

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

### Minutes

December 17, 2009

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President White, and Commissioners Campos, Elliott, Powell, and Williams; Deputy Superintendent of Administration John Scanlan; Student Representative Sarah DeLaus; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Vice President White arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the November 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and November 19<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item and Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Parent and community member Glenn Williams asked the Board to review their policy addressing parent involvement and spoke of the exemplary work of former supporters and staff of the District, Clara Crittenden and Lillie McClary. Community member Charlie Richardson congratulated Mary Doyle and Ray Giamartino for their roles in initiating the Early College High School and encouraged parent involvement throughout the District. Staff member Mary Miskell spoke of the specialized skills and resources that school librarians provide to improve student achievement.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Scanlan began by inviting the Board members and the community the District's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Showcase where the various programs and schools will have the opportunity to highlight their successes. He then introduced Ms. Nyree Strong, Director of the African and African American Studies Department who presented on the goals and accomplishments of the Department. Ms. Strong discussed curriculum development and differentiated student supports, professional development and learning, and District-wide collaboration and support for initiatives in the Division of Teaching and Learning.

Commissioner Campos thanked Ms. Strong for her presentation and noted that the District must be sensitive to all of the cultures represented in the District.

Commissioner Elliott commented that the presentation was very well done, and spoke of the importance of cultural diversity throughout the District.

Vice President White said he appreciated the innovative strategies that Ms. Strong used to convey the importance African and African American studies. He stated that he would like the District to better

utilize available resources throughout the community as learning tools in the African and African American studies program.

President Evans said he envisions a close relationship between the African and African American Studies Department and the Division of Human Capital Initiatives. He suggested that the organizations work collaboratively to ensure that newly hired teachers and staff understand and have the aptitude to convey the importance and contributions of various cultures.

Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Williams, and Student Representative Sarah DeLaus thanked Ms. Strong for her presentation.

## VI. **Board Reports:**

### **Student Representative**

*Ms. DeLaus:* Ms. DeLaus recognized the contributions that Lillie McClary made to the District. Ms. DeLaus and members of the Student Leadership Council visited School No. 29 to discuss the importance of school leadership and governance. She also stated that the SLC recently met to discuss potential volunteer opportunities for members of the Council and to address goals for the upcoming year.

### **Audit Committee**

*Chair Allen Williams:* The Audit Committee did not meet since the last Board meeting. All Board members were given an opportunity to review the CAFR and ask questions. All questions submitted by the Audit Committee have been answered and any corrections made to this final document. Resolution No. 2009-10: 491 has been included in your Board packet tonight for Board approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, for the year ended June 30, 2009. Upon approval, this report will be filed with the Commissioner of Education and State Comptroller.

Commissioner Williams also noted that he supports the resources offered by our school libraries and expressed the need for such resources given the presence of illiteracy throughout the District. Commissioner Williams also noted that he intends for school libraries to be a priority in preparation of the 2010-2011 budget.

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair Willa Powell:* The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> to review the monthly Financial Report and Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 464 through 480 and 487. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the November 2009 Financial Report. Motion to accept the November 2009 Financial Report was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Board Vice President White. The November 2009 Financial Report was accepted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent. The Committee approved the Budget Calendar for the 2010-11 budget cycle, and intends to conduct two community forums at different locations in the City to obtain public input prior to any budget meetings or deliberations. The Finance Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 464 through 480 and 487. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

*Chair Van Henri White:* The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and approve Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 485 through 486 which relate to the establishment of new secondary schools commencing the 2010-2011 academic year. The

Committee forwards these resolutions to the full Board without recommendation. The Committee also received a demonstration on the District's DataCation software that is used monitor and manage the academic performance of students.

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

**Chair Melisza Campos:** The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the upcoming community conversation that is tentatively scheduled to take place on February 4<sup>th</sup> at School No. 12. The Committee reviewed and discussed highlights of the District's Strategic Plan, which will be publicly unveiled in the near future. The Committee also discussed the need for trust among Board members and forwarded two letters addressing recent Board conduct to the State Comptroller and the State's Department of Education.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and a presentation was given by legal staff from Erie 1 BOCES regarding the criteria used to revise and update policies in the Policy Manual. These staff members also provided guidelines for reviewing the draft Policy Manual.

The Policy Committee considered a draft Medicaid Compliance policy, which the State requires to be in place by December 31, 2009 along with a compliance program. The Policy Committee recommends approval of Resolution 2009-10: 490 to adopt the Medicaid Compliance Policy.

The Policy Committee also discussed transportation issues and a presentation was given by Jerome Underwood and Maria Mello-Dupre as to the number of students in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that can be accommodated on existing transportation routes. It was noted that an additional 47 buses would be needed to provide transportation to all kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. After some discussion, it was suggested that zone boundaries be firmly enforced, which would free up approximately 150 buses currently transporting students across these boundaries – more than three times the number of buses needed to accommodate all students in kindergarten through third grade.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Thomas Brennan:** The Board Governance Committee has not met since November 10<sup>th</sup>, when the full Board conducted the Superintendent's annual evaluation. There are no plans to meet again this year.

President Evans requested a motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m.

**Motion** to extend the meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

## **VII. Resolutions**

**2009-10: 433:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 434-437:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 438-439:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 440-444:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 445-446:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 447:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 448:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 449-450:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 451:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 452-454:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 455:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 456-457:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 458:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 459-462:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 463:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 464:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 465-467:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 468:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 469:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 470:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Board Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 471-475:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 476-479:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 480:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 481:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to a professional relationship, Commissioner Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 482:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 483-484:** Resolutions pulled.

**2009-10: 485:** Motion to table Resolutions No. 2009-10: 485 was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 486:** Motion to table Resolutions No. 2009-10: 486 was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 487:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 488-491:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 493:** Commissioner Williams made a motion to withdraw Resolution No. 2009-10: 493 and the resolution was withdrawn with unanimous consent.

**2009-10: 494:** Commissioner Williams made a motion to withdraw Resolution No. 2009-10: 494 and the resolution was withdrawn with unanimous consent.

**2009-10: 495:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting, and Commissioner Brennan absent.

**2009-10: 496:** Vice President White made a motion to refer Resolution No. 2009-10: 496 to the Policy Development and Review Committee and the resolution was referred with unanimous consent.

**2009-10: 497:** Motion to adopt was made by Board Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams said they dissented on a number of resolutions, not in opposition to the appointment or termination of employees or the support or creation of initiatives, but in reaction to poor timing and the lack of information presented to the Board to substantiate the need for such actions and agreements.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** None.

IX. **New Business:** None

X. President Evans announced that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Motion** to adjourn made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent at 10:33 p.m.