

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

### Minutes

September 24, 2009

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President White, and Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Powell, and Williams; Superintendent Brizard; Student Representative Sarah DeLaus; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Powell arrived at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Brennan arrived at 7:10 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Williams led the Act of Reverence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the August 27<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and the August 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting was made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, and Powell absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized students for their artistic talent and the use of their artwork in this year's District calendar. The following students were recognized for their contributions to the District's 2009-2010 Calendar: Ruth DeCastro, Jonathan Siharath, Nicholas Ficklin, Sherelle Gee, Shakiyla Jamison, Katie Tiedemann, Jayvan Santos, Hemanta Adhikari, Ashley Shim, Ashley Morales, Jessica Hourruitiner, Amy Lin, Amber Hart, Christian Allen, and Jomaris Quinones.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item and Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Parents Felix Jacobs and Brenda Ramos spoke about the Board's policy addressing transportation and the District's practices in transporting elementary students. Parent Elaine Francesco spoke about Rochester Institute of Technology's recent announcement to offer free tuition to eligible students of the Rochester City School District and congratulated Mr. Brizard on his efforts to engage community partners. Community member Charlie Richardson spoke about the need for increased parent involvement.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brizard began by noting that the District provides transportation services for its students who live 1.5 miles or more from school, although the State requires that transportation must be provided for all students in grades K-8 with trips of two miles or more, and for all students in grades 9-12 with trips of three miles or more. He also mentioned that transportation for students who live 1.5 miles or less from school is not eligible for aid.

Mr. Brizard said the opening of school went well due to the efforts of all members of the District's team, including principals, administrators, and support staff.

Mr. Brizard spoke about college readiness initiatives such as those partnerships with Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester and stated that he and his staff are working hard to develop additional partnerships and make sure that students are aware of and ready for such opportunities.

Mr. Brizard then presented a video of students from the School of Applied Technology at Edison, under Principal Matt Laniak, regarding their recent project of building a house. He went on to congratulate the students, school teachers, and community partners in their efforts to encourage and expose students to the benefits of a quality education and careers in the construction field.

## V. **Board Reports:**

### **Student Representative:**

*Ms. DeLaus:* Ms. DeLaus stated that the Student Leadership Council recently met to discuss potential volunteer opportunities for members of the Council and to address student concerns such as college readiness, safety, and support services.

### **Audit Committee**

*Chair Allen Williams:* The Audit Committee did not meet in September 2009; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to review the monthly Financial Report and Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 234 through 240, 266 and 271. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the August 2009 Financial Report. The Finance Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 234 through 240, 266 and 271. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on October 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. An extensive overview of the Response to Intervention (RTI) was presented by Caterina Leone-Mannino and Carlos Leal; in addition to a presentation regarding the College-Going Culture Campaign by Joyce Dunn. Marilynn Patterson-Grant and Brandon Keaveny provided information regarding the impact of smaller class size vs. larger class size. The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

*Chair Melisza Compos:* The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month. However, the committee is hosting its first community conversation, the RCSD Speak-Out, on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at East High School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Board of Education members and representatives from district departments and programs will be on hand to talk with parents, answer questions, and provide assistance. Tom Petronio and Jacqueline Morgan have done extensive advertising regarding this event to try to ensure that the RCSD Speak-Out is well attended. The next Committee meeting will be scheduled as a Committee Meeting of the Whole to discuss the proposed facilities modernization plan.

### **Policy Committee**

*Chair Cynthia Elliott:* The Policy Committee did not meet in September 2009; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Board Governance Committee**

*Chair Thomas Brennan:* The Board Governance Committee met as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the employment of a specific individual on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## **President's Report**

President Evans announced that he and other Commissioners participated in a panel discussion entitled, "Key Educational Issues," as part of the African American Leadership Development Program. He also had the opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker at the recent Metro Council for Teen Potential. President Evans noted that he and some members of the Board toured School No. 33 (School No. 33/Ryan Center/ Sully Library Complex) recently and congratulated the Superintendent and the staff of the Educational Facilities Department in their role in the reconstruction of the new school and complex.

## **VI. Resolutions**

**2009-10: 199-233:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent; except for Resolution No. 2009-10: 211 which was adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 234-238:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 239-259:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent; except for Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 243 and 244 which were adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 260:** Motion to table Resolution No 2009-10: 260 made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 261-271:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent; except for Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 261 and 262 which were adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 175:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**2009-10: 187:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-0 with President Evans abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Elliott absent.

**VII. Unfinished Business:** None.

**VIII. New Business:** None

**IX.** Motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel item was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent at 8:18 p.m.

President Evans re-convened the meeting in open session at 8:32 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 at 8:34 p.m. with Commissioner Elliott absent.