

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting
February 28, 2005
5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Evans, Garcia, Porter, Powell, and Thompson; Dr. Rivera;
Student Representative Samantha Sanchez.

President convened the meeting at 5:37 p.m.
Act of Reverence led by Commissioner Thompson

Discussion:

Commissioner Thompson sought to have a brief Quality Assurance committee meeting prior to the Special Meeting so the committee can render its recommendations to the Board regarding resolutions pertaining to amendments to the Managed Choice policy.

Commissioner Bowers concurred with Commissioner Thompson's request.

President Porter agreed to give the committee seven minutes to conduct its business at 5:39 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson asked Commissioners Bowers and Brown to indicate whether there was any interest in discussion on the Superintendent's recommendations. If not, then she requested a motion to advance the resolutions to the Board.

Commissioner Bowers motioned to recommend Resolutions 2004-05: 605-607 to the Board at the Special Meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Adopted 2-1 with Commissioner Thompson dissenting.

Commissioner Thompson noted that the committee would recommend these resolutions to the Board.

Motion to adjourn Quality Assurance committee by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Bowers. Adopted 3-0 at 5:42 p.m.

Speakers addressing an agenda item: See List

Dr. Rivera noted that the three resolutions amending the managed choice policy have been based on the independent study conducted during the fall and reviewed by the Board.

Last year's recommendation around #36 was based on internal staff work; he was uncomfortable that the space existed to move families or whole school.

The process with which to determine facility use has been an open and engaged process throughout the fall and winter involving parents, community representatives, and individuals from the City. These recommendations went to the FMB. The District is projected to continue losing students through decreasing birth rates, etc over the next few years. Believes his recommendation is cautious and conservative, allowing the District to maximize the use of its facilities. Based on analysis that concludes can move groups of students and teachers together.

He states it will be the last time he will recommend closing schools as Superintendent. The District will do everything possible to support families in this process.

President Porter called for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 605-607. Motion made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia.

Commissioner Thompson read comments. Too much left undone or done too quickly by staff. The process has had conflicting information. Would prefer to err on the side of greater access particularly when the neighborhood students are not enrolling in the seats saved for them. It is not RCSD's job to fix all the community's ills. The City of Rochester needs to step up and provide communities that anyone would like to live in, not support the gated community.

Commissioner Powell stated she has reviewed the data more thoroughly than the agencies engaged to do so. Parents outsmarted us all. Families in virtually every neighborhood in the city disregarded those set aside for them and opted for those in non-neighborhood schools. Dialogue on 60 v 70% is absurd discussion. If not meaningful base for decision making, all that remains is the principle on which the policy was based.

Commissioner Evans stated that one of the biggest issues that goes beyond the 60 v 70% is parents understanding what it is and what it means. A second year presents an opportunity to ensure all parents understand what the policy is about and to participate.

Commissioner Porter acknowledged that he is a proponent of community schools. If able to validate Commissioner Powell's data, then it may direct decisions for next year.

Roll Call Vote:

Student Representative Sanchez – abstain

Commissioner Thompson – no to 605, yes to 606 and 607

Commissioner Powell – yes

Commissioner Garcia – yes

Commissioner Evans – yes

Commissioner Brown – yes

Commissioner Bowers – yes

Commissioner Porter – yes

Resolution 2004-05: 605 adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Thompson dissenting.

Resolution 2004-05: 606 and 607 adopted 7-0.

President Porter called for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 608. Motion made by Commissioner Bowers, Seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Commissioner Bowers read the resolution into the record.

He stated the Board should establish permanent guidelines that could be easily reviewed and amended if necessary pertaining to school closings.

Recess at 6:37 p.m.

Vice President Garcia reconvened the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Student Representative Sanchez - no

Commissioner Thompson - yes

Commissioner Powell - yes

Commissioner Garcia - yes

Commissioner Evans - yes

Commissioner Brown - yes
Commissioner Bowers - yes
Commissioner Porter - no

Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Porter dissenting

President Porter called for a motion to adopt Resolution No 2004-05: 609. Motion made by Commissioner Powell, Seconded by Commissioner Garcia.

Roll Call Vote:

Student Representative Sanchez – yes
Commissioner Thompson - yes
Commissioner Powell - yes
Commissioner Garcia - yes
Commissioner Evans - yes
Commissioner Brown - yes
Commissioner Bowers - no
Commissioner Porter - yes

Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Bowers dissenting.

Adjournment:

President Porter called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Bowers. Adopted 7-0 at 6:58 p.m.