



## Board of Education

### Racine Unified School District

3109 Mt. Pleasant Street, Racine, Wisconsin, 53404

## RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### WORK SESSION

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Dennis Wiser, President

Pamala Handrow, Clerk

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Racine, Wisconsin

April 13, 2015

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A Special Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, with the following members present: Michael Frontier, Julie L. McKenna, Don J. Nielsen, Kim Plache, Wally Rendón, and Dennis Wiser. Absent: Charles Goodremote (Connected via conference call), Melvin Hargrove (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), Pamala Handrow (arrived at 6:34 p.m.).

Also present: Lolli Haws, Superintendent; and Darlene Gallup, Executive Assistant.

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

Mr. Wiser open the meeting by recognizing Mr. Wally (Guadalupe) Rendón for his help and service to the Racine Unified School District Board of Education, his great character, and connection to the community.

#### **1. RAMAC Presentation of Nashville Career Academy Model**

Dominic Cariello, RAMAC and Racine business community representative, provided a PowerPoint presentation which detailed their thoughts and reflections on support of the high school transformation process and changes needed in the current education system in the Racine Unified School District. Major points of Mr. Cariello's presentation included:

- Current education situation in Racine
- Effective education objective
- Issues with the current education situation in Racine
- Proposed course of action for effective education in Racine
- Benefits of proposed course of action
- Racine effective education organization
- Create and implement academies/pathways in the District (Advisory Boards, Partnership Councils, All-Chairs, CEO Champions)
- Nashville Model for escalation of issues within the academies
- Roles and responsibilities of the advisory groups
- Next steps (Ford Next Generation Learning)

Requests/comments:

- Would like to see information about Nashville’s demographics and data about the improvements seen there as a result of this model.
- Is there a United Way component? There are supports provided by United Way.
- Next Generation will be coming in 2-3 weeks to help build the plan
- What is the Board’s role? Allow the District to do what it needs to do through the CEO and partnerships.

**2. Monitoring Section of the School Board’s Coherent Governance Policy:**

a. OE-2 (Emergency Superintendent Succession)

Dr. Haws provided a brief review of the report. This report is being submitted by administration as being in compliance.

(Pamala Handrow arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

b. OE-10 (Instructional Program, Part 1)

Rosalie Daca, Chief Academic Officer, provided the monitoring report overview and reviewed the capacity building and action plan to improve/enhance the report.

Board Requests/Suggestions:

10.5: Turning Point Academy – waiting list for the 45 slots. Are there a lot of students on the list? We provide alternative services and plan to expand the program to about 200 slots. Provide information on how we doing in this measure in future reports.

Learning Styles:

What are we doing to measure learning styles in the classrooms for different learners? We are looking at how to set up the classrooms to work best to prevent having to have interventions.

What is happening in the individual classrooms? We do have coaches and using the review process to look at quality curriculum and teacher training for the strategies. Indicators will be added as we progress in those areas of measurements.

Common Core – State directive? They have allowed us to stay on the course we are on.  
New Special Education person – Would like to hear from her about what Special Education is doing.

Page 7 – Indicator 4: Requires a separate activity by principals or can it be rolled in to the regular evaluation? We have a plan to look at this to make sure we don’t overload.

Page 8 – Indicator 2 – Commendation was given for including this.

Evaluating pre-school programs - Are we utilizing family networking in this? We will have to talk to Culleen Witthuhn about this.

**3. Curriculum Program Review: Magnet Programs**

Mrs. Daca provided a brief report on the Magnet programs including that the work of the Magnet Program Committee and Gifted and Talented Committee has been combined because of the magnitude of the work and impact it could have on the elementary and other magnet programs. The work of these two committees has been put on hold until further along so that they can be better informed before decisions are made.

**4. High School Algebra Teachers Professional Development Plan for 2015-2016**

Mrs. Daca shared a brief PowerPoint presentation (Insight's Content Specific Professional Development Coaching Proposal) including the plan's purpose, benefit, goal, scope of proposal Insight Education Group, deliverables, current work alignment, evaluation, proposal cost, video needs, and future applications. Individual staff members will have complete control over the videos they produce for their own personal professional development. This is not a District employee evaluation tool. A more detailed report will come to the Board at a later date.

**5. Personalized Program Evaluation for Middle School (EdElements)**

Mrs. Daca reviewed the proposal for middle school students next year. This will come to the Board for approval at a later date. Mrs. Daca referred to this as a district-wide curriculum and technology blended learning transformation which aligns what is happening in the schools' classrooms. EdElements is the company that will provide the launch and professional development (personalized learning transformation) for the plan over a 22 month program.

**6. Architect Plan for Knapp, Gifford and Olympia Brown Schools**

Dave Hazen, Chief of Operations; Bryan Arnold, Director of Facilities Management; and representatives from the various architectural firms provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation and overview of construction plan proposals for Knapp, Gifford and Olympia Brown Schools.

Additional comments and requests included:

Gifford

- Why was Gifford selected? To try to gain back students who chose to leave the District
- Have the busing issues been resolved so siblings can travel together? Yes.
- Has there been any outreach to the students who have left about whether they would want to come back? It isn't all about the students who left but more about decreasing the outward flow later to west of the Interstate. Overwhelmingly parents have said they are in Gifford until their child goes to Case.
- Plan is for the current elementary students to continue to middle school there but it is also open for choice students and those west of the Interstate
- Are they taking care of alternative heating and cooling systems? Yes, but not necessarily thermal heating (Lead Silver).

Knapp

- This is a priority school. Making it a community school will help with that.
- Request: Provide the basic standards for LEED Silver and LEED Gold.
- Community rooms' use will be available to the community both during the day as well as after the school day. United Way will hire a person to coordinate the programs and a lockdown feature is in place to make sure students are safe in the school's public spaces.

O. Brown

- Why was O. Brown selected? Has \$17M repairs listed for the school and it is less expensive to build a new school. This is also a growth area in the District.
- Plan is for making this a STEM School and that does mean some design considerations that will need to be hammered out. (e.g., the inclusion of added space at the end of halls for collaborative spaces and outdoor classroom work)

Mr. Hazen said budget numbers for these projects will be coming to the Board in the near future.

**7. Handbook Process**

Mr. Nielsen requested that this agenda item be deferred to a future time because, contrary to Board policy, materials were not received by the Board prior to this meeting. Mr. Wisner explained that Board policy states informational materials for a Study Session agenda item are to be received by the Board at least 3 days in advance of the meeting. If the information is not received at least 3 days in advance, the Board can choose to defer the item or waive the provision. At least five (5) Board members need to indicate they want the item's discussion to continue. Mr. Wisner asked for a show of hands indicating a desire for the item to continue being discussed. Pastor Hargrove, Ms. Plache and Ms. Handrow indicated by show of hands that they wanted the discussion to continue. The item was deferred to a future meeting.

**8. Handbook Recommendations**

Mr. Nielsen also requested that this agenda item be deferred to a later time because materials were not received by the Board in the appropriate amount of time. Mr. Wisner asked for a show of hands indicating a desire for the item to continue being discussed. Pastor Hargrove, Ms. Plache and Ms. Handrow indicated by show of hands that they wanted the discussion to continue. The item was deferred to a later meeting.

**9. Policy Discussion**

Mr. Wisner brought forward discussion about construction projects and minority hiring. He said the Board's Coherent Governance policies don't specifically address minority hiring. He asked if the Board would like him to start working on getting some formal Board policy in place in that area. Mr. Wisner will move forward with discussions on this topic.

Mr. Wisner brought forward a request for discussion about the Board's schedule conflicts with other events and holidays. The request was to consider having the Board's meetings changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. This item will not go forward for additional discussion.

Mr. Rendon moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The session ended at 8:28 p.m.