

Rochester Board of Education
Business Meeting, August 28, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: President Evans, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Powell and White (arrived 6:32 p.m.); Student Representative Sarah DeLaus; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor. Commissioners Elliott and Williams away.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I) Miss DeLaus led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance.
- II) **Minutes of August 7, 2008 Special Meeting :** Motion to approve by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioners Elliott, White and Williams absent.
- III) **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None
- IV) **Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent presented a report regarding the District's dashboard and accountability framework with Chief of Accountability Dr. Jeannette Silvers. He introduced Dr. Silvers and the new Chief of Family and Youth Services, Ms. Gladys Pedraza Burgos. In response to Commissioner Powell, Superintendent Brizard said data will be used to inform work going forward. Commissioner White said Dr. Silvers' appointment was a great example of promoting from within; Commissioner Campos applauded the appointment of Ms. Pedraza Burgos and complimented the Superintendent on the diversity of his Cabinet.
- V) **Board Reports:** President Evans congratulated Linda Stagles of the Grants Office for the \$6 million Safe Schools Grant recently awarded to the District in collaboration with County Mental Health, County Probation, Rochester Police, and Early Childhood. It is \$1.5 million per year for 4 years. He attended the August graduation event Tuesday evening at Hochstein with Commissioner Campos and was proud to say there are 150 new graduates of the City School District. The Board will conduct a public hearing Sept. 4 for the 2008-09 Contract for Excellence. This will be the third hearing on the Contract; the first two were conducted as part of the budget process.

Student Report: Miss DeLaus discussed participation on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. She discussed the Student Leadership Congress' partnership with Wilson Commencement Park; a public service announcement on mutual respect between students and teachers; Operation Clean Sweep; and a home library project with School 22.

Finance:

Chair Willa Powell said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, August 26th to review the June 2008 Financial Reports, which includes budget amendments and resolutions 145 through 161 and resolutions 201 through 203. She motioned for a waiver of the 48 hour rule to accept amended resolution #156 for Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES (Project Lead the Way), which was amended to provide more clarity. Project Lead the Way has been added to the first paragraph and the third paragraph has been removed. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent. Resolution 159 for EnCompass was tabled.

The Superintendent and his staff will be presenting additional information on Encompass. The other reviewed resolutions are recommended for approval. Commissioner Powell moved acceptance of the June 2008 financial reports. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams away. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on September 18th @ 5:30 p.m.

Quality Assurance:

Chair Van White explained that he was wearing a Temple t-shirt and jeans because he had just dropped his daughter, an RCSD 2008 graduate, off there at college; the experience for him brought it all together, even beyond graduation. All students must be prepared not just for graduation, but for life afterward. For his report, Commissioner White said the Committee met on Wednesday, August 20th @ 4:00 p.m. to discuss: Presentation on the Destiny Program and Career and Technical Education Programs. He noted that 15 out of the 26 Career and Technical Education programs that District offers are not State approved. At least 3 of these programs are not approved due to staffing issues. We as a District need to do a better job of making sure that all of the CTE programs are approved. It would also be helpful if the District can provide us with a timeline of when we can expect approval for the remainder of the CTE programs. Dennis Richardson and his staff will provide a brief presentation on the Hillside Work Scholarship Program at the Oct. 9th Quality Assurance meeting. The next Quality Assurance meeting is on Thursday, September 11th @ 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations:

Chair Melisza Campos said Community and Intergovernmental Relations met August 12 and Commissioner Elliott joined us. Although we are pursuing avenues to having the drop-out age raised from 17 to 18, we are also asking that the issue be referred to the Quality Assurance Committee for research on the potential impact on academic achievement. Commissioner White is a member of both committees and will facilitate communication. We are drafting a letter to our federal representatives regarding amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which, for public school systems, could amount to a new unfunded mandate. The Council of Great City Schools is opposed to the measure, as it could impose new costs for Districts without demonstrated benefits for students. Thanks to Linda Stagles for attending our meeting and keeping us informed of this legislation. Our committee has asked President Evans to contact Council President Santiago regarding a joint session to discuss how we can collaborate regarding state funding, Maintenance of Effort, Mayoral control, truancy, and other issues that affect the City and the District. We'd like to see this first joint session take place in late September or early October. There is a program called "Five by Five" in Denver in which children are exposed to at least five cultural experiences by the time they are five years old. This is a terrific example of what city and school district governments can accomplish when they work together for the good of children; CIR is looking into how we can initiate a similar program here. Our next meeting is September 15 at 5 p.m. and everyone is welcome to join us.

President Evans referred the drop-out age issue to QA. He said Council President Santiago is interested in a joint session and reinstating the "3 on 3" meetings with commissioners. Commissioner Brennan asked if the Mayor was part of those meetings; Commissioner Powell reported that historically the Mayor had not been. Commissioner Brennan said it would be in the public interest to invite the Mayor, as there is more common ground than not. President Evans said the Mayor could be invited.

Policy:

Chair Thomas Brennan said the Policy Committee met August 11. We acted on three items, which I articulated in a memo to the Board on August 21 with attached materials. Amendment to Policy 6725,

Responsible Bidder: This amendment is being forwarded as an information item, with discussion and a vote anticipated for our September 25 meeting; Policy 5300, Code of Conduct: We are forwarding this as an information item, with discussion on it anticipated for September 25, 2008 and a vote on October 23, 2008. In your dais packet tonight is the full 48-page document; Superintendent's Regulation of Discipline & Intervention: This is being forwarded as an information item. It will be reviewed by the Committee again following final revisions/input from Legal. Policy also discussed the Board's Policy Manual. We are arranging for a representative from Erie I BOCES to make a presentation regarding its Policy Manual update services for our next meeting, which is September 8. We anticipate a resolution for the full Board regarding the proposed update for the September 25 meeting and will keep all informed. While we are not calling a Committee Meeting of the Whole for the September 8 meeting, all commissioners are encouraged to attend for this important presentation.

Commissioner Campos said she understood that the Quality Assurance Committee had requested a name change that was discussed by Policy. Chair Brennan said there were not two votes to move the request forward to the full Board and that there were logical arguments on both sides. Upon conferring with President Evans, Commissioner Campos said she would raise the issue under "New Business" at the September 25 Business Meeting.

Audit

President Evans read Chair Allen Williams' report: The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, August 20th at 5:30PM and reviewed the 2008-2009 Office of Auditor General's Risk Assessment and Audit Plan. The OAG Audit Plan will be submitted to the full Board for review and approval at the September Board Meeting. The Committee discussed the Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee will evaluate the contents of the Charter at the next Committee meeting. The Audit Committee is also moving forward with accepting recommendations from the full Board 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.

Board Governance:

Report submitted in writing.

VI) Resolutions

2008-09: 102-144 -- Motion to adopt, less Resolution 2008-09: 113, by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

2008-09: 113 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner White dissenting.

2008-09: 193-200 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

2008-09: 145-146 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

2008-09: 147-157 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

2008-09: 158-192 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent. Commissioner Powell read the list of donations and thanked all for supporting the students of the District.

2008-09: 201-203 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.

- VII) **Unfinished Business from previous meetings:** Motion to postpone/table Resolution 2008-09: 16 by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent.
- VIII) **New Business:** By consensus, Commissioner Powell was designated the Board's voting delegate at the New York State School Boards Association annual conference in October. Commissioner Powell, being present during discussion of resolutions, will use her best judgment in voting and representing the interests of the Board. President Evans also announced that Commissioner Powell will be representing the Board at Monroe County School Boards Association Steering Committee meetings in his place.
- IX) **Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Ron Ring discussed health care, cooperative economics, group process, protest for peace, teach ecology, peaceful process, research problems, synthesize opposing views, work for peace, tonight is the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech in Washington, universal love, aerobic dancing, and peaceful coexistence. Charlie Richardson stated that every week something better is happening and complimented the Superintendent on his commitment to children.
- X) **Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams absent at 7:50 p.m.