

APPROVED BY BOARD

Rochester Board of Education
Minutes
November 20, 2008

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Powell (arrived 6:50 p.m.) and Williams; Student Representative S. DeLaus; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk. H. Washington

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Williams led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes of 9/15 (Board Governance COW), 10/23 (Board Meeting), 10/28 (Special Meeting), 11/10 (Special Meeting), 11/12 (Special Meeting)** was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. **Adopted 6-0** with Commissioner Powell not present at the time of approval.
- III. **Student Recognition:** There was a presentation given by the Great Debaters from School #5.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** The following students were not in support of In-School Suspensions; Felicia Bevel, Adele Ciccaglione, James Lewis and Haley Waver. Lyla Eaton spoke in support of In-School Suspensions. The following students spoke on school safety/school climate; Damon Garfield, Keilah Roberts, Latasha Santana, Tyllasah Leveridge, Maia Fitzstevens, Nastasia White, Paloma Hernandez, Dennisse Cepeda, Xiomara Guerrero, Alexander Wheat, Morgan Ward, Luis Cleveland, George Tor and Thomas St. John. Kadre Roberts spoke about academic problems in school and Daniel Humphrey spoke about Program Limitations – JROTC.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent stated that the District has the greatest students in the country. He discussed suspensions and statistics and the impact of suspensions, the 55,000 school days missed last year due to suspensions. There are 11,000 suspensions each year. He pointed out that 45% of the students suspended have disabilities and that IEP instruction must be resumed after 10 days. Until the In School Suspension Policy was implemented, a number of the students spent their suspensions at home, in jail or on the streets. No students with short term suspension received any instruction during this period, which clearly violates the New York Education Laws. Superintendent Brizard thanked Jim Sheppard, Sentries, Chief Moore and the RPD for their handling of the situation at East High School.
- VI. **Board Reports:**

Student Representative

Miss DeLaus: Miss DeLaus had the pleasure of escorting President Evans through the halls of Wilson this month. On November 18th, she attended the Town Hall Summit at School #58. The Student Leadership Congress met on November 18th, to discuss the activities planned by the subcommittees. She thanked Superintendent Brizard for attending the meeting, answering questions, discussing In School Suspensions and challenging them to assist the District with making great decisions for the students. The next meeting will be held on December 17th.

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Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: All Board Members were invited to attend the Audit Committee meeting on Monday, November 17th at 6PM. The Board met with Freed, Maxick and Battaglia, the CAFR Auditor, to review and discuss the 2007-08 Financial Audit. The Board met privately with Freed, Maxick and Battaglia in Executive Session in compliance with the Fiscal Accountability Legislation. We anticipate approving the 2007-2008 CAFR at the December Board Meeting.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 13th to review the *October 2008 Financial Reports*, which includes 2007-08 budget amendments and resolutions **409 through 420**. Chair Powell moved for approval of the October 2008 financial reports and amendments. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. **Adopted 7-0**. Chair Powell moved for approval of the First Quarter **2008-09** Student Activity Funds Report. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 7-0**. The Committee recommended the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: resolutions **409 through 420**. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on December 11th @ 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet during the month of November, but will be meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd @ 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Legal Dropout Age, textbook adoption, and to hear a brief presentation from representatives at Iglesia.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The CIGR Committee will be meeting on November 25th @ 5:30 p.m. to discuss the agenda for a City Council joint session, the Federal and State legislative agenda, community conversations, update on parent partnerships and an update by Ken Warner on the program at Edison. President Evans, Vice-President White and I met with 3 members of City Council to discuss issues and concerns. The Committee is in the process of setting up a joint session for the Board and City Council.

Policy Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Policy Committee did not meet this month and is in the process of setting up a meeting. He asked Committee members to bring their calendars to the next meeting to establish the meeting date.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Board Governance Committee will be meeting on Monday, November 24th to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation tool, Board consultant, Board staff evaluations, Board/Cabinet retreat. The Committee also discussed the possibility of having another "Gathering" in January and will be reaching out to those that were involved in the August "Gathering."

President's Report

President Evans: President Evans thanked Vice-President White for attending the session on the Pencil program. He has heard rave reviews on the program. He also thanked Vice-President White, Commissioners Campos and Powell, the Superintendent and Student Representative DeLaus for attending the Town Hall Summit on Connect with Kids.

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VII) Resolutions

2008-09: 375 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 376 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 377-388 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 389-392 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 393-407 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting

2008-09: 408 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 409-414 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 415 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 416-419 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 420- Motion to table by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 421-422 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting

2008-09: 423-425 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting

2008-09: 426– Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0

2008-09: 427 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting

2008-09: 428 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0

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2008-09: 429-430 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 5-2** with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting

2008-09: 431 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 5-2** with Commissioners Brennan and Williams dissenting

2008-09: 432-435 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 436-440 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0.** Commissioner Powell read the list of donations and thanked all for supporting the students of the District.

2008-09: 441 – Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 7-0**

2008-09: 442-445 – Motion to table by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. **Adopted 7-0**

Motion to extend the Business meeting past 8:30 p.m. was made by Commissioner Elliott at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 7-0**

VIII) **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

IX) **New Business:** There was no new business discussed.

X) **Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items:** The following speakers spoke in support of the In-School Suspension Policy; Wallace Smith (another parent, not named) spoke in his place, Mary Coffey, Dana Bratcher, Ann Lewis, Howard Krug, Howard Eagle and Beverley Pringle.

The following speakers spoke and were not in Support of the In-School Suspension Policy; Dan DiClemente, Paul Conrow, Aileen Lynch, Lucia Espinosa, Kenneth Davis, Adam Urbanski, Martha Keating, Debbi Jackett, John Pavone, John Hickey, Kristine Price, Barbara Singleton, John Simmons, Jack Hurley, Daniel Sullivan, Jennifer Case and Julie Clayton.

The following Home-Hospital Teachers Speaking on In-School Suspensions spoke on returning to the former model of instruction for suspended students; Bill Quinlisk, Candace Rubin, Gayle Keating and Lucetta Sercu.

The following speakers talked about violence in schools and/or school safety; Barbara VanKerkhove, Crystal Chambers, Margaret Krizan, Kristine Fredrick, Ellen Best, Margaret Hurley, Katherine Hartmann, Dave Wurz, Maureen McCarron, Paula Givens, Lisa Rivera, Timothy Multer, Maureen Doohan, Jeffrey Feinberg, Joanne Liberti, Pam McMIndes, Diana Vollinger, Michele Floyd, Margaret Sergeant, Gregory Walters, Paul Jonasse, Laura Piccarreto, Dolores Gonzalez-Habes, Mary Ann Holcomb, Eileen Hartnett, Stephen LaMorte, Sharon Silvio, Linda Machanoff, Aimee Rinere, Karena Miller, David Altobelli and Julie Clayton.

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Speakers Lori Thomas and Gloria McClements talked about social promotion. Alfredo Gonzalez spoke about reducing the dropout rate for Latino Students. Kyle Crandall spoke about the distribution of the number of students across grades. Janet Bird spoke about bus safety.

- X) **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner White. Motion **Adopted 7-0** at 11:16 p.m.