

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
March 17, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Brown, Evans, Garcia, Porter, Powell and Thompson; Superintendent Dr. Rivera;
Student Representative Samantha Sanchez.

Absent: Commissioner Bowers

President convened the meeting at 6:43 p.m. following the Board's annual Women's History Month Observance

President Porter noted the provisions of the Code of Conduct relevant to behavior at meetings.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Evans to accept minutes of February 16, February 17, February 28, and March 2, 2005, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 6-0 with Student Representative advisory vote of yes and Commissioner Bowers absent.

Speakers on an Agenda Item:

See List

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Rivera's report included: Had hoped to make final copies of the NYS Comptroller's Office Audit Report tonight, but have not received a final version. Expect it will be completed within the next two weeks, at which point in time, we will make it available to the Board. One resolution for consideration tonight is for Foreign Language Textbooks. He believes the suggestion from QA committee that we put in place a tracking system for textbooks is a good one; will revisit the policy surrounding textbook distribution to ensure more consistency across schools. In August will bring forward schedule for purchase of new textbooks, policy will be communicating to principals regarding distribution, and the proposed tracking system. The Budget process is underway. Dr. Rivera will be recommending balanced budget on March 29th and submitted completed DRAFT book. The Board will also consider a resolution regarding the establishment of the Rochester Children's Zone. It is a concept that has been introduced to the Board and other key community leaders. He is pleased to find that there is tremendous support within this community for the concept advanced. When Commissioner Porter became President on January 3, 2005, he stated this will be a tough year with a number of tough decisions ahead of us. Dr. Rivera stated that he didn't realize how true that would be. There have been some major policy decisions that have been advanced. There have been big decisions the Board has had to make and it is not over. It is important that we are as coordinated between the Board and staff as possible. He met with staff this week and has put together a 90 day plan including critical agenda items. He distributed a list of agenda items that includes identified committees that believe items are connected with – no input from KR. Hopes to finalize in the next couple weeks with the Committee Chairs, Committee Liaisons and the Board's Special Assistant. He finally distributed the next quarterly report on contracts issued on behalf of the District under \$25K.

Commissioner Thompson asked about the resources necessary for the RCZ.

Dr. Rivera noted that there are many groups and individuals interested in supporting this effort, including individuals at the Federal level. He also noted that the District would need additional funds, beyond the \$50K the Board agreed to commit for planning purposes.

Committee Reports:

Student Representative Report, Samantha Sanchez, written report submitted. SLC went to Baden Street yesterday to read to students in grades K-3. They were invited to come again and volunteer. Ms. Sanchez noted that she and four other SLC members had the privilege of attending the Big 5 Lobby Days in Albany last week with teachers, administrators and parents. They were able to meet with different legislators and staff. She read a letter she is writing to the editor.

Finance Committee, Commissioner Powell, written report submitted. The committee recommends Resolution No 2004-05: 649, 650 and 651. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to accept monthly financial reports by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 6-0 Advisory yes by Student representative and Commissioner Bowers absent.

Commissioner Powell requested support for a joint retreat with City Council regarding debt limit and District ability to finance capital projects in the July 2005 timeframe.

Commissioner Brown noted he has no objection in principal to work collaboratively with City Council, but we need significant “spade” work in advance outlining some rules and concepts in advance. He further noted that there are disputed seats in both bodies, as well as a likely heated Mayoral primary, that we would be in the heat of in July 2005.

Dr. Rivera sees this topic unfolding as proposals are made at the Facilities Modernization Board and with sufficient staff work as well. He would like to address this with the Facilities Modernization Board. They anticipate addressing the issue of financing internally.

Commissioner Bowers proposed that we seek this meeting as appropriate when the respective staffs have indicated that this discussion would be fruitful. Seconded by Commissioner Garcia.

Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Commissioner Powell noted that she committed to Mr. Marini that they will sit in April to define a “program” and Mr. Omiccioli will work on the technical side to provide numbering for programs in the financial system.

Commissioner Thompson asked that the Board be kept apprised.

Policy Committee, Commissioner Brown, written report submitted. The committee recommends approval of Resolution 2004-05: 655 and 656.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Quality Assurance Committee, Commissioner Thompson, written report submitted. The committee recommends Resolution No 2004-05: 657 and 661. Motion by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent. She also noted several pieces of information the committee will receive in the coming months: interventions put in place to address suspension levels; information on initiatives/programs in-place to address the black-white achievement gap; and an evaluation of/report on the work performed to date by Mr. Alves. The committee also asked for some information on best practices for textbook tracking etc so that those can be replicated.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner Evans, written report submitted.

Motion to approve Resolution 2004-05: 662 by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to approve Resolution 2004-05: 663 by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to approve the development of a taskforce that will make recommendations to the Board regarding the establishment of a District-wide Advisory Board, including its composition, governing bylaws and proposed relationship with the Board. Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to approve the Legislative position pertaining to the State Comptroller's Proposed Legislation. Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to approve the Legislative position pertaining to the Governor's proposal to expand City School Board's by two members who would be appointed by the Mayor of the City. Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Commissioner Evans also noted his attendance at CGCS Conference last weekend. They touched quite a bit on the Federal budget. There is a recommendation to eliminate 48 programs at the Federal level, two of note are: Vocational Education and Safe and Drug Free School Zones. There has been a steady erosion of Education funding over the last three Congressional cycles.

Board Governance Committee, Commissioner Bowers, written report submitted, rendered by Commissioner Evans.

Motion to approve an additional clerical position for the Board of Education. Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to change the reporting structure for the Department of Internal Audit, that it be moved from the Chief Executive Officer for Business Services to the Superintendent with a transition completed by July 1, 2005. Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

Commissioner Garcia asked if there was provision in that proposal for the Board to receive reports at the same time the Superintendent does. His position is that there should be dual reporting; that the Board should receive reports simultaneously to the Superintendent. He believes strongly that they should dually report. It is a primary responsibility of the Board to exercise fiscal oversight, which is hampered by not receiving simultaneous reports.

Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

Consideration of Resolutions:

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 611-638. Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers absent.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 639-648. Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with a Student Advisory vote of Yes and Commissioner Bowers absent.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 652-654. Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 6-0 with a Student Advisory vote of Yes and Commissioner Bowers absent.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 658-660. Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 6-0 with a Student Advisory vote of Yes and Commissioner Bowers absent.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 664. Motion made by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with a Student Advisory vote of Yes and Commissioner Bowers absent.

Commissioner Evans departed at 7:38 p.m.

President Porter returned to hear the remainder of the Quality Assurance Committee report and receive the SLC report.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None.

Speakers on Other Than an Agenda Item:

None.

Adjournment:

President Porter called for a motion to adjourn the regular business meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 5-0 at 7:48 p.m. with Commissioners Bowers and Evans absent.