



Racine Unified School District
3109 Mt. Pleasant Street, Racine, Wisconsin, 53404

Board of Education

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WORK SESSION

Dennis Wiser, President

Gretchen L. Warner, Clerk

Racine, Wisconsin

September 4, 2012

A Special Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin began at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, with the following members present: Pamala Handrow, Melvin Hargrove, Susan F. Kutz, Julie L. McKenna, Kimberly Plache, William S. Van Atta and Dennis Wiser (Left at 6:58 p.m.). Absent: Don J. Nielsen and Gretchen L. Warner.

Also present: Ann Laing, Superintendent of Schools; Dave Hazen, Chief Financial Officer; Steve Miller, Director, Standards, Assessment and Accountability; John Esser, Coordinator for Secondary Mathematics; Laura Maier, Coordinator for Elementary Mathematics; Kathy Irish, Business Services Director-Controller; Glenn Schueffner, Supervisor, Purchasing; Darlene Gallup, Executive Assistant.

The purpose of the meeting was a work session. The subjects of the work session were:

- 1) Board Scheduling Discussion
- 2) Results-2 (Academic Achievement-Math)
- 3) OE-5 (Financial Planning)
- 4) OE-6 (Financial Administration-Internal)

1. Board Scheduling Discussion

Mr. Wiser talked about items needing to be placed on the Board's calendar. He shared a list of dates that are options for the Board to visit Racine business with RAMAC, dates for Aspen to come for a retreat and interest in discussing appropriate facilities for the school board. He also said he would like some board members to meet with administration to discuss how to make the televised board sessions be more visually appealing. The Board was asked to provide their input on availability and interest to Ms. Gallup.

2. Results-2 (Academic Achievement-Math)

Dr. Miller, Mr. Esser and Mrs. Maier presented the Results-2 (Academic Achievement Math) Monitoring Report. He shared handouts which the Board reviewed.

Dr. Miller noted the assertion is that the District is making reasonable progress with exceptions. The primary exceptions are that the achievement gap in Math widened at Grade 5; and, none of the tested grades scored at or above the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO), with a sizable gap between the state and RUSD average proficiency.

3. OE-5 (Financial Planning)

Mr. Hazen and Mr. Duff presented the monitoring report on Operational Expectations-5 (Financial Planning). Handouts were shared and discussed.

Mr. Hazen presented the report as being in compliance.

Board Recommendations/Suggestions/Requests:

- Suggestion – Mr. Wiser shared a copy of the OE-5.1 content broken into bulleted lists which he felt would be a better format to help make the content easier to see and understand.
- Mr. Duff noted the report states 5 years reported but only 4 are reported. The Board agreed 4 is sufficient and the typographical error should be just changed to read 4 years.
- Ms. Plache suggested thinking about people who are watching the budget presentation, for example from home, and better clarifying for them the whole picture of the budget.
- Suggestion, 5.7: Mrs. Kutz talked about the need to speak to the fiscal soundness of the district. She asked, if policy should be changed to say - not have the fiscal balance go below a percentage? It was agreed that Mrs. Kutz will submit a referral and this will be discussed at a future Governance Committee meeting.
- Suggestion – 5.8: Consider providing a four-year profile for staffing in the budget reports.

4. OE-6 (Financial Administration-Internal)

Mr. Hazen, Ms. Irish and Mr. Schueffner presented the report. The report was presented as being in compliance in all 18 subsections.

Board Recommendations/Suggestions/Requests:

- Suggestion 6.1: Ask Aspen for examples of what other districts are using for indicators of compliance in this area.

(Mr. Wiser left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.)

- Suggestion 6.3: Continue to try to centralize and standardize purchases/vendors used by buildings.
- Recommendation – Take out “compliant” for those subsections involving external reporting that is coming to the Board in December (6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.10, 6.12, 6.13, 6.15, 6.16).
- Suggestion – indicate in the blank section on the cover where there is noncompliance on items being brought back in December.

No action was taken by the Board.

The work session was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.