

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 17, 2004**  
**5:15 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Evans, Garcia, Porter, and Thompson; Dr. Rivera  
Absent: Commissioner Powell

President convened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.  
Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Thompson

**Discussion:**

President Thompson called for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 97. Motion made by Commissioner Porter, Seconded by Commissioner Bowers.

Commissioner Porter asked to have Commissioner Garcia read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Bowers stated that he is honored to be working with two of his colleagues to put this proposal forward. Since came to the Board, the District has strived to be vastly more fiscally responsible. He went on to note some of the drivers in the increased cost of operations. He noted that overall compensation has declined 1% over the past two fiscal years. That in itself is a statement of fiscal responsibility and management. Hopes the comptroller honors our request; certain finances are sound. Any recommendations made will be implemented as the District has done with Deloitte & Touche and others.

Commissioner Porter wholly supports this resolution as chair of the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, as well as Commissioners Bowers and Garcia. We recommend strongly to this Board to support this resolution.

Commissioner Garcia noted residents need to know the reality of RCSD finances, that RCSD has had problems in the past, from a previous administration, which have been dealt with. Tired of individuals misleading the public with charges that are not fully accurate.

Commissioner Brown stated it is time to put to rest the tawdry accusations that we spend our money unwisely. Really cover for the fact that people who ought to support us are either unwilling or unable to do so. Pretty convenient when you can't or won't deliver that you say if we gave it to them, they would waste it anyway. We know the cuts that may have to be implemented will directly and devastatingly impact the poorest children of this county. That is absolutely unacceptable. It is our responsibility as a Board to expose the scoundrels who use excuses instead of action in their real motives.

Commissioner Thompson noted for the public that the suggestion for a third party review is an old recommendation, made by former Commissioner Vargas. Certainly past time for us to take a step that is needed and welcomed. It is easy for this community to become embroiled in accusations and finger pointing once we enter the budget process.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson noted remarks made lately of individuals being racist who have expressed interest in having staff be more representative of the population served. These comments are not intended to be racist or ethnically exclusive, but as a necessary and helpful kind of practice. Asks colleagues and members of the community to be sensitive in the language they are using.

Commissioner Porter stated the District is charged as being fiscally irresponsible because we have a deficit. If that is the criterion, NYS, Monroe County, and the City of Rochester are also fiscally irresponsible as they have all had deficits.

Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

**Adjournment:**

President Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Porter. Adopted 6-0 at 5:33 p.m.