



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

March 7, 2013

A Special Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin began at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2013, with the following members present: Chris Eperjesy, Pamala Handrow, Melvin Hargrove (Left at 6:09 p.m.), Don J. Nielsen, Kim Plache and Dennis Wiser. Absent: Julie L. McKenna (arrived at 5:02 p.m.), Gretchen L. Warner, and Susan F. Kutz.

Also present: Ann Laing, Superintendent of Schools; Jeff Weiss, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education; Dave Hazen, Chief Financial Officer; Marc Duff, Director, Finance-Budget; and Darlene Gallup, Executive Assistant.

The purpose of the meeting was a work session. No action was taken by the Board.

1. Instrumentality and Non-Instrumentality Charter School

Mr. Wiser said members of the district's bargaining groups were invited to the meeting to provide additional input on this subject.

Dr. Laing said the purpose of the work session was essentially to provide information to the board about charter schools.

Mr. Duff presented a PowerPoint overview of charter schools. He also shared copies of the PowerPoint slides. Major points of his presentation included:

- Charter School Background
- Charter School Types and Authorization Method
 - Instrumentality, Non-Instrumentality, Virtual, Independent
 - Governor's budget proposed in his budget expanding authorization of independent charters through a state board
- Charter School Contract, Requirements and Restrictions
- Charter School Flexibility
- Charter School Other Considerations (planning grants, implementation grants, start-up costs, etc.)
- Charter School Performance
- Charter School Models (Montessori, Interdisciplinary, Environmental/Green, Arts/culture, Engineering/STEM, Multi-age, Inquiry/project-based Learning/Place Based, etc.)

- RUSD Schools vs. Charter vs. Vouchers (See handout – School Type Comparison)
- Fiscal Impact of Charter Schools on RUSD
- Charter Funding Examples
- Charter vs. Voucher vs. Independent
 - Loss of students to voucher schools, independent charters and open enrollments
 - Continued loss of students
 - Choose not to complete
 - Lose control
 - RUSD General Fund Current Education Cost Per Member

Mr. Hazen provided potential options/opportunities available and the following points were discussed:

- RUSD School Options and Things to Consider
 - Choice and nimbleness are major educational benefits
 - Surrounding districts provide a greater array of offerings than RUSD
 - Original design is “innovation incubators”
 - Need for process and/or criteria for planning and implementation approval
 - Long term strategy
 - Portfolio of parent choice
 - BOE actively build the choice portfolio
 - Opportunity to strategically manage community K-12 educational opportunities
 - Admissions issue
 - Fit with North Star and instructional practices
 - Options to non-renew instrumentality contracts
 - Successful School Improvement Plans
- Considerations for a “Request For Proposal” kind of process for those who want to bring their proposals forward

Mr. Weiss said two potential charter proposals may come forward soon and it is not set as to whether they will be non-instrumentality or instrumentality charter proposals. He said it is important that guidelines and expectations be established. He talked about possibly having the proposals go through the District Wide School Improvement Council review process.

Additional discussion followed regarding staffing, boundary, lottery, busing considerations in the contracts, and a potential charter location at the YMCA in downtown Racine.

Dr. Laing reviewed comments made by the City of Racine Mayor regarding his desire to decrease crime, rejuvenate the city and have neighborhood walk in schools. The board will be asked to consider two charter school implementation grants at the May 18, 2013, board meeting.

Pastor Hargrove left at 6:09 p.m.

The session ended at 6:18 p.m.