

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
November 17, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

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

President convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Thompson

Recognition of the Rochester Education Foundation for the Spring Music drive

Discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Evans to accept minutes of October 20, 2005. Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 7-0.

Speakers on an Agenda Item:

None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Rivera noted that the performance targets he proposed last month will need to be amended following the completion of the curriculum audit required by NYS the District is currently undergoing that will be completed in February 2006.

He noted the positive response of the United Way to the Rochester Children's Zone and their consideration of monetary support as well. He added that the Mayor Elect for the City of Rochester is also supportive. The District has prepared responses to a number of questions posed by the leader of the United Way and Dr. Rivera will share those responses with the Board.

Ms. Hancock provided some highlights on the diversity initiative and the events of the recent Superintendent's conference day. She provided the Board with written information. Copy on file.

Dr. Rivera's report also included a response to the Blue Ribbon Panel report rendered September 2005. He is recommending action on 57 of 63 recommendations, and noted that 9 of those pertain directly to the Board which is currently taking action on them.

Dr. Rivera will explore the impact had in NYC with the removal of principal tenure and consider that aspect of the recommendation, but believes that employees have the right to unionize.

He stated that he agrees the District should be evaluating all of its major investments, and sited the panel's reference to an \$11 million investment in AIS. He added that the District was benchmarked against other districts with regards to professional development expenditures, but there is no evidence that it was considered against the outcomes derived from the investment in terms of achievement gains.

President Porter noted the passing of an employee since the last Business meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee, Commissioner Powell, written report.

Motion to accept monthly financial reports by Commissioner Thompson, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 6-0 with one abstention by Commissioner Evans due to an outstanding question still awaiting response on.

The committee recommends approval of Resolution 2005-06: 399.

Quality Assurance Committee, Commissioner Thompson, written report.

She sited the receipt of the latest Cohort 2006 report and noted that she was going to be encouraging community organizations to support families before and when their children enter the school district.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner Evans, written report.

Motion: In accordance with Board policy 1900 requiring establishment of a District-wide parent advisory board, the committee hereby recommends Board support for the work of the PPC and encourages this project to be wholly implemented in the 2005-06 school year. The Board of Education hereby supports the implementation of the PPC.

Made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 7-0.

Policy Committee, Commissioner Brown, no report.

Board Governance Committee, Commissioner Bowers, written report.

Motion to approve amended BOE goals for 2005-06 made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to accept the Self-Evaluation tool and complete by December 2, 2005 made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Bowers. Adopted 7-0.

The committee recommends approval of Resolution 2005-06: 420.

Consideration of Resolutions:

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 343-387. Motion made by Commissioner Garcia, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 7-0 except 379 which is adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Bowers dissenting and 351 which is adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Garcia abstaining due to a personal relationship.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 398. Motion made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 388-397. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner Brown noted resolution 2005-06: 392, a donation that provides funds for scholarships for needy students. He added that he has not taken a salary for eight years to provide scholarships, but a couple of years ago the State came in and sited him for seeking to make contributions to specific individuals. He stated that when individuals seek to make such donations we should refer them to the Rochester Education Foundation to avoid any possible conflict over this item.

President Porter asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 399-420. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

Commissioner Powell requested to sever Resolution 2005-06: 420. Consensus of the Board.

Resolutions No 2005-06: 399-419 approved 7-0 except for Resolution 2005-06: 407 which is adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brown abstaining due to a professional relationship and Resolution 2005-06: 418 which is adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Bowers abstaining as he is an employee of the organization the District will be contracting with.

Motion to approve Resolution 2005-06: 420 made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Evans.

Commissioner Powell noted that she requested of the Governance chair that voting on this resolution be delayed until next month to allow public input. The Board has foregone a pay raise for 19 years. To go forward with this with disclosure today would be an embarrassment to the Board.

Motion to table until December to allow public disclosure by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Defeated 5-2 with Commissioners Powell and Brown supporting.

Commissioner Bowers noted that this proposal is an outgrowth of requests of some members for additional services such as laptops and cell phones. He added that the cost of “doing business” has increased from higher cell phone bills to business meetings and the way to address this was through a salary adjustment rather than developing protocols around which members would be eligible to receive additional services and procedures for doing so, particularly in the light of the environment of audits we operate in.

Commissioner Powell noted that she is philosophically opposed to public officials receiving large remuneration for their service. She noted that in 1986 and 1987, members of City Council and the Board of Education had equal salaries of \$15,000 per member per year. She added that the cost savings of the Board salaries not keeping parity with City Council over the past 19 years is approximately \$1.99 million; when adjusted for the fact that Council has two additional members, the savings is approximately \$1.4 million. She further stated that by accepting this resolution we acknowledge that we are inferior to City Council and we are only worth $\frac{3}{4}$ of Council members.

Commissioner Powell motioned to amend proposed resolution 420 to eliminate 75% of the salary. To allow for a vote, Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion. Defeated 5-2 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson supporting.

Commissioner Thompson noted that she does not agree that support of the original proposal prohibits seeking parity in the future.

The original motion to approve Resolution 2005-06: 420 is approved 5-2 with Commissioners Brown and Powell dissenting.

Dr. Rivera acknowledged an Administrative appointment.

Unfinished Business:

Approval of Superintendent’s Proposed goals for 2005-06

Dr. Rivera noted they will need to be amended following the curriculum audit. Therefore he is removing the specific targets set for ELA and Math.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 7-0.

New Business:

None

Speakers on Other Than an Agenda Item:

See list

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0 at 7:59 p.m.