

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

Minutes

October 22, 2009

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, and Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Powell, and Williams; Superintendent Brizard; Student Representative Sarah DeLaus; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Brennan arrived at 7:01p.m.

- I. Student Representative Sarah DeLaus led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the September 24th Business Meeting, September 24th Special Meeting, September 24th Contract for Excellence Public Hearing, and October 8th Charter School Public Hearing was made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioners Brennan, Campos, and Elliott absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item and Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Parents Joel Cummings, William Smith, Glenn Williams, and Angel Diaz spoke about the District's Exception Review Board and transportation routes and asked the Board to consider amending its Transportation Policy to better address the transportation needs of our students. Parents Alicia King and Libby Fletcher spoke about the need for better food selection and quality in the school food services program. Parent Elaine Francesco spoke in opposition to the recently amended field trip forms. Community member Charlie Richardson spoke about the need for increased parent involvement at the Franklin High School campus. Staff members Renee DiFiore, Dawn Callea, Vicki Gouveia, Libby Fletcher, Mark Coker, Bonnie Ferrari, Laticia Lewis and Dan DiClemente spoke about the newly implemented charge regulation for the food service program and the need for better food selection and quality in the school food services program.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brizard began by congratulating the Department of Teaching and Learning for the successful Open House that highlighted the various areas and initiatives of the department. He also announced that the District would be featured on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer; the episode will be aired on PBS stations across the country including Rochester's WXXI-TV. Mr. Brizard also noted that he, as a member of AASA, spent time in Chicago recently in discussions regarding policy, in particular, policy governing student access to healthcare. He also, along with members of the HealthiKids initiative and Commissioner Campos, is working to amend the District's Wellness Policy towards better local nutritional standards. Mr. Brizard also spoke of highlights and successes of the PENCIL school partnership program. He thanked the participating community partners, school principals, and administrators for their dedication to this initiative.

Commissioner Elliott asked Mr. Brizard for a presentation by Aramark at the next Business Meeting. President Evans agreed and asked that the presentation be scheduled before the next Business Meeting if possible.

Commissioner Williams asked if the new field trip forms were made available to the Board. Mr. Brizard responded that the new forms are designed to capture the approval of the parents along with the appropriate medical information, and to standardize a procedure to address parental permission throughout the District. Mr. Charles Johnson added that the current release form is under consideration and may be amended in the near future. In particular, he noted that the section addressing medical history may be required only once.

Commissioner Brennan asked that the Aramark contract be discussed in greater detail under New Business, in light of speakers' claims about the food services operation. Commissioner Elliott stated that the conversation regarding the need for improvements in the food services operation is not new, but existed long before contracting with Aramark. Vice President White mentioned that he and Commissioner Elliott have asked that the District consider hiring an independent nutritionist to assess the quality and nutritional value of the food being served to the District's students. Mr. Brizard noted that changes and improvements are being made with the input of key stakeholders, such as parents, students and community partners in the healthcare and foodservices industry. He added that Aramark is new to the District. Mr. Brizard said Aramark is losing money on the District's account and he urged the Board to allow Aramark to make needed improvements before assessing their performance. Commissioner Elliott asked Mr. Brizard to inform and invite the Board to events with community partners when discussing school food services.

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

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

VI. **Board Reports:**

Student Representative:

Ms. DeLaus: Ms. DeLaus stated that the Student Leadership Congress met October 21st when they discussed volunteer opportunities and community service projects. On November 3rd members of the SLC will participate in a training seminar with school safety and resource officers regarding creating safe school environments. Ms. DeLaus noted that the next SLC meeting is scheduled for November 18th at 3:30 p.m. She also congratulated Commissioner Campos for her efforts in the RCSD Reach-Out, Ms. Nydia Padilla for her efforts on the Hispanic Heritage Observance, and Ms. Marilynn Patterson-Grant for her efforts in the Teaching and Learning Open House.

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meet in October; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, October 17th to review the monthly Financial Report and Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 302 through 333, 345 and 348. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the September 2009 Financial Report. Commissioner Williams asked for a review and revision to the financial report to better reflect the District's financial performance and obligations. Ms.

Joyce Martelli said that she and her staff are working to revise the current format of the monthly financial reports and will provide the Board with a revised report at the November 2009 Business Meeting. Motion to accept the September 2009 Financial Report was made by Vice President White and seconded by Commissioner Elliott. The September 2009 Financial Report was accepted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent. The Finance Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 302 through 333, 345 and 348. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, October 15th. An overview of Foreign Language Study in the Rochester City School District was presented by David Baez of the Teaching and Learning Department; also Demond Meeks and Glenn Williams, members of the Alliance for Quality Education, gave a presentation regarding class size and student performance.

The next committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 12th. This meeting will be a committee meeting of the whole to discuss Comprehensive Education Plans (CEP) for 24 schools.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

President Evans (Chair Melisza Campos absent): The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee hosted its first community conversation, the RCSD Speak-Out, on Tuesday, September 29th, at East High School. This event was a huge success. All of the Board of Education members, as well as the Superintendent and representatives from most of the District departments were on hand to talk with parents, answer questions and provide assistance. Most of the attendees indicated that the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Board members and the administration was very beneficial, and they would welcome other opportunities to attend events such as this.

The CIGR Committee of the Whole met on October 8th to discuss the Cooperative Agreement regarding the Facilities Modernization Program and to receive an update regarding the program. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Policy Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Policy Committee convened on Tuesday, October 21st to discuss a potential amendment to the Responsible Bidders policy to enhance M/WBE participation in District public works contracts, review the Code of Conduct, and consider a proposed amendment to the Naming Facilities policy.

The M/WBE Coordinator presented an overview of current statutory requirements and opportunities with regard to bidding for public works contracts. Ms. Shanai Lee explained that General Municipal Law 103 allows school districts to establish their own qualified bidders list, which must be based on experience in performing similar work and can also require compliance with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, as well as a demonstrated commitment to working with minority- and women-owned businesses. Ms. Lee recommended changing the existing Responsible Bidders policy (6725) to establish such a qualified bidders list for the District. The Policy Committee directed Ms. Lee to draft a proposed amendment to the existing policy to submit to the Committee at a future meeting.

General Counsel explained that State law requires the District to review the Code of Conduct and to conduct a public hearing annually to obtain community input. Mr. Chuck Johnson advised revising the

existing Code of Conduct to remove the dates (i.e. 2008-09 Code of Conduct) to clarify that this policy is in effect until revised by the Board.

Mr. Johnson also presented an amendment to the Naming Facilities policy (7500) to allow the Board to be involved earlier in this process. He explained that the current policy only allows the Board to vote in favor or against a particular name that has been selected by the Naming Committee. The proposed amendment would establish an Evaluation Committee to recommend five names to the ESA Committee, which would forward three names to the Board for final selection. The Policy Committee advised further amending this proposal to allow the Board input into the initial names under consideration, as well as in making the final decision.

As Chair of the Policy Committee, Commissioner Elliott requested that the Board convene a public hearing on November 5th to obtain input from parents and the community regarding student arrests. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Vice President White requested that the resolution suggesting that City Council and the Board of Education have cross-pollinated committees be added to the Policy Committee's November 17th agenda. Commissioner Elliott added that the Policy Committee has a number of policies on the November 17th agenda, and suggested that Vice President White bring the resolution to the full Board for review if the committee is not able to consider the resolution at the next meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Board Governance Committee Meeting of the Whole was held on October 19th with a majority vote cast to convene in Executive Session to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent. The next Board Governance Committee Meeting of the Whole is scheduled for November 10th at 6:30 p.m.; it is anticipated that this meeting will convene into Executive Session to continue the discussion of the annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent.

VII. Resolutions

2009-10: 272-276: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 277-282: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 283-285: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 286-299: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 300-301: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 302: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 303-331: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 332: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 333: Resolution pulled.

2009-10: 334-339: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 340: Motion to withdraw Resolution No. 2009-10: 340 was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 341: Resolution pulled.

2009-10: 342-348: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 349: Motion to amend Resolution No. 2009-10: 349 was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2009-10: 349, as amended, was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President White. Rejected 1-5 with President Evans, Vice President White, and Commissioners Brennan, Powell, and Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 350: Motion to refer Resolution No. 2009-10: 350 to the Policy Development and Review Committee made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Approved 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 351: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

2009-10: 260: Motion to remove Resolution No. 2009-10: 260 from the table made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Vice President White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2009-10: 260 was made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioners Elliott and Williams dissenting and Commissioner Campos absent.

Commissioner Elliott said that she dissented on a number of resolutions, not in opposition to employees appointed or terminated or the initiatives supported or created, but in reaction to poor timing and the lack of information presented to the Board to substantiate the need for such actions and agreements.

Student Representative Sarah DeLaus left at 10:50 p.m.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** None.

IX. **New Business:** None

X. **Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 6-0 at 11:07 p.m. with Commissioner Campos absent.