

Rochester Board of Education
Minutes
October 23, 2008

Attendance: President Evans, Vice-President White, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Powell and Williams; Student Representative S. DeLaus; District Staff: Superintendent Brizard, Board Clerk: H. Washington.

President Evans convened the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

- I. Commissioner DeLaus led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes of September 25, 2008** was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0** with Commissioner Elliott abstaining, because she was not present at the September meeting.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent distributed the report on Contracts under \$25k to the Board and a copy of the report entitled "*Reenrollment of High School Dropouts in a Large Urban School District.*" He also briefly discussed the draft of Regulations on Discipline, which outlines the suspension process, consistency in not using suspension as an intervention on punishment and making parents and students partners in the process. There also was a brief update on the African American Studies program presented by Nyree Strong. The District will be collaborating with West Palm Beach, Florida and much of the work that will be done will emulate their model.
- V. **Board Reports:**
 - Audit Committee**

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee of the Whole will be meeting Monday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. and anticipates going into executive session to discuss the 2007-08 CAFR. Commissioner Williams attended the NYSSBA Conference and had the opportunity to network with the Big 5 and other Districts in New York State. Among the issues discussed were the pending budget cuts and the FMP programs in Buffalo and Syracuse.
 - Finance Committee**

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, October 21st to review the September 2008 Financial Reports and resolutions 314 through 334 and resolutions 336 through 348. Chair Powell moved for approval of the September 2008 Financial Reports. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0. The Committee recommended the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolutions 314 through 334 and 336 through 348. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Powell was a delegate at the NYSSBA Conference.

Among the issues discussed were the effects of maternal incarceration and the Asperger Syndrome.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, October 9th at 5:30 p.m. The Committee heard a presentation from Dennis Richardson's staff at Hillside Work Scholarship Program and also heard from a former participant of the program, Lashay Washington, who is now employed as a youth advocate for the Hillside. The Committee reviewed and are recommending for approval the SURR plans for Wilson Foundation Academy, Edison School of Engineering & Manufacturing, Franklin Global Media Arts & Franklin Bioscience and Health Careers. The Committee had an opportunity to hear about Learning Teams and requested additional information regarding the program before making a recommendation for approval to the Board. That information was received earlier this week.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be on December 2nd @ 5:30 p.m. to discuss the legal dropout age. At that time, the Committee will hear from representatives at Iglesia Educational Center.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee will be scheduling a meeting for late November. We are in the process of scheduling a 3 on 3 meeting with City Council. Commissioner Campos attended the Latino Summit. There were approximately 250 representatives there from Albany, Buffalo and Rochester. We will collaborate to address issues, such as Latinos having the largest growing population and an ELA graduation rate of 20% in 4 years in New York State.

Policy Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Policy Committee met on October 14. The Committee briefly discussed the proposed contract with Erie I BOCES that will be considered as Resolution 2008-09: 363. The committee supports this contract and will discuss with Erie I BOCES our concerns that the Superintendent's Regulations keep up with Policy changes, particularly if it is recommended that policies or parts of policies turn into regulations. We will need an interim regulation process. Board staff has been directed to prepare a schedule for policies that need immediate review by the Board. We discussed at length the Parent Involvement Policy. Administration is moving toward a new District-wide Parent Advisory Council model with a great deal of input from parents. We informed administration of our concerns that a new model of parent involvement may be called for parents to elect parents; elections will be well publicized and parents should be treated with respect at School Based Planning Team meetings. The Parent Involvement Policy stipulates that parent input be sought regarding the collective bargaining process and we urged administration to gather that input as soon as possible. Elections to the new council are to be held in time for January 1, and we look forward to a cohesive and representative group.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Board Governance Committee will be meeting on Monday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss reviewing the Superintendent's contract, Board Staff Evaluations, Board Consultants and the next Gathering. The November Board Governance meeting will be held on Monday, November 24th @ 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Elliott attended the Black Caucus and had an opportunity to develop relationships with Legislators. The panels that she attended included discussions on dropout rate, curriculum, emerging leaders and campaigns.

Student Report

Miss Sara DeLaus: Miss DeLaus stated that she really enjoyed tonight's Hispanic Heritage celebration. She facilitated a student forum at the Memorial Art Gallery on October 1st. The Student Leadership Congress met on October 15th and split into sub-committees to partner with Wilson Commencement Park and the homeless shelter. She used to meet with Jim Sheppard to discuss the Regulation on Discipline. The next meeting will be held on November 19th.

President's Report

President Malik Evans: President Evans said that Superintendent Brizard needs to be applauded for his efforts in bringing the Leadership Academy to Rochester. Rochester was spoken of very highly. Commissioners Williams and I attended the October 3rd Fiscal Accountability Training that is required by the State. Our Auditor General and Supervising Claims Auditor also attended the session. On October 29th, Commissioner Williams and our Claims staff will be attending a workshop on Claims Auditing. Vice-president White and Commissioner Campos represented the Board at the discussion on Urban District Reform with Dr. Payzant and Superintendent Brizard.

VI. Resolutions

2008-09: 268– Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 269–283 -Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 284–295 -Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 296–298 -Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 299– 300 -Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 301-302 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 303– 304- Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 305 - Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 306-308 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 309-312 - Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 313– Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 314–316 Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 317– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0** with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to business relationship

2008-09: 318-343 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 344– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 345-347- Motion to adopt by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 348-350– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 351– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0** with Commissioner Williams abstaining, because he is a Board member

2008-09: 352-353– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 354– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 355-357 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 358– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 359–362- Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0** (resolutions 360 and 361 were pulled)

2008-09: 363– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Williams dissenting

2008-09: 364– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 365– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 366–371 -Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0.** Commissioner Powell read the list of donations and thanked all for supporting the students of the District.

2008-09: 372– Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-1** with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to extend the Business meeting past 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 7-0**

VII. **Unfinished Business for previous meetings:** The Code of Conduct Policy 5300 and Responsible Bidder Policy 6725 were discussed at a previous meeting and voted on at tonight’s meeting.

VIII. **New Business: Motion** to approve the Board Goals was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. **Adopted 7-0.**

Commissioner Elliott expressed a concern regarding the Encompass resolution #139; that it was tabled at the Finance Committee meeting and passed at the Board meeting. She did not have sufficient information to vote on the resolution at the Committee meeting; no results were available and it was an ineffective use of resources. President Evans stated that Committees have no authority or than an advisory recommendation and the ultimate authority rests with the Board. Commissioner Powell noted that the resolution would have come to the Board without recommendation.

- IX. **Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Mercedes Vazquez-Simmons expressed a concern regarding the Latino graduation rate and stated that those students should have the same opportunities and resources as other students. Charlie Richardson stated that kids would be interested in school longer if they had more programs such as the Boy Scouts. Jayme Bermudez works for a Latino agency at Edison and stated that students do not understand the graduation requirements and that the student support centers work. Julie Clayton, a teacher with the Youth & Justice Program commented on the standard of the discipline code and that kids need support to keep them in school. Alfredo Gonzalez stated that the Latino Community should be more involved in the education process and the system should be parent friendly.
- X. **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner White at 9:18 p.m.

Approved By Board