

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
September 15, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

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

President convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.
President Porter noted the passing of two District employees
Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Brown

Discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Brown to accept minutes of August 18, 2005. Seconded by Commissioner Garcia.
Adopted 4-0 with Commissioners Bowers, Powell and Thompson absent.

Speakers on an Agenda Item:

See List

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Rivera stated that over the course of the next 30 days, he would be reviewing the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel and coming back to the panel and the Board with information on how we intend to proceed. There are many recommendations that are very good that we would want to move on right away, in fact some are already underway. There are others that may need to be prioritized; and yet others that may require further study such as the discontinuance of tenure and union membership of principals.

Dr. Rivera's report included: Blue Ribbon Panel report, with comments by Dr. Simone – a budget is a means to an end; review the process to get "bad" teachers out of the classroom and ensure it works; tenure for administrators may hinder progress in the system, they should be members of the Superintendent's management team; regarding fiscal practices, the Board should establish an Audit committee with the whole Board having training to include CPAs from the community along with members of the Board, appointing the Internal Auditor; once some additional efficiencies are made, the funds available are still not sufficient to do everything that needs to be done such as early education, full day Kindergarten for all; the environment in which the District much educate kids is challenging; the Call to Arms – 10,000 volunteers – believe this is the out of the box solution if it can be effectively implemented, which is accomplished could be a national model. This would be an independent community organization, with champions, raise funds, etc.

Commissioner Garcia thanked the Task Force for taking the time to do this.

Dr. Rivera noted that what we had in this situation is ten people who actually developed an understanding of the District, its challenges and opportunities, who will hopefully be available to go with me to various forums to help develop a broader base of support for and understanding of the District.

Dr. Rivera chose to respectfully disagree with one recommendation. Being a member of a union does not preclude individuals from being a member of the Superintendent's team.

Dr. Rivera noted the four schools that were removed from the needs improvement list of the State, including Schools 36, 16, 41, and 22.

Commissioner Bowers arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee, Commissioner Garcia, written report.

Motion to accept monthly financial reports by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent.

Motion to accept the 2006-07 Budget Process Timeline by Commissioner Garcia, Seconded by Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent.

Quality Assurance Committee, Commissioner Thompson, no report.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner Evans, written report. He noted a sense of urgency surrounding the 10-year capital improvement plan development because we would like legislation enacted in 2006. He also noted that a major item of the legislative agenda for 2006 will include sustaining school health legislation.

Policy Committee, Commissioner Brown, no report.

Commissioner Brown noted that amendment to the Code of Ethics and a new Whistleblower policy are on the agenda for discussion tonight pursuant to the Board's policy regarding policy amendment/adoption procedures.

Commissioner Evans stated that these are needed. It is important to provide procedures for reporting concerns by staff.

Commissioner Porter commended the Chair and committee for a job well done.

Board Governance Committee, Commissioner Bowers, written report.

Motion to accept the 2004-05 Superintendent Evaluation Tool by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson.

Consideration of Resolutions:

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 180-220. Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent except for Resolution 184 which was adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Garcia dissenting and Resolution 208 which was adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Bowers dissenting.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 221-259. Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent except for Resolution 235 which was adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Bowers abstaining due to a professional relationship and Resolutions 249, 250 and 257 which were adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Brown abstaining due to a professional relationship.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion of proposed Ethics policy amendment and new Whistleblower policy
Done during Committee Reports

New Business:

None

Speakers on Other Than an Agenda Item:

See list

Dr. Rivera noted the resignation of Mr. Henry Marini as CEO of Business Services.

Adjournment:

President Porter called for a motion to adjourn. Made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 at 8:02 p.m. with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent.