

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting
November 14, 2017

MINUTES

Attending:

Commissioners – Vice President Cynthia Elliott (Chair), President White, Commissioners Adams and Hallmark

District Staff – Karl Kristoff (General Counsel)

Parent Representative – Not in attendance

Board Staff – Kallia Wade

Vice President Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:45PM.

I. Review of Minutes of October 23, 2017 CIGR Meeting

Vice President Elliott noted that the minutes of the October 23, 2017 CIGR meeting will be available for review and acceptance at the December CIGR Meeting, as advised by Board Staff Kallia Wade.

II. Review and Discussion of the 2017-18 Legislative Agenda

The committee engaged in conversation re the legislative agenda, which still required approval before the Legislative Breakfast. Board Staff Kallia presented another updated, version of the agenda.

Commissioner Adams indicated her approval for the document, but suggested that the Big5 have an opportunity to review the document and engage with the Board re the materials presented. Board Staff Wade indicated that the Big5 staff has been sending relevant legislative updates, and she noted that these were taken into consideration in the current updated document.

Vice President Elliott advised that the Committee is looking to approve the legislative agenda in the December 2017 meeting.

Board Staff Wade noted for clarification that the Legislative Agenda document had been taken to Executive Cabinet by Chief of Staff, Fatimat Reid, where it was approved and so was now waiting on final changes from the Committee. Ms. Wade then presented once more the list of additional legislative items to be considered by the Committee. These items had been reviewed in a meeting between Ms. Wade and General Counsel, Karl Kristoff. General Counsel Kristoff then led the Committee through a review and discussion regarding each item on the list—these items were considered for addition to the Legislative Agenda.

Commissioner Hallmark inquired about the legislation that Mr. Kristoff was suggesting the Committee oppose. This included the first legislative item on the list: HR1510: States' Education Reclamation Act of 2017. Mr. Kristoff indicated that the notion of abolishing the Department of Education and repealing programs for which it has responsibility is counter to the Board's interests and initiatives.

Vice President posed the question "Why do we want to oppose the CHOICE Act, if this is a choice for parents in our communities? Mr. Kristoff indicated that the Committee should view items like CHOICE Act (item 3) through the public school organization lens as it regards opposing private school options. Commissioner Adams continued, noting that valuing public education, items like these are subterfuges against our communities and that public education is the real choice. Commissioner Hallmark agreed, indicating that this legislation would take tax money away from the public school system. The Committee agreed to add items 1 and 3 to the Agenda, opposing the legislation. Secondly, the Committee also agreed add the remaining items, with exception of item 5(S1004: Perkins Fund for Equity and Excellence), which was removed on the recommendation of General Counsel Kristoff. This item was deemed redundant given the other legislative items being considered. Lastly, the Committee agreed to reorder the Agenda, so that funding for transportation was highlighted and added to the legislative priorities and concerns.

Action Item: Board Staff Kallia to update the Legislative agenda per the Committee's discussions and consult with Big5 legislative items to get more input.

III. Legislative Breakfast Planning

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee members discussed plans to host the Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, January 27th, 2018 or Saturday, February 3rd, 2018. Vice President Elliott noted that it was more ideal to host the Breakfast in the fall and that Committee should plan to host the event in November of the next school year. The Committee agreed on the February 3rd date and members agreed to forward suggested attendees to Board Staff, Kallia Wade. In considering speakers, Commissioner Adams suggested having someone speak on the Safe and Supportive Schools Act—she will be connecting Ms. Wade to possible persons (perhaps Cathleen Decoteldo). President White also suggested Commissioner Crossdale from the Department of Human Services. Vice President Elliott suggested Allan Williams and Mike Schmidt to speak on the FMP. The Committee discussed the dates the Legislative Breakfast have been hosted in the past. Dates have fluctuated between spring and fall.

Action Item: Board Staff Kallia to work with Vice President Elliott to plan the Breakfast for the February date. Commissioner Adams to follow up by connecting Board Staff Wade with a representative of the Safe and Supportive Schools Legislation (to speak at the Legislative Breakfast).

IV. FYI: Legislative Updates

Given the time spent reviewing the Legislative Agenda and the additional legislative items to be added, the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01PM.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2017