

Rochester Board of Education
February 28, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Minutes

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Williams, Powell, Campos and Brennan; Student Representative Rosetta Washington; Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard; Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor. Commissioner Elliott out of town.

The Board of Education celebrated Black History Month prior to the meeting. President Evans convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Miss Washington led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Commissioner Brennan moved acceptance of the minutes of January 24, 2008. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.
- III. No speakers attended.
- IV. Superintendent's Report: The District received an award from the United Way. Representatives of the RGRTA presented the plan going forward to provide transportation students. Commissioner Campos asked if translators would be available for students and families; RGRTA responded yes (Spanish) and other translators will be made available if necessary. Commissioner White asked if the student passes can be used on alternate buses and times. Response was yes, students can use entire network of buses in the morning and in the evening. Extra buses are scheduled in the evening. Superintendent Brizard recognized the contributions to the District and to the community made by Chief of Research, Evaluation and Testing Jana Carlisle, who is leaving the District on February 29.
- V. Board Standing Committee Reports:

Student Representative

Ms. Washington said the recent superintendent forum with students was a big success. Yesterday the Student Leadership Congress went to the Volunteers of America to sort coats, boots, etc. donated through the Superintendent's and Mayor's joint initiative. More than 1,000 coats and 600 pairs of boots were donated. The SLC will meet with School 22 students March 5 and 19 for its Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program. Approximately 20-25 students will serve as mentors and tutors to younger students.

Audit

Chairman Allen Williams said the Audit Committee met on Thursday, February 21 at noon. During the meeting, the committee reviewed the Request for Proposal for the CAFR Auditor which is being issued as an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Rochester. The committee also reviewed the Draft Annual Report and Work Plan for the Office of Auditor General. The Audit Committee anticipates meeting in late March, at a date to be determined when the Committee is in a position to recommend a CAFR Auditor to the Board. The committee expects to make a recommendation on the selection of a

CAFR Auditor to the full Board by the April Business Meeting. Commissioner Powell asked when bids would be reviewed for the CAFR auditor and Chairman Williams said in March.

Finance

Chairwoman Willa Powell said the Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 21 to review the January 2008 Financial Reports, which includes budget amendments and resolutions 507 through 525 and 529 through 534. Commissioner Powell moved that the January 2008 financial reports be approved. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. Commissioner Powell said resolutions 527 and 528 (Educational Facilities) were tabled and a meeting was set for today at 6:15 p.m. in room 3E. The resolutions were pulled; therefore the meeting was cancelled. A special meeting will be scheduled before the next Board meeting to address the two resolutions. The Finance Committee is interested in having a joint session with CIGR and representatives from labor unions to discuss a pre-apprenticeship program. The Committee is also interested in having an M/WBE session with both the Committee and the Administration. There will be a public forum hosted by the Finance Committee to increase the public awareness on the Contract for Excellence. The forum will be facilitated by the Youth of Rochester and will be held on March 20th @ 6:30 p.m., here at the CSD in rooms 3A. The next meeting is a Committee of the Whole to present a draft budget to the Board on March 18th @ 6:00 p.m. The March Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 20th @ 5:30 p.m.

Quality Assurance

Chairman Van Henri White said the Quality Assurance Committee met on Thursday, January 31 to discuss: Mission, Vision and Duties of QA Committee; Review and Approve the SURR (School Under Registration Review) Plan; the QA Committee will wait until the Superintendent releases his goals for 2008, before convening a discussion on goals of the Committee in 2008. The Quality Assurance Committee is recommending that the full Board adopt the SURR Plan for Monroe, Jefferson and the International Finance & Economic Development Career High School at Franklin that will be presented for approval. They are resolutions 540, 541 and 542. The Quality Assurance Committee also met on Wednesday, February 20 to discuss: There was a presentation on Youth and Justice Programs. There was a presentation on the Dropout Rate. The next meeting will be held on March 12th @ 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relationships

Chair Melisza Campos said the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met February 13. The committee discussed the apprenticeship program being worked on collaboratively by the Board, the Superintendent and Unicon to foster a pre-apprentice program for students at the School of Applied Technology at Edison. Linda Stagles of the Office of Grant Development provided information on possibly gaining funding through Congress for an apprenticeship initiative. The committee supports the effort to gain the funding with the caveat that the program put forward on February 13 does not reflect the work currently underway. The committee will continue to support the partnership with the laborers that it believes will help keep students engaged in school and provide them with a viable career opportunity upon graduation. If the funding is approved for an apprenticeship program, CIGR will continue to monitor the situation with the Superintendent to ensure that all partners -- including students -- are involved. Regardless of the congressional funding, members remain optimistic that this program can be in place for the 2008-09 school year. The committee also discussed changing the name of the committee to better reflect its work and to convey a more positive message to the community. That discussion will continue at the next meeting, which is March 19. The committee approved the Board's 2008 Legislative Agenda, which was provided previously to the full Board and is in tonight's packet.

This document articulates the positions of the Board and District as the federal, state, and local governments create their fiscal plans for 2008-09. Chairwoman Campos moved that the Legislative Agenda be approved. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. At the committee's next meeting, members will discuss the District's efforts to increase minority participation in construction projects, including the Facilities Modernization Program. Ms. Jackson, the consultant hired by the Board to create a strategic plan to increase participation, will attend and update the committee on her activities. Increasing minority participation in contracts awarded by the District is an essential element of the Board's role in fiscal oversight and, Chairwoman Campos said, a part of the Board's duty to the community. The committee will also request an update from administration on creation of the School Construction Board, the joint board of the District and City that will oversee the project. Chairwoman Campos said all are welcome at CIGR meetings. The March 10 meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3A. Chairwoman Campos also thanked the schools she visited recently for all they do for children and parents and for making her visits so productive.

Governance

The following report was submitted in writing because Commissioner Elliott was away. The Governance Committee met on Monday, February 25th to discuss: 2008 Board Goals; Reviewed the Duties of the Board Governance Committee; Supervision of Board Staff; The Role of a Board Consultant; and Reviewed Superintendent Evaluation Tools. The Board Governance Committee would like to have a Board retreat to discuss Committee reconfiguration, Board goals, the Superintendent's evaluation tool, and clarification on supervision of Board staff, structure of the Board's questions and answer process and quarterly meetings with the Superintendent. The March meeting will be held on March 24th @ 6:00 p.m. in room 3A.

Policy:

Chairman Thomas Brennan said the committee's meeting was postponed to March 19 because of illness/unavailability of members.

Following Board Standing Committee Reports, Jody Seigle of the Monroe County School Boards Association presented information regarding the services that organization provides to members. The Board is a member of the group.

VI) Resolutions

President Evans explained the resolutions approval process to the audience, noting that hours and hours of review go into the resolutions before they are brought before the full Board. He urged everyone to attend Standing Committee Meetings. Vice President White also noted that the administration provides answers to Board members' questions in writing and thanked them for that effort.

2007-08: 482-506: Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away except for 485 and 497, which were adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Brennan abstaining from 485 because of a familial relationship and Commissioner Campos abstaining from 497 because of a professional relationship.

2007-08: 507-529: Motion to adopt by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

2007-08: 530: Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

2007-08: 531: Motion to adopt by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner Powell. Discussion: Commissioner Williams asked when the system will be fully functional/operational. Chief Information Officer Ford Green said the system is fully functional and the extension is for implementation of an upgrade only. Commissioner Williams asked whether the contractor had provided deliverables as promised and Mr. Green said yes. Commissioner White, discussing a report from the Office of Auditor General, asked whether Mr. Green is confident the system is producing the way it was paid for; PeopleSoft is an issue in the community and people want to know that this is money well-spent. Will the District be hit again with upgrades? Some updating is necessary but when does it end? Specifically the issues on page 2 of the report ... does Mr. Green share those concerns? Mr. Green said most if not all of the concerns have been mitigated by completion and training; the OAG has not been provided with a formal response to the report. Commissioner White asked Superintendent Brizard for a formal response and he said he would provide it. Mr. Green then invited commissioners to a future technology breakfast to be presented by his team. Mr. Green will coordinate through commissioners' secretaries.

2007-08: 532A/B/C: Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

2007-08: 533-543: Motion to sever 543 and table pending Executive Session by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. Motion to adopt 533-542 by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. Commissioner Powell recognized the donations and thanked the generous benefactors.

VII) Unfinished Business: None.

VIII) New Business: None.

IX) Speakers on other than Agenda Items: Ron Ring discussed greater student involvement in curriculum, self-defense and peace, public works programs, daycare, healthcare, world peace, cooperative economics and rational reason. Spiritual studies should be put back in the classroom. Gary Bonadonna, Jr. discussed the inadvisability of using Aramark Food Services and provided Commissioners with written information on the company. Lori Thomas discussed ADD – Adult Discipline Dysfunction, noting that a lack of training that corrects or molds moral character in children causes them to feel unloved and uncared for. Adults must find a cure for their ADD.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss specific personnel and negotiations issues by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

President Evans re-convened the meeting in open session at 9:10 p.m. Commissioner Powell moved approval of extending the meeting beyond 8:30 p.m. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away at 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner White to adopt resolution 2007-08: 543. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott away and Commissioners Powell and Brennan dissenting.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 at 9:35 p.m.