

Rochester Board of Education  
Minutes  
September 25, 2008

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Powell and Williams; Student Representative S. DeLaus; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk L. Dunsmoor. Commissioner Elliott away.

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

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. Motion to accept minutes of August 28, 2008 with correction to Finance Committee report by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.
- III. Student Recognition: The Board honored students who had traveled to China in the summer of 2008. The students presented a slide show and discussed what they learned on their travels.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: Students Chavon Thomas and Xavier Guerrero discussed the AVID program and how it has positively impacted their educational and personal achievement.
- V. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Brizard discussed his team's efforts to create a literacy agenda for the District and that the Dream Schools Initiative is on track.
- VI. Board Reports:

**Student Representative**

**Miss DeLaus:** Seventy students met with Mr. Brizard this month with nearly all secondary schools represented. The Student Leadership Congress continues to brainstorm ideas regarding how it can include more students. The SLC is working on a home library project, putting together personal libraries for younger students.

**Audit Committee**

**Chair Allen Williams:** The Audit Committee met on Monday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm to review the Risk Assessment and Audit plan performed by the Office of Auditor General. The Audit Committee recommends that the Board of Education accept the 2008-09 Risk Assessment and Audit Plan, which was sent to the Board last Thursday. I would like to make a motion from the floor for the Board to accept the 2008-09 Office of Auditor General Risk Assessment and Audit Plan. Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Commissioner Powell said it was more audit plan than risk assessment as it did not show risk exposures. Chairman Williams said there are additional details with the risk assessment but they are really in the weeds. If any commissioners want to see them they should let him know. Motion adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. Chairman Williams said the Committee also discussed plans to review and update the Audit Committee Charter and a charter for the Office of Auditor General.

## Approved by Board

### **Finance Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** The Finance Committee met on Thursday, September 18th to review the August 2008 Financial Reports and resolutions 245 through 253. Chair Powell moved approval of the August 2008 financial reports. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. Chair Powell moved approval of the Student Activity Fund Report. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. The Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolutions 245 through 251 and Resolution 253. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on October 21st @ 5:30 p.m.

### **Quality Assurance Committee**

**Chair Van White:** The Quality Assurance Committee met on Thursday, September 11th @ 5:30 p.m. We had a presentation on the proposal for the World of Inquiry High School. We also had an opportunity to hear from a number of parents of students at #58 School regarding the proposed expansion. The next Quality Assurance meeting is on Thursday, October 9th @ 5:30 p.m. Dennis Richardson and his staff will provide a brief presentation on the Hillside Work Scholarship Program at the next meeting.

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Chair Melisza Campos:** Community and Intergovernmental Relations did not meet in September as I was ill. In addition to our previously mentioned initiatives, we are also tracking the Green Schools legislation in Congress. HR 3021 has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The bill provides schools with access to funding for modernization, renovation and repair projects. It authorizes \$6.4 billion for fiscal year 2009, and ensures that school districts will quickly receive these funds for school modernization, renovation, and repair projects that improve the teaching and learning climate, student and teacher health and safety, and energy efficiency. The act also encourages energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources in schools. The Council of the Great City Schools supports this measure and our hope is that it will be enacted and possibly become part of the Facilities Modernization Program. Under New Business, I will raise the discussion of a name change for the Quality Assurance Committee.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Thomas Brennan:** The Policy Committee is seeking a motion to move forward a contract with the Erie I BOCES for a Policy Manual update. We anticipate that the contract itself will be part of a resolution at the October meeting. Materials regarding this initiative were included in your Board packet last Friday. We seek this motion because: The last wholesale adoption of the Policy Manual took place nearly 10 years ago; since that time some policies have become outdated or redundant in light of new State and Federal law; to take on this task ourselves is gargantuan and would tie up at least two staff members full-time for the foreseeable future. We anticipate that the review and adoption of the new manual would be a process similar to the annual budget adoption, with Policy calling meetings of the whole for review of specific sections. This would take place in early 2009. We expected that an amendment to 6725, Responsible Bidder, would be voted on this evening but a resolution was not prepared for the adoption. It will be on the Board's October 23 agenda. Motion to move forward with contract by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Discussion: Commissioner Williams asked about the cost (\$8,200), questioned why the project was not being done in-house, and asked when the Policy Manual had been updated last. Chairman Brennan said Erie I would not be making deliberative decisions; that would be up to the Board. There is not staff expertise in-house to take on the project. He also said there is an extensive review backlog. Commissioner Powell said the Policy Manual has not been updated since 1998 and at that time a firm was also used to assist.

## Approved by Board

She also noted Erie I's extensive experience with these projects, including another Big 5 district. President Evans noted that Erie I has done excellent work for the District in the past and that an update of the Policy Manual is extremely necessary. Motion approved 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Elliott away.

### **Board Governance Committee**

*(President Evans read the report in Chair Cynthia Elliott's absence.)* The Board Governance Committee was scheduled to meet on Monday, September 22nd. That meeting was cancelled, due to illness and will be rescheduled. The next Board Governance meeting agenda will include the following: A Debriefing of the Board Retreat; Reviewing the Superintendent's Contract; Board Staff Evaluations; Board Consultant. A Board Governance Committee of the Whole meeting was held on September 15th to discuss: Board Goals and Superintendent Evaluation's Tool. These items were also discussed at the Board retreat that was held on September 20th. The next Board Governance meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th @ 6:00 p.m. The Board Governance Committee is seeking a motion from the floor to adopt the Superintendent's evaluation tool. Motion by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

### **President's Report**

*President Evans:* Commissioner Elliott and I will attend the Governor's summit on Student Engagement and Dropout Prevention October 10 at Nazareth College. The purpose of the Summit is to increase public awareness of school engagement, dropout prevention, and college-readiness; secure commitment for integrated collaboration among corporate, nonprofit, public and education sectors; and provide a forum to discuss and recommend policy changes. This is an all-day event. Commissioner Powell will be our voting delegate at the New York State School Boards Association convention in October. Commissioner Williams will also attend. Commissioner Elliott is at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference in Washington this evening. I look forward to hearing reports from both events at our next meeting.

## VII) Resolutions

**2008-09: 204-244.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

**2008-09: 245-51.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

**2008-09: 252-263.** Request to sever 260 by Commissioner Powell. Approved without objection by President Evans. Motion to adopt, less 260, by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Campos. Discussion: Commissioner White referred to 258 and asked whether there will come a time when it is known exactly what is being provided for the funding, with established deliverables, benchmarks and metrics. Superintendent Brizard said there is, and that there is already a great deal of data available. Commissioner Powell suggested that the "I'M READY" program be outlined in the Program Based Budgeting portion of the budget. All but 256 and 258 adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away. 2008-09: 256 and 258 adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining for professional and personal reasons (respectively) and Commissioner Elliott away.

**2008-09: 260.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Campos. Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Commissioner Powell suggested that, based on her experience, the generous scholarship endowment

## Approved by Board

should be moved to the Rochester Educational Foundation for administration. Commissioner Williams noted that the scholarship fund, made by bequest, makes it an atypical donation. Commissioner Powell said there should be follow up based on Board consensus that the funds be transferred for administration. Superintendent Brizard agreed. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

**2008-09: 264 and 266.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Discussion: Commissioner White commended Commissioner Elliott for pushing the issue for employees who are not represented by a union. He is proud to be part of a Board making this decision, as the Board did the right thing this time for underpaid, frontline workers. A 3.95 percent increase is deserved. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

**2008-09: 265 and 267.** Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott away.

### VIII) Unfinished business:

Amendment to Policy 6725: President Evans thanked Commissioner White for bringing the amendment to the Board. Commissioner Powell noted that the amendment fills a hole and likely does not need much discussion. Code of Conduct: Commissioner Brennan said one of the concerns was the fair enforcement of standards across the District. Superintendent Brizard said the regulations accompanying the Code are being reviewed by the Legal Department and will be rolled out at the October Principals Meeting. President Evans said all stakeholders need to know that the Code exists as a resource. Commissioner Brennan asked whether students are issued receipts for items when they are confiscated. Superintendent Brizard said they are not, and Commissioner Brennan pointed out that this is a simple and solveable issue. President Evans said the Board will vote on the Code of Conduct and the amendment to 6725 at the October meeting.

### IX) New Business

Commissioner Campos made a motion that the name of the Quality Assurance Committee be changed to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee at the committee's behest. Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Commissioner Campos said the QA name is corporate term referring to widgets and does not convey the work of the Committee. She supports the name change because it provides a consistent message. Commissioner Powell said the committee can call itself what it wants; she sees no need to change the Bylaws. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting and Commissioner Elliott away.

X) Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items: None in attendance.

X) Motion to adjourn by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 at 8:05 p.m.