



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: John B. King, Jr.
SUBJECT: Update regarding the Roosevelt Union Free School District and State oversight authority
DATE: June 13, 2011
STRATEGIC GOAL:
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Update on Roosevelt Intervention.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Quarterly update as per terms of extension of State oversight authority.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the June 2011 meeting.

Procedural History

In March of 2011, Pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Laws of 2002, the Board of Regents acted to extend Commissioner's oversight of the district until at least June 30, 2012 through the following actions:

- Periodic visitation of the district and continued monitoring of the board of education by the Commissioner and/or his designee(s) with quarterly reports to the Board of Regents;
- Extension of the Superintendent's contract for an additional year in accordance with the terms and conditions therein and relevant provisions of law;
- Monitoring the implementation of Education Law §3012-c (Teacher and Principal evaluation system) and provision of technical assistance as needed;

- Provision of technical assistance in the completion of and, if approved, implementation of a School Improvement Grant at the high school.
- Provision of technical assistance in the collection and reporting of district and school level data.
- Continue the fiscal oversight authority, including the appointment of a fiscal administrator, until June 30, 2012 with an option for a one year extension. The fiscal administrator will continue to provide progress reports to the Department on a quarterly basis.

Background Information

1. Governance-related issues

- a. Superintendent – the Superintendent has completed his evaluation and we are currently awaiting the Board’s completion of their evaluation of the Superintendent. These documents will form the basis for the goals that are set for the 2011-2012 school year. The terms of the current contract will be extended through June 30, 2012.
- b. Board of Education – at the May 17 Board election and budget vote, Kimberley McLean, the Regents final appointee to the Roosevelt board, was not reelected. The Roosevelt Board of Education is now fully under local control.
- c. Fiscal Administrator – although staff has concerns regarding the long term fiscal health of the district as noted below, the fiscal management of the district has improved and it will be our recommendation to decrease the number of days of service that the fiscal administrator provides to the district. The district’s budget has been adjusted to reflect this change.

2. Fiscal-related issues –

The District is projected to end the 2010-11 school year with an unrestricted fund balance of approximately \$2.1 million which equals 2.7 percent of the general fund budget. The district is planning to appropriate \$6 million of the fund balance to help support the 2011-12 school year budget. The district projects a year end fund balance of \$1 million on June 30, 2011. The district has been forced to reduce its fund balance over time to comply with the requirement limiting unrestricted fund balance to four percent of the general fund budget and to offset the reduction in its academic improvement grant from \$12 million to \$6 million annually. It is critical that \$6 million academic improvement grant be restored in time for the 2012-13 budget to allow the district to replace the \$6 million of appropriated fund balance to balance the 2011-12 budget.

The district voters approved an \$84.38 million budget for 2011-12, an increase of 0.43 percent over the prior year. The projected tax levy for 2011-12 is \$21.97 million, an increase of 4.96 percent over the prior year. Like many districts, Roosevelt faces the challenge of a limited ability to raise additional local revenues to offset declines in state aid.

3. Facilities-related issues –

The Roosevelt High School renovation project was approved by the Department in December. Site work and athletic field work was bid on June 7, and came in under budget at \$2.3 million. The major renovation and addition work will be bid on Tuesday June 14.

The district plan is to vacate the high school for the duration of the renovation. While this entails relocating students in the middle and elementary schools, it will allow the High School work to be completed faster and more safely. Vacating the High School during construction should also reduce construction costs.

The following is the timeline for construction on relocation:

- High School vacated July 1, 2011.
- High School students relocated to the Middle School.
- Middle schools students relocated to the Ulysses Byas Elementary School (UB).
- The UB pre-K program will stay at UB.
- The UB grades 1-3 will go to the Centennial Elementary School with the current Centennial students.
- The UB grades 4-5 will go to Washington Rose Elementary with the existing Washington-Rose Students.

Construction is planned to start in the summer of 2011, and be completed for occupancy by the start of school in September 2012. All Schools will revert to their original configuration in September 2012: grades pre-K-5 in the three elementary schools, grades 6-8 in the middle school, and grades 9-12 in the high school for the September 2012 semester.

4. Accountability-related issues –

The current accountability status of the Roosevelt Union Free School District is Improvement (Year 3). Of the district's schools, the three elementary schools are in Good Standing, and Roosevelt Middle School is in Improvement (Year 2). Roosevelt High School was identified in 2009-10 as Persistently Lowest Achieving for combined high school ELA and math performance. While the State Education Department did not approve the district's application to implement a transformation model at the school in the 2010-11 school year, which would have provided the district with a grant of up to \$2 million per year for up to three years, the Department did give the district a smaller improvement grant of \$300,000 to create the conditions for development and implementation of a successful transformation model in the 2011-12 school year.

Although Roosevelt High School was not on the initial list of schools identified as Persistently Lowest Achieving in the 2010-11 school year, the school was subsequently added to the list in April 2011 following a review by the Office of Audit Services that found that the school's four year graduation rate for the 2003, 2004, and 2005 graduation cohorts was below 60 percent.

In May 2011, the Roosevelt Union Free School District submitted a 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) application to implement the Transformation Model at Roosevelt High School in the 2011-12 school year. Within its SIG application, the district proposes several initiatives to support dramatic increases in student achievement, including creation of new professional learning communities within the school, a new block schedule that adds two class periods to the school day, as well as a partnership with the Center for Secondary School Redesign. The application is currently under review by SED. The SED review panel will generate a comprehensive Request for Information (RFI), review the district's response to the RFI, and make a recommendation to the Commissioner regarding approval or disapproval prior to the July 31st deadline that the United States Department of Education has set for state education agencies to make SIG awards.

**Percentage of Students in Roosevelt CSD
Scoring at or Above Level 3 on Grades 3- 8
ELA and Math Exams**

ELA						
Grade	2007 - 2008		2008 - 2009		2009 – 2010*	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
3	77	70	76	76	34	55
4	81	71	86	77	34	57
5	85	78	89	82	34	52
6	65	67	72	81	34	54
7	60	70	61	80	27	50
8	42	56	60	69	35	51
MATH						
Grade	2007 - 2008		2008 - 2009		2009 – 2010*	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
3	90	90	90	93	41	59
4	87	84	90	87	42	64
5	89	83	94	88	39	65
6	67	79	58	83	11	61
7	52	79	60	87	17	62
8	54	70	68	80	19	55

ELA					
2004 Cohort		2005 Cohort		2006 Cohort	
District Percentage	State Percentage	District Percentage	State Percentage	District Percentage	State Percentage
48	75	53	77	57	79
MATH					
2004 Cohort		2005 Cohort		2006 Cohort	
District Percentage	State Percentage	District Percentage	State Percentage	District Percentage	State Percentage
39	76	51	77	51	79