

Rochester Board of Education

Business Meeting October 19, 2006

Minutes

The Board of Education celebrated its annual Hispanic Heritage Observance from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Attendance

President Garcia, Vice President Evans, Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Henley, Powell and Thompson; Student Representative Maurice Evans.

President Garcia convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.
Commissioner Elliott led the Act of Reverence.

Discussion

President Garcia invited Nydia Padilla to the podium to present an award to Dr. Rivera on behalf of the Rochester City School District Bilingual, English Speakers of Other Language, and the Hispanic Services Departments.

Motion to approve Minutes of Sept. 21, 2006 and Oct. 11, 2006 by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

Speakers Addressing Agenda Items

None

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Rivera thanked Chief Financial Officer Susan Tripi for her work and leadership. He also introduced James Coney, the new Interim Chief Financial Officer, who will replace Ms. Tripi.
- The Board will receive a recommended Strategic Plan in November that will include strategies for improvements in schools and in operational systems. Dr. Rivera provided a plan for his work over the next 10 months:
 - Finalize multi-year Strategic Plan
 - 2007-08 Budget: Provide to Board three to four weeks prior to last year's timeline of March 23.
 - Facilities Modernization Program
 - Diversity Initiative
- He introduced Chief of Human Resources Joanne Giuffrida, who presented information on diversity hiring for 2006-07.

Commissioner Thompson asked that the figures in the diversity hiring report be provided as numbers and as percentages. She also asked that another category be added, Physical Disability. She said extra efforts need to be made to recruit Native Americans.

Commissioner Elliott asked about the Strategic Plan and public reporting. Specifically, how has the District worked to influence the public reporting process to influence public policy? Dr. Rivera said he is working on it. All requirements are fulfilled, but additional information would be helpful. She also asked about the March

2005 diversity report and what part it played in the current initiative. Dr. Rivera said there has been a commitment to diversity hiring from the Board that pre-dates the 2005 report; there is still work to do. He said emphasis could be on local recruiting and retaining employees. He stressed that the District wants to see more people of color employed.

Vice President Evans said there is a long way to go. He would like HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) data; where specifically has recruiting been done.

President Garcia said great progress is being made but there is a need to do more. He complimented staff on their efforts.

Commissioner Henley said recruiting needs to be emphasized and asked what the District is doing to compete with suburban districts. Dr. Rivera discussed competitive salaries as one issue; also need to work on retaining employees.

Committee Reports

Policy

Commissioner Brennan said Policy will meet Nov. 1 to discuss the Acceptable Use Policy and the Eligibility Policy.

Governance

Commissioner Henley said Board Governance met Sept. 26 and discussed a proposed Personnel Committee and the Board's self-evaluation process. Vice President Evans commented that the work of committees should be aligned with the Board's goals. Governance needs to create an orientation session for new Commissioners. He suggested the Board protocols regarding the role of committees be revisited and Commissioner Henley agreed.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations

Commissioner Evans said Community and Intergovernmental Relations met Oct. 10. The Parent Partnership Council provided an update to the committee. The committee also discussed the final copy of the 2007 Legislative Agenda, which will be discussed/voted on under Unfinished Business. He added that the Superintendent Search Committee will meet Nov. 6.

Finance

Commissioner Powell said the Finance Committee is recommending approval of the August and September financial reports, the budget amendment resolutions, and acceptance of the Student Activity Fund Report.

- Motion to accept financial reports by Vice President Evans. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 7-0.
- Motion to accept Student Activity Fund report by Commissioner Henley. Second by Vice President Evans. Adopted 7-0.

Quality Assurance

Commissioner Thompson said Quality Assurance had voted to rescind Resolution 309 but after receiving further information will not bring the motion forward. Also at its meeting October 16, the committee discussed the 6 Go 7 Summer School report, the Seven Essential Standards, the Restructuring Reports of seven schools, ELA scores, the Bilingual Program Evaluation, the Biennial Review of Shared Decision-Making, and issues with Gay Straight Alliance organizations in schools. The committee will continue to examine the Biennial Review, the GSA issues, and restructuring reports.

Student Representative

Maurice Evans said the Student Leadership Congress is continuing Big Brother/Big Sister training to support other students academically and assist with the transition from Grade 6 to High School. The group has increased members from 5 to 9.

Consideration of Resolutions

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 258-283. Motion by Commissioner Brennan, second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0 except for Resolutions 266, 271, and 274, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting, and Resolution 275, which was adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and President Garcia abstaining.

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 284-289. Motion by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 7-0.

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 290-292. Motion by Commissioner Powell, second by Commissioner Henley. Adopted 7-0.

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 293. Motion by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

President Garcia asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 294-311. Motion by Commissioner Henley, second by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0 except for Resolutions 305, 306 and 307, which were adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Old Business

Legislative Agenda -- Vice President Evans discussed the final version of the document, which he described as capturing the Board's priorities in broad strokes. Without objection, the 2007 Legislative Agenda was moved forward.

Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items

None in attendance.

Adjournment

Motion by Vice President Evans, second by Commissioner Henley. Adopted 7-0 at 8:10 p.m.