teachers be recalled to full time positions for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, effective January 4, 2010 or whenever mutually agreed upon by the individual and the Superintendent. These recalls will be in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between RREA and RRSD.

Terry Loveday
Sabrina Rudy
Kimberly Boyd

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Passed.

Board Committee Reports

Election of School Board Members

Member Cora stated that as a member of the Election Committee the School District of the City of River Rouge is in receipt of the Certificate of Determination from the Wayne County's Board of Canvassers that certifies the results of the annual school board election that was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The results of the election have determined that Mr. Kevin Sabuda and Mr. Jonathan Tate have been elected to serve a four year term as a member of the Board of Education from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014.

Election of School Bond Proposal

Member Cora stated that as a member of the Election Committee the School District of the City of River Rouge is in receipt of the Certificate of Determination from the Wayne County's Board of Canvassers that certifies the results of the School Bond Proposal that was placed on the ballot for the election that was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The results of the election have determined that the School Bond Proposal did not pass for the River Rouge School District.

President White asked Mr. Jonathan Tate, the newly elected board member, who was in the audience this evening to introduce himself. Member Wilson-Johnson stated that the Education Quality Committee had been informed about the High Tech Network and E-Three Lab Project and thanked the board for their support. Member Cooper gave an update on the status of the heating at CB Sabbath.

Comments from the Audience

President White took comments from the audience and stated that the board would be going into a Closed Session and will re-convene the meeting at the conclusion.

At 7:58 p.m. President White closed the meeting to enter the Closed Session to discuss litigation matters.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

At 8:10 p.m. President White called for the roll to resume the meeting.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Employee #01-09-10 (Mariam Logan)

A motion was made by Member White seconded by Member Cora that the board of education has resolved to turn down the offer presented by RREA regarding Teacher 01-09-10 (Mariam Logan).

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None
Abstains: Members: Wilson-Johnson

Motion Carried.

Minutes
Page 10
12-16-09

At 8:12 p.m. President White stated for the good of the order and the meeting was concluded and roll call was taken.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, White and Wilson-Johnson
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 with the study session beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Cora, Secretary
Board of Education
MC/mb