

**Rochester Board of Education**  
**Business Meeting January 18, 2007**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

President Garcia, Vice President Evans, Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Powell, Thompson and White. Student Representative Maurice Evans. Dr. Rivera arrived at 7 p.m.

President Garcia convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I) Commissioner White to led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance.
- II) Motion to accept minutes of Dec. 21, 2006 and January 2, 2007 by Commissioner Powell with correction to Dec. 21 minutes by President Garcia. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 7-0.
- III) Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: Nine speakers addressed the Board supporting the current academic and extracurricular eligibility policy.

President Garcia invited each Commissioner to comment on proposed changes to the regulations regarding the academic and extracurricular eligibility policy. Student Representative Maurice Evans said the policy should remain the way it is. Commissioner Elliott said she supported the changes. Commissioner White said the changes will raise the bar for the district. Superintendent Rivera said he will work with athletic directors to review changes and develop guidelines for regulations.

- IV) Superintendent's Report: Dr. Rivera said he was encouraged by Governor Elliot Spitzer's reaction to the CFE settlement. He recognized the teachers who recently earned National Board Certification and highlighted the district's new partnerships with area colleges.

Commissioner Elliott asked what the benefit is of National Board Certification. Dr. Rivera explained that it is a rigorous certification process recognizing teachers' educational and classroom achievement. Commissioner Thompson said she would like to see how the national certification correlates to student achievement.

- V) Committee Reports:

**Student Representative:** Maurice Evans said the Student Leadership Congress members are serving as mentors to sixth graders at Lincoln School No. 22 through a newly established partnership launched in December. Twelve students in School No. 22's REACH program have been paired with SLC high school students and will join them for activities throughout the school year. The REACH program provides sixth graders with extra support and guidance to keep them on track. The students are planning to work together on an anti-bullying video project being planned by SLC as well as other activities.

**Finance:** Chair Willa Powell said the Finance Committee reviewed the December 2006 Financial Reports (which includes the Available Funds Report and Available Funds Financial Analysis) and resolutions 479 through 486. The committee recommends resolutions 479-486 for approval. She asked for a motion to accept the December 2006 Available Funds Report and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Student Activity Report. Motion by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Powell, adopted 7-0.

**Quality Assurance:** Chair Shirley Thompson said the committee expects to meet February 12 at 6 p.m. and will discuss the mission/scope of the committee. As an example, she cited resolutions 2006-07: 493 and 494, which could have been discussed by QA.

**Board Governance:** Chair Cynthia Elliott said the committee will meet January 22 to discuss Board restructuring, Board staff restructuring and a proposed Personnel Committee and other items.

**Superintendent Search Committee:** Chair Malik Evans said the ad hoc committee met January 9 and conducted public forums on the search, with the full Board, on January 3 and 11.

**Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee:** Chair Malik Evans said the committee will meet February 13.

**Policy Committee:** Chair Brennan said an extensive discussion of the academic and extracurricular achievement eligibility policy began more than a year ago and the entire point was to improve it.

**Audit Committee:** No report.

#### VI) Resolutions

**2006-07: 459-478.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Evans. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0 except for 471, 472, and 473, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2006-07: 479-484.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

**2006-07: 485-486:** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Evans. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

**2006-07: 487-496.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thompson. Second by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0 except for 493, 494, 495 and 496, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2006-07: 497.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Evans. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Commissioner Evans said he would never support lower standards and the regulations are proactive. Commissioner Powell said the changes were properly where they belong, which is in the regulations and not the policy. Commissioner Thompson said there appears to be discrepancies in how athletes are treated compared to non-athletes; she also said the data has not been quantified and there is still too much ambiguity. Commissioner Thompson would prefer that the vote be deferred until there is a collective understanding of current and proposed policy. Adopted 6-1.

**Roll call vote:**

Commissioner Brennan:	Yes
Commissioner Elliott:	Yes
Commissioner Evans:	Yes
Commissioner Powell:	Yes
Commissioner Thompson:	No
Commissioner White:	Yes
President Garcia:	Yes

VII) Unfinished Business: None.

VIII) New Business

Commissioner White introduced a resolution stipulating that the City of Rochester and City School District work together on truancy initiatives and proposing a 95 percent required attendance rate for secondary students. The matter was referred to the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee with the specification that a recommendation be made to the full Board for the February business meeting.

IX) Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items

Bishop Willie Davis and the Rev. Raymond Graves spoke on discriminatory practices in the District. Tim Mains welcomed Commissioner White to the Board and discussed challenges facing the District.

X) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 7-0 at 8:25 p.m.