

Rochester Board of Education
Minutes
June 25, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Brennan (arrived 7:07 p.m.) Campos (arrived 7:20 p.m.), Elliott, Powell and Williams; Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard; Student Representative Rosetta Washington; Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

- I) Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Act of Reverence.
- II) Motion to approve Minutes of May 22, 2008 by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Williams. Approved 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting as she did not have a chance to review the Minutes.
- III) The Board recognized grade level winners in the District Storytelling Contest and this year's recipient of the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship.
- IV) Speakers Addressing An Agenda Item: Student Louis Aponte Jr. discussed his senior project at School Without Walls and his difficulties graduating. Staff member Lori Thomas said she had been removed from her classroom and assigned to in-school suspension. Decisions being made are not conducive to children's success. Parents requested that she be allowed to loop with their children up to the next grade level and it was denied. Parent wishes are not taken into consideration. What is being considered?
- V) Superintendent's Report: Mr. Brizard discussed summer school plans and recognized Commissioner Powell for an award from the New York State School Boards Association. The Superintendent also hosted recognition of the Xerox program in the City School District, several principals, and the Student Leadership Congress for its work.
- VI) Board Reports

President's Report

President Malik Evans

We say goodbye and good luck to Student Representative Rosetta Washington tonight. Miss Washington, Valedictorian of the Class of 2008 at Charlotte High School, will be attending the University of New Haven for Juvenile & Criminal Justice. She is co-president of her senior class and president of the school district's Student Leadership Congress. Miss Washington has been designated as Monroe County Youth of the Year and has received several scholarships, including the African American Achievement Scholarship. She has also worked part-time during high school, been a member of the Charlotte track team, and contributed numerous hours of community service and leadership. Miss Washington has provided valuable input and feedback to the Board this year, including helping out at all four of our Superintendent's Forums last fall. Please join me in thanking Rosetta for her service to the Board. Wilson Commencement Junior Sara DeLaus will be our Student Representative for 2008-09.

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Commissioner Elliott Point of Privilege: She complimented the students who attended the recent City of Rochester budget hearing to discuss proposed reductions to programs geared to young people. Vice President White echoed her comments.

Finance

Chair Willa Powell

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 19th to review the May 2008 Financial Reports and resolutions 777 through 797, resolutions 799 through 806, resolutions 809 through 829 and resolution 853 and resolution 857-859. The committee recommends approval. Commissioner Powell moved acceptance of the Financial Reports. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0. Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve the 3rd Quarter Student Activity Report. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0. Resolution #826 authorizes the District to enter into a contract with Brown and Brown Insurance. Brown and Brown will study the feasibility of an inter-municipal health insurance consortium. RCSD is to be the fiscal agent, with the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe being the other municipal partners. The study will be paid for by a grant for that specific purpose. The Finance Committee forwards its recommendation, with the stipulation that the contract explicitly forbids Brown and Brown from competing for a contract to perform plan administration services if that is their recommendation. The July Finance Committee meeting will be held on July 17th @ 5:30 p.m.

Quality Assurance

Chair Van Henri White

The Quality Assurance Committee met on Thursday, June 12th to discuss: School Based Budgeting, The Biennial Review, The School Improvement Template, The Dropout Report, and Changing the Committee's Name. The Quality Assurance Committee is recommending that its name be changed to the Committee for Excellence in Student Achievement. The Committee is also recommending that the Board approve resolution #841 for the Education Resource Strategies to analyze and make recommendations for system changes as the District moves towards a school-based budgeting system. The Quality Assurance Committee is recommending that the Board approves resolution #851 for the Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making to be submitted to the State Education Department. This review requires the Board President's signature; therefore I make a motion to authorize the Board President to sign the Biennial Review. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0. I would like to thank Mary Hale and District employee Margaret Porter for joining us in our discussion on the Dropout report. The Quality Assurance Committee will not be meeting in July. The next Quality Assurance Committee will be on Thursday, August 14th @ 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Elliott asked whether the Biennial Review is a document of integrity with true parental involvement. Chair White said it is.

Board Governance

Cynthia Elliott, Chair

The Board Governance Committee did not meet on Monday, June 23rd. The Committee will be meeting again on Monday, July 28 @ 6:00 p.m. to discuss: Board Consultant, Board Retreat, Reconfiguration of Board Committees, Superintendent's Evaluation, and Committee Availability. The Board Governance Committee plans on having a Board retreat in August to discuss the following: Board Goals and Superintendent's Goals. The Board met in executive session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation tool and Board staff salaries. We also plan on completing the New Board members' orientation by meeting with ASAR and BENTE union representatives. Commissioner Elliott also said she attended the recent CUBE conference, noting that she was inspired by Superintendent of Schools Rudy Crew and his theory of change. She has asked CUBE to help develop metrics for measuring parent involvement.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations

Meliza Campos, Chair

Community and Intergovernmental Relations will meet on Monday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of Josh Lofton. We are meeting there for an update on the Facilities Modernization Program, which is housed at Lofton until we sign the building over to the City. We will also have an update on the partnership between Unicon and Edison Tech. My understanding is that there are more than 250 students interested in the revamped construction technology program, which is being designed to provide students with a real career path on leaving high school. Josh Lofton is at 242 W. Main Street, and all are welcome to join us. That concludes my report. I would like to take a moment to congratulate the City School District students honored at the 13th Annual Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner recently, including: Zulette Hernandez, Monroe High School; Christina Valentin, Dr. Freddie Thomas High School; Yamiled Ortiz, Monroe High School; Gabriel Ruiz, Franklin International Finance; Sergio Rodriguez, East High School; Melanie Vasquez, School of the Arts; Julio Angel Sosa, Franklin International Finance; Jordan Ramos, East High School; and Normary Burmudez, Monroe High School.

Policy:

Thomas Brennan, Chair

The committee may meet twice this month to discuss parent involvement and discussion of external resources for help with the backlog of policy reviews.

Audit:

Allen Williams, Chair

The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, June 4th at noon to review the 2007- 2008 Audit Plan with the new CAFR Auditors, Freed, Maxick and Battaglia. They anticipate performing their preliminary fieldwork in July 2008 and the remaining fieldwork will commence in September 2008. Also, the Committee is still accepting recommendations for a Financial Expert to join the Audit Committee. The Financial Expert is a non-salaried position to the Board to provide additional financial expertise to the Audit Committee.

VII) Consideration of Resolutions

2007-08: 742-776: Motion to approve with 772 separated and split into 772A and 772B by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Elliott.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Williams:	Yes
Commissioner Powell:	Yes
Commissioner White:	Yes
Commissioner Elliott:	Yes
Commissioner Campos:	Yes
Commissioner Brennan:	Yes
President Evans:	Yes

Resolutions Adopted

2007-08: 772A: Motion to approve by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

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2007-08: 772B:

Motion to table by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Elliott.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Williams:	No
Commissioner Powell:	No
Commissioner White:	Yes
Commissioner Elliott:	Yes
Commissioner Campos:	No
Commissioner Brennan:	Yes
President Evans:	No

Resolution rejected

Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Williams.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Williams:	Yes
Commissioner Powell:	Yes
Commissioner White:	No
Commissioner Elliott:	No
Commissioner Campos:	Yes
Commissioner Brennan:	Yes
President Evans:	Yes

Resolution Adopted

President Evans took the following resolutions out of order so that the Human Resources resolutions would be adjacent.

2007-08: 851: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 7-0.

2007-08: 859: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2007-08: 777-786: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Commissioner Campos commented that the Board is not in the loop for change orders but is held accountable at the end of a project; a better approval method needs to be developed. Commissioner Williams agreed and pointed to the recent Greece audit; the Board needs a policy. Commissioner Powell elaborated on the process and emphasized that, without approval, millions in State Aid was at stake. In response to Commissioner Elliott, Mr. Carfagna explained the cooperative agreement with the City of Rochester for refuse removal (786). Resolutions adopted 7-0 except for 783 (Commissioner Elliott voting No) and 785 (Commissioner Elliott abstaining).

Motion by Commissioner Powell to extend meeting beyond 8:30 p.m. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2007-08: 787-802: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Commissioner Williams emphasized that a strategy needs to be developed for telecommunications and technology services. Commissioner White agreed, noting the dysfunctional appearance of the technology infrastructure. Adopted 7-0.

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2007-08: 803-808: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2007-08: 809-813: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Commissioner Elliott commented that there are probably some African-American travel firms that could fulfill 809 and said this is one area the District could achieve some M/WBE balance. She urged the Superintendent to pursue it. She also asked the Superintendent to provide an analysis of summer school transportation costs comparing 2007 and 2008. Resolutions adopted 7-0.

2007-08: 814: Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Commissioner Elliott asked if the contract is fiscally efficient for a transitory population. The Superintendent said this contract is particularly efficient because it is web-based. Adopted 7-0.

2007-08: 815-824: Motion to approve by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2007-08: 825-858 (Resolution 855 pulled by Superintendent): Motion to approve by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Regarding 828, Commissioner White called for the equitable distribution of legal and other business of the District. Commissioner Elliott agreed. Adopted 7-0.

VIII) Unfinished Business: None.

IX) New Business: Commissioner Elliott Point of Privilege. She commented on the recent comments of local radio host Bob Lonsberry of WHAM, student achievement, and the increase in test scores. Commissioner Brennan called the radio comments mean-spirited and ugly, noting that the Board has the right to denounce the comments.

X) Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items: Luis Aponte Sr. spoke of the injustice to his son and asked the Board to right it. Harriet Fisher discussed the Montessori program at Franklin and said conditions have improved greatly. She thanked the Board/District for listening. Parent would prefer their own building for the program with a gym and library. Tanya Poyser voiced her support for the Young Mothers program, the culturally responsive curriculum, and urged the Board to keep funding alternative programs.

XI) Motion to adjourn to executive session by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0 at 9:10 p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 9:30 p.m. 7-0 with motion by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White.

Business Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m., 7-0, upon motion/second by Commissioner White/Powell.