

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
January 19, 2006
Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Evans, Garcia, Powell, and Thompson; Superintendent Dr. Rivera

President convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Evans

Discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Thompson to accept minutes of December 22, 2005 and January 3, 2006.
Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0.

Speakers on an Agenda Item:

None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Rivera's report included information on the Governor's Budget proposal; Grade 5 Social Studies performance; and the Next 60 days.

Commissioner Thompson – please break down numbers of those students meeting standards by ethnicity into how many level 3 and how many level 4.

Commissioner Powell stated we don't get 0.2% of an increase when our peers want for nothing. They are forcing us to play the legislative card year after year. We cannot assume that the Governor's budget is what we will get because it has never happened before and will admit some sort of defeat.

Commissioner Evans that until the state formula is fixed, transparent we will continue to have these problems year after year. It is arbitrary. We are fortunate to have a state delegation that works hard year after year for Rochester to ensure the children get what they need. When will people understand the advantage of an investment on the front end rather than trying to rehabilitate on the back end. We have an aggressive legislative agenda but I know that if we all work together, we can succeed.

Commissioner Elliott sought to remind everyone that we have a long way to go. We are the murder capital of NYS. If we check the backgrounds of those who are murderers, we will find that they dropped out of high school, etc. We need to do all can to make sure educating children so able to participate positively in our community; workforce that companies do not have to go out of the City to get qualified workers. We must take this work very seriously; continue the good work we have done. Need to have a world class education system; 100 percent graduation rate; and 0 percent suspension rate.

Commissioner Brennan thanked the staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Garcia stated that he is proud of their accomplishments.

Committee Reports:

Student Representative Report – Written report submitted. Ms. Simmonds noted the officer’s meeting yesterday. SLC actively seeking to recruit additional student participants. The next meeting is February 1st for community service.

Quality Assurance Committee, Commissioner Thompson, written report. Next meeting is February 13th to receive an update on the diversity initiative; negotiating whether or not will receive an update on the parent support system; and prior to the meeting she will provide recommendations regarding how to proceed with the JROTC report.

Commissioner Garcia asked where the committee stands with the JROTC report.

Commissioner Thompson noted that the committee recommended completion within 60 days of the December committee meeting. They will try to keep it within that timeline as there are two new members.

Finance Committee, Commissioner Powell, written report. The committee recommends adoption of resolutions 539-541.

Motion to accept monthly financial reports by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0. Student Rep casts an advisory vote of yes.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner Evans, written report. He noted that he had the opportunity to present Martin Luther King awards for peace at SOTA earlier this week. He had the opportunity to speak with ninth and tenth graders at Monroe this morning.

Policy Committee, Commissioner Brennan, written report. The committee will meet on January 31st.

Board Governance Committee, no report.

Consideration of Resolutions:

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 502-536. Motion made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 except Resolutions 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530 which are adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Commissioner Elliott sought clarification that these were being voted as a block.

Commissioner Garcia stated that these are the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board acts as a matter of procedure according to law. They are not publicly discussed.

Commissioner Elliott expressed concern about the rate associated with additional pay. Could we do this at a reduced rate?

Commissioner Garcia noted the rates are set by labor contract.

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2005-06: 537-565. Motion made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 except Resolutions 537, 538, 539, 541, 543, 548, 550, 551, 561, 562, 563, and 565 which are adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

President Garcia stated that the Board intended to appoint a new member pending the results of the Democratic Caucus meeting earlier this evening. They were unable to reach consensus. They will interview the finalists. Appointment will be postponed until Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers on Other Than an Agenda Item:

See list

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 at 7:31 p.m.