

Rochester Board of Education
Special Meeting, August 7, 2008, 6 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: President Evans, Commissioners Brennan (arrived 6:10 p.m.), Campos, Elliott, Powell and Williams; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor. Vice President White out of town.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

- I) Commissioner Williams led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance.
- II) Minutes of June 25 and July 2, 2008: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and White absent, with amendment requested by Commissioner Elliott adding name of local radio host Bob Lonsberry. Commissioner Elliott further stated that because of changes made to the final resolutions packet, her recorded votes may not have been the ones she actually wanted to make, especially the Human Resources resolutions.
- III) Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: None
- IV) Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Brizard discussed the recent weeklong program at Edison for machining and tooling; many of the participants have already obtained jobs. This is a program he wants to see embedded at Edison and expanded. He reported that the reorganization of Central Office has been a very difficult process. The personnel deployment/reduction totals 84 with the goal of creating an agile central organization and providing schools with necessary resources. Discrepancies in civil service titles number approximately 3,000 and the District will work to rectify that situation. District staff members Jerome Watts and James Sheppard presented information on the "I'm Ready" alternative program and on the new "Safety and Discipline Guide," respectively. Board discussion of the reports focused on follow-up with students, the need to reduce suspensions, core values, truancy, and a paradigm shift regarding discipline toward restorative justice. Commissioner Elliott asked Mr. Brizard about the Schott Foundation Report, and he noted that it includes valuable information regarding reversing the trend of Black males not graduating from high school.
- V) **Board Reports:** President Evans noted that because the meeting was a special meeting and not a Business Meeting, reports were not expected except for Finance but the Chairs could provide if they wanted to.

Finance:

Chair Willa Powell said the Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 24th to review resolutions 60 through 67, resolutions 69 through 74 and resolutions 77 and 78. The June Financials were not provided at the July meeting, but will be provided at the August Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee also met at 5:30 p.m. today (Aug. 7th) to review resolutions 75, 76 and 79. The Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval.

- Resolutions 60 through 67 address Educational Facilities
- Resolution 69 addresses Procurement and Supply
- Resolution 70 addresses Transportation
- Resolution 71 addresses School Food Services
- Resolutions 72 through 79 address Other

The August Finance Committee meeting will be held on August 13th @ 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance:

Chair Cynthia Elliott said the Board Governance Committee met on Monday, July 28th to discuss:

- Board Consultant
- Board Retreat
- Reconfiguration of Board Committees
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Committee Availability

The Board Governance Committee plans on having a Board retreat on August 16th to discuss:

- Board Goals
- Superintendent's Goals
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Consultant RFP Suggestions

We also plan on completing the New Board members' orientation by meeting with ASAR and BENTE union representatives. The Committee is also trying to schedule a gathering in August with Unions, the Superintendent, District Chiefs and the Board to discuss, goals, expectations and how to make schools safer for students.

Quality Assurance:

Report submitted in writing in Chair White's absence.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations:

Chair Melisza Campos said CIR would meet August 12 to discuss the Facilities Modernization Program, the new construction program at Edison, a proposed joint session with City Council, and the committee's future goals.

Policy:

Chair Thomas Brennan said the committee would meet August 11 to discuss the Code of Conduct, Responsible Bidder, and Parent Involvement policies as well as the "Safety and Discipline Guide" discussed during the Superintendent's report.

VI) **Resolutions**

2008-09: 5-59 -- Motion to approve, less Resolution 2008-09: 16 to be discussed in Executive Session, by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Resolutions adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent with the following exceptions:

- **2008-09: 5-9, 11, 13-14, 24-25 and 27-50** adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.
- **2008-09: 10 and 12** adopted 4-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Brennan dissenting and Commissioner White absent.
- **2008-09: 26** adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting, President Evans abstaining because of a family relationship, and Commissioner White absent.

2008-09: 93-98 and 101 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 except for 2008-09: 93-96, 98 and 101, which were adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2008-09: 60-68 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0.

2008-09: 70 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0.

2008-09: 71 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0. Commissioner Elliott stated that the resolution should have been presented in May.

2008-09: 72-92 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent with the following exceptions:

- **2008-09: 74-78** – Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner White absent.
- **2008-09: 84** – Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining because of a professional relationship and Commissioner White absent.
- **2008-09: 85** – Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining because of a professional relationship and Commissioner White absent.

2008-09: 99-100 – Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. 2008-09: 99 adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Brennan dissenting and Commissioner White absent. 2008-09: 100 adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent. Commissioner Brennan stated that Resolution 99 was not included in the initial Board packet and Commissioner Powell cited the 48-hour rule. Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor noted that the resolution had been included in a memo from the Superintendent July 31 and President Evans said that eliminated conflict with the 48-hour rule.

VII) Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings: None

VIII) New Business: None

IX) Speakers on other than Agenda Items: Ron Ring provided a written statement regarding student involvement, teaching, and peace; Sandra Brewer provided a written statement regarding testing protocols and the Values Policy; Charles Richardson discussed the Contract for Excellence and stated at the beginning of his statement that he would ignore the three-minute rule and would speak until he was arrested; Glenn Williams of AQE provided a written statement regarding the Contract for Excellent and iterated that AQE supports elementary school class sizes of 15. (President Evans recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. because of Mr. Richardson's refusal to depart from the podium after being asked to conclude his comments. President Evans reconvened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

President Evans recognized new Principals Cameron Johnson and Pamela Rutland, who were appointed by the Board during the Human Resources resolutions.

Motion for Executive Session to discuss matters related to a specific individual(s) by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent at 7:29 p.m.

Motion to adjourn executive session and return to open session by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent at 9:20 p.m.

Motion to table Resolution 2008-09: 16 by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent.

- X) Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner White absent at 9:21 p.m.