

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
September 16, 2004

Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Evans, Garcia, Porter, Powell and Thompson; Superintendent Dr. Rivera;

President convened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Thompson acknowledged Ms. Cathy Spoto as the Board recognized the Grief Resource Network as part of their 10th Anniversary celebration.

Discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept minutes of July 20, August 17, August 19 and August 31, 2004. Seconded by Commissioner Porter. Adopted 7-0.

Speakers on an Agenda Item:

See List – Mr. Bowen moved to Agenda Item VII. Others were not in attendance.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Rivera provided a written report to the Board and conducted power point presentation for the public.

He noted the Comptroller has agreed to do the audit requested by the Board at the Special Meeting on August 17, 2004. He added that there will also be a Blue Ribbon panel. Educational Resource Strategies will come in and look at RCSD allocations and practices. They are a nationally recognized firm. These three combined will make the RCSD budget document the most publicized, analyzed and scrutinized public budget document in the state of New York.

Dr. Rivera provided an update on the goals, How are we doing? While trends are in an upward direction, they are still not acceptable. We will continue to reach for higher achievement.

He noted that he would be releasing the annual accountability report shortly.

Committee Reports:

Student Representative Report, Samantha Sanchez, provided a written report noting the officers for 2004-05 and their meeting dates.

Finance Committee, Commissioner Bowers, written report submitted. The committee received the monthly financial reports and recommends them for acceptance this evening. The committee also received a DRAFT 2005-06 budget process timeline and will be providing feedback to staff in the coming weeks.

Motion to accept monthly financial reports by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 7-0.

Policy Committee, Commissioner Brown, no report.

Board Governance Committee, Commissioner Evans, written report submitted. The Board Governance committee will be working over the next couple weeks to complete the Superintendent's annual evaluation.

Quality Assurance Committee, Commissioner Garcia, written report submitted. The committee received an update on managed choice implementation for 2004-05; a final 2003-04 student achievement report; agreed to form a workgroup to examine the HOLA program and make recommendations on how to ensure the program is made equitably available; and finally recommends the Biennial Shared Decision Making Report for approval by the Board this evening through adoption of Resolution 2004-05: 268.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner Porter, the committee has not met, but noted that as part of the four point plan the Comptroller would be doing an audit and the blue ribbon panel will be formed. He noted that the District lobbyist has resigned and the committee will be discussing that at its next meeting.

Commissioner Porter noted that two policies in the Policy committee had been sitting for 120 days and he would like to redirect them to the Finance committee for action in a timely manner.

Motion to move these two policies from the Policy committee to the Finance committee by Commissioner Porter, Seconded by Commissioner Bowers.

Commissioner Brown stated put them on an agenda and the committee will meet.

Commissioner Powell stated that sending back to Finance is not the right place. Can revise motion to send to the full Board.

Commissioner Evans suggested that maybe it could be timely if the Policy committee can schedule a meeting by tomorrow.

Commissioner Bowers noted that lack of action in timely manner may suggest lack of interest to do so. Therefore he would suggest sending back to Finance to make a final review and any amendments, then bring back before the Board for discussion at the October Business Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Bowers – Yes

Commissioner Brown – Yes

Commissioner Powell – Yes

Commissioner Evans – Yes

Commissioner Garcia – Yes

Commissioner Porter – Yes

Commissioner Thompson – Yes

Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner Powell noted that staff names have been considered for the HOLA workgroup. A meeting will not convene before Columbus Day. She stipulated that her husband will be mobilized and stationed somewhere near Baghdad for the next year.

President's report, Commissioner Thompson, noted her attendance at MCSBA Legislative Committee meeting on September 8, 2004. Decisions have not been made, still a great deal of discussion.

Consideration of Resolutions:

President Thompson asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 217-255. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 7-0.

President Thompson asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 256-269. Motion made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.
Student Rep advisory vote of yes.
Adopted 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

Domestic Partners Benefits Policy Proposal.

Commissioner Bowers was asked to oversee this section of the meeting.

Mr. Bowen provided brief remarks and thanks for the efforts of the Finance Committee in bringing this forward.

Commissioner Bowers thanked Commissioners Garcia and Powell for their work on this policy. He noted the process the committee used in gathering pertinent information and developing the DRAFT policy for the Board's discussion this evening.

He noted the Superintendent has already begun living contract discussions with the unions.

Commissioner Evans asked about such programs in the City and County?

Commissioner Bowers noted that the City does and the County does not. The City was consulted as they have a Domestic Partner Certificate as well as offering Domestic Partner Benefits.

Commissioner Thompson asked about verification of a relationship and/or its dissolution? As well as other districts offering similar benefits? She also asked about the public's support or resistance to this proposal?

Commissioner Bowers noted such provisions were inclusive in the proposed policy. He noted that higher education institutions were consulted, but was not readily aware of any schools districts. He asked Mr. Bowen if he could provide such information. Noted all the meetings were open and the agendas were promoted. To this date, no opposition has been presented in writing, though that may come in the next 30 days.

Mr. Bowen agreed to provide information on school districts.

Commissioner Garcia noted that the committee acted on this because they believed it was right.

Commissioner Powell noted that we are doing the right thing at very little cost. She also stated that we are certainly toward the forefront on this issue. While programs are in place around the community, none of them for very long.

Commissioner Thompson asked for information from other organizations in terms of rising enrollment and costs in out years.

Commissioner Bowers noted some local organizations consulted had domestic partner benefits programs in place for five or more years.

New Business:

None.

Speakers on Other Than an Agenda Item:

Ms. Conyer arrived late and was allowed to speak. Recommended the Board look at policy on classroom management and how to involve parents on this to change loss instructional time due to behavioral issues.

Adjournment:

President Thompson called for a motion to adjourn the regular business meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Porter. Adopted 7-0 at 7:41 p.m.