

Rochester Board of Education  
November 16, 2006  
Minutes

***Executive Session***

Attendance: President Garcia, Vice President Evans, Commissioners Brennan and Elliott, Superintendent Rivera.

President Garcia convened the meeting in open session in the second floor conference room at 6:12 p.m. Commissioner Evans made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters related to specific individuals. Second by Commissioner Brennan, adopted 4-0. Commissioner Henley arrived at 6:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session at 6:32 p.m. by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Brennan, adopted 5-0.

**Business Meeting**

Attendance: President Garcia, Vice President Evans, Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Henley and Student Representative Maurice Evans. Commissioner Thompson ill and Commissioner Powell out of town.

**I) Act of Reverence/Pledge to the Flag**

Commissioner Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for deceased staff member Linda Jacobs.

**II) Minutes**

Commissioner Elliott had a correction to the Minutes of October 19, 2006. Motion to accept Minutes with correction by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Henley, adopted 5-0.

**III) Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item**

None.

**IV) Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Rivera announced that he is part of Governor-Elect Spitzer's transition team for education. He congratulated the Marshall High School Football Team on its season, discussed the MCC Gateway to College program, a drop-out prevention and drop-out recovery program, and the Stop the Violence Community Forum held at Jefferson High School.

**V) Board Standing Committee Reports**

- **Audit** met Nov. 14 in executive session to review the risk assessment and audit plan. The next meeting is Nov. 27.
- **Finance** met Nov. 9 and is seeking motions to accept the October 2006 monthly financial reports and the 2007-08 internal budget timeline. The committee also recommends approval of resolutions 2006-07: 351-356. Motion by Commissioner Evans to accept the October 2006 monthly financial reports; second by Commissioner Henley. Adopted 5-0. Motion to adopt the 2007-08 internal budget timeline by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 5-0. Finance will meet Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

- **Policy** met Nov. 9 to discuss the Internet Acceptable Use Policy (4526) and the Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities Policy (5305). Discussion of Policy 4526 was resolved satisfactorily following parent input; discussion of Policy 5305 will continue at the next meeting, set for Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.
- **Quality Assurance:** Written report submitted.
- **Superintendent Search:** The ad hoc committee met Nov. 13 to discuss search/recruiting firm proposals. It is recommending approval of Resolution 2006-07: 376.
- **CIGR** announced that the legislative event is Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. at School 12.
- **Governance** will meet Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott had questions about the monthly financial reports, specifically why monthly financial reports are not presented in the summer. Commissioner Elliott questioned whether the Board's policy regarding monthly financial reports needs to be changed. Director of Budget Vernon Connors explained that close-out work of the previous year takes place in July, so August encompasses the July report. President Garcia referred the matter to the Board's Policy Committee for discussion. Commissioner Elliott also questioned why all members of the Board do not participate on the Audit Committee; Audit Chairman Evans said it is a matter of statute, and if Commissioner Elliott (or other Board members) would like to attend the meetings she should let him know and she will be invited to participate.

President Garcia reported on the special meeting of the Board to discuss the District's Strategic Plan. The plan will come up later in the year for action by the Board.

Student Representative Evans discussed the Student Leadership Congress's recent meeting at which it learned about the Safe Schools Hotline. Members of the SLC will also participate in the Rochester Youth Conference and the Black and Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference sponsored by the Red Cross.

## **VI) Consideration of Resolutions**

**2006-07: 312-348, Human Resources.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Henley. Commissioner Elliott asked why information as to reasons for terminations is not provided. Dr. Rivera said the information meets the requirements of statutes and contracts. Commissioner Elliott said it would be helpful to have a simple statement included in the resolution as explanation, similar to what is provided in other resolutions. President Garcia pointed out that the Board must be very cautious when discussing personnel resolutions and asked that Commissioner Elliott pose her questions to staff prior to the Business Meeting so that she can receive answers. Commissioner Elliott responded that she wants her questions to be part of the public record. Resolutions 2006-07: 312-329, 341-43, and 347-348 adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent. Resolutions 2006-07: 330-340, 344 and 346 adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2006-07: 349-350, Educational Facilities.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Henley. Commissioner Elliott asked what was being requested in 350; Director of Facilities Thomas Keysa said the resolution seeks approval of a negative declaration regarding the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) of next summer's proposed capital improvement projects. All of the projects are interior and will not disrupt the environment. President Garcia asked what was being requested in Resolution

349; CFO James Coney said the approval was for final payments to close out two renovations contracts. The approval encompassed a \$50,715 change order approved by the District and President Garcia noted that the Board was actually being asked to approve two separate items -- the change order and the final payments. Commissioner Elliott asked that the resolution be removed and reworded to reflect what was being voted on. Resolution 2006-07: 349 defeated 3-2 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent and Commissioners Brennan and Elliott dissenting. Resolution 2006-07: 350 adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent.

**2006-07: 351-356, Budget/Information Technology.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Evans, Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent.

**2006-07: 357, Procurement and Supply.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Henley, second by Commissioner Brennan, adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2006-07: 358-376, Other.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Henley, second by Commissioner Evans. Resolutions 2006-07: 358-362, 371 and 376 adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent. Resolutions 2006-07: 363-370, 372-73, and 375 adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

#### **VII) Unfinished Business**

None.

#### **VIII) New Business**

Commissioner Elliott raised the issue of contracts and how they are awarded. President Garcia said there is a procedure for bringing new discussion items to the Board and provided Commissioner Elliott with that information.

#### **IX) Speakers on other than Agenda Items**

Ronald Ring stressed the need for student involvement in curriculum development, cooperative economics courses, ecology, and other social concerns.

Christopher Tillman Sr. discussed the Board's search for a superintendent and said there was no need for a national search with the number of talented administrators available within the District.

Cuevas Walker said physical fights in schools need to be broken up quickly.

#### **X) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Henley, approved 5-0 with Commissioners Powell and Thompson absent at 7:40 p.m.