

11/6/20 Rochester Coalition for Public Education Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Howie Maffucci, Don Bartalo, John Laing, John Boutet, John Strazzabosco, Connie Flahive, Mark Hare, Idonia Owens, Tom Hernandez, Alicia Ward, Ed Donnelly, Dan Drmacich

Discussion & Decisions:

1. We discussed a new proposal to add a recommendation to our "RCSD Intervention Recommendations," that states all RCSD teachers, administrators & other staff:

A. Engage in professional development to build positive staff relationships with students, parents and community members, and develop and promote anti-racism, and

B. Demonstrate their growth & development through interactions & feedback through peers & supervisors

Feedback from members focused on the need for:

A. Including student-student positive relationships as a staff responsibility,

B. Building trust with students, parents & community members,

C. Including examples of what evidence of growth & development for building these relationships might look like.

Dan received more feedback from Amy Shema & will ask if she can write the next draft, to be discussed at our next meeting

2. We agreed to meet with Supt. Lesli Myers-Small on Monday, December 7th @ 3:00 PM, by Zoom. We also agreed that the agenda will focus on discussing Lesli's reactions to our original proposal to Interim Commissioner Betty Rosa regarding high-stakes standardized testing alternatives (attached), diploma options, Daniel Koretz's recommendations and other issues related to testing, the pandemic and racial equity. We agreed that we need to do a good deal of listening and seeking clarification to her concerns.

We also agreed that having the City/County RASE Commission collaborate with our Coalition to support our concerns could help our efforts.

Tom Hernandez, Dean of SUNY Brockport's School of Education, Health & Human Services, stated that he and Steve Hanmer, the Director of Brockport's Department of Poverty Studies and Economic Policy are discussing ways to collaborate with our Coalition and other community organizations, as well.

3. We discussed the Coalition's participation in the "21 Day Challenge for Racial Equity," and agreed that it has been a useful experience. Several members described how they have used, shared and benefited from the tasks & resources. We'll continue participating & discuss our feedback at our next meeting.

4. We agreed to meet again by Zoom on Friday, November 13th at 4:00. Howie will send out Zoom invitations.