

Rochester Board of Education
Minutes
March 26, 2009

Attendance: President Evans, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Powell, White and Williams; Student Representative S. DeLaus; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk. J. Morgan

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- I. Student Representative Ms. DeLaus led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes of February 26th** was made by Commissioner Brennan Seconded by Commissioner White **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

Motion to accept minutes of March 16th was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**
- III. **Student Recognition:** There was no student presentation; however President Evans and the Board recognized the School 58 for being one of 10 schools in the United States to win the 2009 National Excellence in Urban Education Award. School 7 was recognized as one of 25 National Finalist for the Excellence in Urban Education Grant Award. School 25 and School 52 were recognized for being placed on the national Center for Urban School Transformation's national Honor Roll in recognition of meeting all of the criteria for excellence in urban education. And, School of the Arts was recognized for being selected as a GRAMMY Foundation Signature School for 2009.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students from School 28 spoke on school food, nutrition and the appearance of the food in their school. Students and parents spoke in support of the Freedom School.
- V. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Brizard asked that Board Members and the public support the District's Academic Showcase that will show the wonderful work that is happening in our schools. Gladys Pedraza-Burgos presented highlights of the \$6,000,000 dollar safe schools grant that has been awarded to the District over the next four years. The grant will help to address issues around safe school environments. It will also address student behavior. Marge Leffler, grant manager, spoke about the different elements of the grand and the focus of the grant. Gladys Pedraza-Burgos stated that some of the schools that will see an immediate impact from this grant are Schools 2, 6, 12, 19, 34, 36, 41, 45, and 50, Monroe, Jefferson, East, the Edison Campus, Franklin Montessori and Wilson Foundation.

The Superintendent presented an Executive Summary of School Food Services. The Administration is looking at the quality of the food and is looking to spend more money next year on food; and is working on fixing the problems of finding more ways to give the students a quality meal.

Commissioner requested that the reports and work of Beverly Davis be looked into as part of the grant that was given to the District to institute safe schools. Ms. Davis ran the office of Safe Schools. He does not want to see her committee work lost.

Commissioner Powell requested an update on the status of the Wellness Policy regulation development by the next Business Meeting.

Commissioner Williams wanted to know when we would start to see change in food services. The Superintendent responded that change has already taken place i.e., Chartwell's manager has been changed and that change has taken place in many of the schools. The Superintendent stated that change has taken place; but it's a multi-year process because much of it has to do with infrastructure.

Commissioner Williams also wanted to know what changes we could expect to see in the next four years as it relates to school safety as the grant is utilized. The Superintendent responded that we have to look at sustainability. It's really away to focus on finding a way to have the adults reinforce positive behavior.

VI. Board Reports:

Student Representative:

Ms DeLaus: Ms. DeLaus talked about the quality of school lunches. She recognized Superintendent Brizard for attending the SLC meeting on March 25th along with Mike Brooks from Pathways to Peace. Encouraged students to get help if needed. She stated that she would attend School 58's Burrito event. SLC will be making college visits. Ms. DeLaus recognized Wilson Foundation Academy for coming off the SURR list; the IB students who will be going to the U of R next Thursday; School of the Arts for being recognized as a GRAMMY Foundation Signature School for 2009; East High School for their Celebration Weekend and Marilyn Patterson-Grant and her team for putting together the Academic Showcase. The next SLC meeting will be in April.

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet in March. There is an Audit Committee of the Whole scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed the February Financial Reports. Commissioner Powell moved for approval of the February 2009 Financial Reports. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent.** The Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: resolutions 677 through 692. Commissioner Powell encouraged the audience to attend the Special Meeting on March, 30th, at 6:00 p.m., which is the Superintendent's budget presentation. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, March 12th at 5:30 p.m. There was a presentation by the Administration on literacy design. Commissioner White encouraged the audience to attend the April meeting, as the Administration will present its proposal to phase out two of Franklin's two high schools. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on, April 9, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Thursday, March 19th, and discussed the Legislative Agenda. Commissioner Campos moved for approval of the 2009 Legislative Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan Dissenting and Commissioner Elliott Absent.** Also discussed was Commissioner White's proposal to have a City staff member serve on the Audit and Finance Committees. A recommendation was made to forward the proposal to the Policy Committee. The next CIGR meeting will be held on March 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. There will not be a CIGR meeting held in April.

Policy Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Policy Committee did not meet in March. The meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The next Policy Committee will be held on April 21, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Board Governance was scheduled to meet on March 25, 2009, but the meeting was cancelled. Next meeting TBA.

President's Report

President Evans: President Evans attended the Highland Avenue Neighborhood Association meeting. At that meeting parents and the Administration presented information to potential parents of the District. President was the speaker at Mt. Vernon Baptist for their Annual Men's Day celebration. He heard from many people at that event who are interested in supporting the District and the Board to move the District forward.

VII) **Resolutions**

Human Resources:

2008-09: 652-676 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 677 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 678 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 679 – 680- Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

President Evans requested a motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m.

Motion to extend the meeting past **8:30 p.m.** was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 681-684 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams Dissenting and Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 685-692 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 693 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 694 – Motion to table was made by Commissioner White to be discussed at a Special Meeting on March 30, 2009. Seconded by Commissioner Powell **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 695-710 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Powell.

2008-09: 711 – Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams Dissenting and Commissioner Elliott Absent**

2008-09: 712-713 –Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent**

VIII) **Unfinished Business:** None

IX) **New Business:** None

X) **Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items:**

John Shoemaker spoke on military college scholarships. Michael Bianchi, Donald Bowden, Robert Hancock, Thomas Rudy, Tom Gregory, Patricia Schmidt, Karen Ketter and Clifford Provost spoke in support for military recruitment and in favor of bringing the District into compliance with providing contact information to the military in order not to risk losing federal funding.

XI) **Motion** to adjourn by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carried **6-0 with Commissioner Elliott Absent at 9:05 p.m.**