

Public Hearing, Charter Schools  
September 25, 2007  
Rochester Board of Education

President Garcia opened the hearing at 5:32 p.m. to elicit testimony. He agreed that the walk-in speaker could comment.

Lynne Crawford, Director of Program Management and Liaison to Charter Schools, reported that Urban Choice chose not to attend. Rochester Academy is in attendance but will not present.

Speaker 1:

CHARLIE RICHARDSON: Hope hearing is being televised or recorded. Not speaking at a BOE meeting, there is no time limit on hearings. You are holding illegal hearing.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: I will hold you to three minutes to make your statements.

MR. RICHARDSON: Protested.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: I will close the hearing.

MR. RICHARDSON: Protested

PRESIDENT GARCIA: Please make your statement. I will let you know when three minutes are up.

MR. RICHARDSON: If there were an emergency and someone were really in danger, Mr. Garcia, what would you do? I am here to ask you a question as an elected official.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: I am not here to answer questions.

MR. RICHARDSON: I know what you would do, you'd put it in a committee for about three months. Is there anybody else here who'd do something different? If you saw somebody in imminent danger, right here in this room right now, what would you do? Nobody would call 911? That's what's wrong with the City School District. The constitution of the United States, which most people don't have a copy ... I ask again, is this being taped?

PRESIDENT GARCIA: Yes it is being taped.

MR. RICHARDSON: The Constitution of the United States, everybody has a copy of, what it states is the rights of people. Government for the people by the people.

We do not have that. We work for the government just look every week. On my card is the four-way test. This is how meetings should be conducted. That's how government officials and all of us as citizens should react to each other, not the way that we do. I'm Charlie Richardson and I'm with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, have an office at 161 S. Union Street, 14607. Sorry could not have copies for everybody but printer went down. As a volunteer for the past 36 months, resolved in the inner city in Rochester, NY, I attended many City Council meetings, School Board meetings, County meetings, and every meeting that we could find of the community, what the community wanted to do. Comida meetings too. Never any feedback as there won't be tonight. The school district for the past 30 years has been unable to educate our children, as the record shows a 39 percent graduation rate. There are some real reasons for that, it's not just by luck. I'm here to voice the opinions of the 7,200 people I have interviewed over the past 36 months asking them what they think the problems are, how they would solve them. The majority of them say they would like the opportunity to dig themselves out of poverty, but we don't do that.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: Mr. Richardson your three minutes are up please conclude.

MR. RICHARDSON: I could care less and you better have me removed.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: Stop the recording.

MR. RICHARDSON: I am not going to be stopping. This is a public hearing.

PRESIDENT GARCIA: Meeting adjourned. (5:37 p.m.)

President Garcia reconvened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and invited the second speaker to the podium.

Speaker #2:

I'm here to speak on behalf of charter schools because have experience with them in Houston, TX. Very important to have a charter school in this area for sons to attend. Math and science very important. Good to have a choice. Won't stay in area if don't have this school. Growth in Texas because of schools.

Public hearing concluded at 6:47 p.m.