

## 11/13/20 Rochester Coalition for Public Education Meeting Minutes

Present: Howie Maffucci, Don Pryor, Mark Hare, Connie Flahive, Alicia Ward, John Laing, Muarice Haskins, Peter McWalters, Don Bartalo, Amy Shema, John Boutet, Chojoy Schroeder, Dan Drmacich

### Discussions & Decisions:

1. Amy reviewed her new draft on the addition of a "Relationship Building" advocacy statement to our "RCSD Intervention Recommendations," and received general approval to write a final draft that Dan will distribute to all for review.

We also agreed that we should schedule a meeting with Adam Urbanski for a discussion of these recommendations. Dan will schedule with Adam.

2. Dan announced that the Asbury 1st United Methodist Church Racial Justice Committee contacted him to explore possible collaborative possibilities with our Coalition. A meeting will be set up in January to do so, according to their representative.

### 3. Meeting with Supt. Myers-Small:

A. All present stated that they had received invitations from the Supt.'s office to meet by Zoom with her on Dec. 7th @ 3:00 pm.

B. Dan & Bart shared that the RASE County/City Education Committee for Racial Justice & Equity is interested in collaborating with our Coalition to support our high-stakes standardized testing recommendations to the Supt. & NYSED Commissioner.

C. We agreed that our process at the meeting should be to focus on the general recommendations from the Linda Darling-Hammond piece (See it below.) we sent the Supt., by asking what the RCSD is focusing on & how the Coalition can help, & at the appropriate time making reference to how our high-stakes testing recommendation fits in with the Supt.'s concerns & Darling-Hammonds recommendations.

4. We discussed the pros & cons of writing a recommendation to Van White & the BoE members, stating that they should not appoint Walter Larkin, a Charter School CEO, to the BoE, due to possible conflicts of interest with charter schools and the symbolism of positively sanctioning charter schools through the appointment. Important feedback was shared that many members of the Black community are supportive of Mr. Larkin & that our recommendation would alienate them & harm the Coalition's credibility. We agreed to table the recommendation and consider the "politics" of this concern, as well as what credibility the Coalition could lose by not making the recommendation, since we have been quite explicit about the negative impact Charter Schools have on the RCSD, as stated in our "School Choice" Coalition document. (See attachment.) We can discuss this issue again at our next meeting.

5. We shared thoughts about the last week of activities recommended in the "21 Day Challenge for Racial Equity." All was positive for our racial equity growth & development.

6. Dan asked that we all review the NPE (Network for Public Education) request for our endorsement of a letter directed to Joe Biden, urging him to appoint a Secretary of Education who would support progressive education policies, and let him know if you have any objections. (See NPE's letter, below.)

7. We agreed to meet again on Friday, November 27th, @ 4:00 by Zoom. Howie will send out invitations.

Please let me know if I missed anything.