

Rochester Board of Education  
July 20, 2006  
Business Meeting

Minutes

**Attendance:**

President Garcia, Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Powell and Thompson. Commissioner Henley out of town. Commissioner Evans arrived at 7:25 p.m.

President Garcia convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.  
Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Commissioner Powell moved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 29, 2006. Second by Commissioner Brennan, adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent.

**Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:**

None

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Rivera said summer is a busy time in the District. Close to 6,000 students are in summer programs at the elementary and secondary levels. At the elementary level, there are 1,000 more students attending programs this summer than in 2005. There are also professional and leadership development activities taking place, both off-site at Harvard University and in New York City, as well as a major Principals' Institute that will be held Aug. 1-4 in the District. Workshops for parents and School Based Planning Team members will be held in August. Among the top-notch speakers at those workshops will be Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu.

President Garcia asked Commissioners whether there were questions for Dr. Rivera.

Commissioner Elliott asked whether professional development is mandatory. Dr. Rivera said that some of it is.

Commissioner Elliott asked specifically about professional development for the Grades 3-5 Social Studies textbook; the Board Quality Assurance Committee was told that professional development regarding diversity would be provided for this new textbook this summer. Dr. Rivera called on School Development Officer Cheryl Holloway, who responded that professional development for use of that textbook is being done in July.

Commissioner Elliott asked about data on the dropout rate for 2005-06 and the dropout trend for the past three years. Dr. Rivera said he did not have exact figures on hand for the previous three years, but there is a downward trend from about 10 percent to 8 percent. He said he would provide the figures for the previous three years but does not have the data available for 2005-06. That information will be calculated for reports due in August and he will provide the information to the Board.

Commissioner Elliott asked where the District is regarding the NYS Attorney General's report and whether there are administrative staff members who are not credentialed according to NYS provisions. Dr. Rivera said

administrative staff are properly credentialed. He said no one in the District can predict when the Attorney General's report will be released.

### **Board Reports:**

Finance Chairwoman Willa Powell said Finance had reviewed resolutions 76, 77 and 78 and recommended approval. She asked that resolution 75 be removed from the agenda because Finance did not review it. President Garcia approved the removal without objection from other Commissioners.

Commissioner Powell also provided written information from the Alliance for Quality Education requesting that September be proclaimed Act for Education Month. Without objection, President Garcia asked Dr. Rivera to prepare a resolution for August 2006 to that effect.

### **Consideration of Resolutions:**

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2006-07: 1-31 made by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. President Garcia called for questions/discussion of the resolutions.

Commissioner Elliott said a number of Hispanic teachers were being hired through the resolutions and asked Dr. Rivera how many African Americans were being hired. Dr. Rivera said a running record is being collected on all hires and he will provide the Board with a report in September.

Commissioner Elliott said there was a discrepancy in the wording of Resolution No. 2006-07: 9 from the Resolutions Packet and the Resolutions Index. Dr. Rivera called on Chief of Human Resources Joanne Giuffrida, who said the discrepancy was an oversight.

Commissioner Elliott asked whether the lesson-writing in Resolution 12 was training for the school year or summer. Dr. Rivera called on Chief, School Development Division C. Michael Robinson, who said the training was for the 2005-06 school year but the building principal had not turned in the paperwork for additional compensation for staff members.

Commissioner Elliott asked what the Destiny training is for. Mr. Robinson said it is for implementation of the Destiny textbook tracking application approved by the Board.

Commissioner Elliott asked what the Part 154 application is. Mr. Robinson said it is regarding the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) grant.

Commissioner Elliott asked about the training hours for Bry's Behavioral Monitoring program and said more than three hours are necessary. Mr. Robinson said it is on-going training and he will provide specifics regarding how the training is offered multiple times during the year in three-hour blocks.

Commissioner Elliott said the description sentence in Resolution 15 was incomplete. Mr. Robinson said he would provide additional details.

Commissioner Elliott questioned the salaries listed in Resolution 27. President Garcia said salaries are governed by contracts with bargaining units and thus are not topics for discussion.

Resolutions 2006-07: 1-31 adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent except for Resolutions 2006-07: 15 and 17, which were adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2006-07: 32 and 33 made by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Thompson. President Garcia called for questions/discussion of the resolutions.

Commissioner Elliott asked whether African-American firms were on the contracts. Dr. Rivera said the information can be provided and that he would do so. Commissioner Elliott said she would follow up with a formal request.

Resolutions 2006-07: 32 and 33 adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2006-07: 34 made by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Brennan. President Garcia called for questions/discussion. Approved 5-0 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent.

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2006-07: 35-41 made by Commissioner Thompson. Second by Commissioner Brennan. President Garcia called for questions/discussion.

Commissioner Elliott asked for the amount of the contract in Resolution 2006-07: 39. Dr. Rivera said that information will be provided.

Commissioner Elliott said she was uncomfortable with Resolution 2006-07: 41 because of the wording “in the best interest of the school district.”

President Garcia said that the draft resolutions are provided to Commissioners on the Friday prior to Business Meetings so that questions can be asked of staff and answered prior to the meeting. Commissioner Elliott referenced a past question she had asked, following Board practices, regarding the Rochester Children’s Zone, and said it was not answered and so that was why she was asking questions during the meeting.

Resolutions 2006-07: 35-41 adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to adopt resolutions 2006-07: 42-74 and 76-78 made by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Brennan. President Garcia called for questions/discussion of the resolutions. Resolutions adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent, except for Resolution 2006-07: 46 which was adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Elliott abstaining.

**Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings:**

Motion to approve the Local Wellness Policy previously introduced and discussed made by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. President Garcia called for questions/discussion of the resolution. Commissioner Powell commended the volunteers from the staff and community who had worked on developing the policy. Local Wellness Policy 5405 approved 5-0 with Commissioners Evans and Henley absent.

**New Business:**

None

**Speakers on Other than Agenda Items:**

Mr. Ron Ring talked to the Board about peace and returning spiritual studies to the public schools and the benefits of yoga, meditation, etc. in easing tension.

Mr. Tim Minerd said the JROTC resolution approved at the June 15 meeting should be rescinded because Commissioner Powell had a conflict of interest.

Ms. Gerry Minerd said the JROTC resolution approved at the June 15 meeting should be rescinded because Commissioner Powell had a conflict of interest.

Janet Bezila corrected what she said were misstatements and disconnects made at the June 15 meeting regarding JROTC and cited specific examples.

Commissioner Elliot said Mr. Ring's points had merit and should be looked into.

Commissioner Powell asked that the conflict of interest issue be referred to the Ethics Committee.

Commissioner Thompson asked that an opinion from District Counsel be rendered regarding rescinding an approved resolution.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 7:25 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Brennan, adopted at 7:27 p.m.