

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
Minutes
June 18, 2009

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Powell, and Williams; Student Representative S. DeLaus; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.
Vice President White convened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

President Evans and Commissioner Campos arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Superintendent Brizard led the Act of Reverence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the May 28th Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans and Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to accept minutes of the May 28th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Evans and Commissioner Campos absent.

- III. **Student Recognition:** Maurice Bell, Local Project Leader of the New York Green Schools Program, recognized students, staff, and program sponsors that have participated in the program. The Green Schools Program was introduced to the District by the Educational Facilities Department in an effort to maximize the impact of the electrical and mechanical equipment changes that were being made in schools. The Program is a project based, hands-on instructional approach to energy education and conservation at school, home, and in the community.

Commissioner Powell recognized the recipients of The Rochester Community Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship was initially funded by an annual donation by Commissioner Willa Powell from her salary as a Board Member between 1998 and 2001. The following graduating, college-bound seniors received scholarships: Anthony Short (East High School), Jelisse Lopez (Dr. Freddie Thomas High School), Salma Mohamed (James Monroe High School), Christina Stein (Thomas Jefferson High School), Victoria Lam (Charlotte High School) and Julie Brown (John Marshall High School). All of the above named students rank in the top 25% of the senior class based upon senior grades.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** There were no speakers addressing an agenda item.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Suzanne Wheatcraft presented information on the Brownfields Program to address concerns about 690 St. Paul Street and the Brownfield Cleanup Program. Ms. Wheatcraft presented information on the environmental conditions of the site, the guidelines of exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE), and what has been done to address potential exposure to the TCE. Superintendent Brizard asked what is the likelihood of the District's Central Office being a site with similar compounds and vapors being present. Ms. Wheatcraft said that because we are an older, manufacturing city there is a strong likelihood that TCE or other compounds and vapors may be present in or around the District's Central Office. Commissioner Williams asked about the liability shield

associated with the Brownfield designation. Ms. Wheatcraft stated that liability shield only applies to the state and that a citizen has the right to bring a grievance against the property owner.

Commissioner Elliott stated that she asked about contamination at the site when the resolution for the lease was originally considered by the Board, and at that time she was told that there was no evidence of contamination. She requested additional information on the level of contamination and risks of exposure related to environmental conditions at 690 St. Paul St. Commissioner Elliott requested that the Board and members of the community be given a more complete presentation of the environmental conditions at the site. President Evans requested that the Board receive a presentation from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to not place District students at the facility located at 690 St. Paul St. and to not place other children at the facility in the future. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. President Evans asked for discussion on the motion. Commissioner White noted that the Board has committed to hosting an information session to address contamination at the site and liability and it is premature to consider the motion made by Commissioner Elliott. Commissioner Powell agreed with Commissioner White in that the Board should wait to receive complete information before making a decision on whether or not students should be placed at the site. Commissioner Brennan said that he agrees with Commissioners Powell and White but still finds it troubling that the responsible parties were not forthcoming and that the Board received incomplete information.

VI. **Board Reports:**

Student Representative:

Ms. DeLaus: Ms. DeLaus thanked the Board for their support and recognized Thomas Petronio, Chief of Communications, for his support and leadership for the Student Leadership Council. Ms. DeLaus also recognized members of the Student Leadership Council and staff for their support.

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet in June 2009; the next meeting has been scheduled for July 23, 2009.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on June 18th to review Resolution Nos. 2008-09: 915–954. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on July 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, June 11th at 5:40 p.m. An overview of the English Language Learners Department was presented by Lourdes Odell, Executive Director of ELL, and Jay Piper, Director of ESOL. A 10th grade ESOL student from Nigeria attending Jefferson High School spoke to the committee regarding the benefits of attending ESOL classes. Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30th, at 5:30 p.m. An introduction to Response to Intervention (RTI) will be discussed at that meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m. A recommendation was made by Commissioner Campos to have a Community Conversation at one of the schools during the month of August. Topics for this event would include

student placement, the changes in transportation and the calendar changes. A partial presentation on student wellness was made. The presentation could not be made in its entirety because Commissioner Brennan was absent and Commissioner Elliott left early, which caused the lack of a quorum. Due to scheduling difficulties, this committee will not meet for the balance of this year.

Policy Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, June 16th. A presentation was given by Karen Marcucci, Esq. of Erie 1 BOCES regarding the process for updating the Policy Manual. Jim Sheppard provided student arrest data for each secondary school for each month of the 2006, 2007, and 2008 school years. General Counsel Chuck Johnson provided an overview of the NCLB provisions for sharing student directory information, specific areas in which the District is non-compliant, and the Administration's policy proposal. Commissioner Powell provided a summary of her policy proposal regarding military recruitment. The Policy Committee will be continuing to review and discuss this issue and the policy proposals that have been put forth. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on July 21st, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting the Committee will discuss policy proposals addressing military recruitment and minority and women-owned business enterprises.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Board Governance Committee did not meet in June 2009; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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 Powell. Adopted 7-0.

VII. Resolutions

2008-09: 867-914: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0; except for Resolutions No. 2008-09: 867-873, 877, 888, 890, 892-894, 905, and 910, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Resolution No. 2008-09: 899 which was adopted 6-0 with President Evans abstaining due to a personal relationship.

2008-09: 915: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 916: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 917-927: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0; except for Resolutions No. 2008-09: 917-918, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 928-931: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0; except for Resolution No. 2008-09: 929, which was adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 932-954: Motion to Table Resolutions No. 2008-09: 932-950 made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0. Motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2008-09: 951-954 was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0; except for Resolutions No. 2008-09: 952-954, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 955-986: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0; except for Resolution No. 2008-09: 955 which was adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Brennan dissenting, Resolutions No. 2008-09: 962, 975, and 976 which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting, Resolution No. 2008-09: 963 which was pulled, Resolution No. 2008-09: 967 which was adopted 4-3 with Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, and Williams dissenting, Resolution No. 2008-09: 969 which was approved 6-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to a professional relationship, Resolutions No. 2008-09: 970, 972, 978, and 981 which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting, and Resolution No. 2008-09: 979 which was adopted 5-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting.

Commissioner Elliott left the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** None

IX. **New Business:** None

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

Students Cassidy Hammond and Katy Rebholz spoke against the proposed budget cuts. Parents Diane Lovett, Glenny Williams, Laura Keeney, Elaine Francesco, Jon Greenbaum, and Cheryl Marshall spoke against proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year. Community members Charlie Richardson and Rev. Willie Harvey spoke against proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year. Community member Darwin Palmiere spoke about the contributions of the community towards the restoration of the murals in the auditorium at Charlotte High School. Staff members Maryann Holcomb, John Simmons, Carol Taillie, Julie Clayton, Katie Hawes, Gail Henry, Tom Dietz, Lori Thomas, Norma King, and Martin Hardisky spoke against the proposed staff cuts for the 2009-2010 academic year.

XI. **Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 9:53 p.m.