

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business Meeting
Minutes
July 23, 2009

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Campos, Elliott, and Williams; Superintendent Brizard; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

- I. Superintendent Brizard led the Act of Reverence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the June 18th Business Meeting, June 24th Contract for Excellence Hearing, June 24th Charter School Hearings, and June 24th Special Meeting and Executive Session was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Sean Glover and Scott Blue spoke against the proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year. Parents Mary Adams, Hubert Wilkerson, Cheryl Marshall, and Ricardo Adams spoke against the proposed changes to the Policy No. 1240.1 that addresses military recruitment. Community members Maria Scipione, Crescendo Scipione, Barbara Deitz, Jake Allen, Gary Pudup, and Jacob Stedio spoke against the proposed changes to the Policy No. 1240.1 that addresses military recruitment. Community member Thomas Gregory spoke in favor of the proposed changes to the Policy No. 1240.1 that addresses military recruitment. Staff member Thomas Dietz spoke against the proposed staff cuts for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brizard announced the successful kick-off of the Rochester Leadership Academy; he noted that the initiative will be instrumental as the District works to improve student achievement. Mr. Brizard mentioned that he recently attended the annual meeting of the American Association for School Administrators of which he is a member of the Executive Committee. Topics of the meeting included the use of stimulus funds, setting national standards, school innovation, and student achievement. He also stated that he has had conversations with the Board of Regents and the Big 4 regarding New York's application for the Race to the Top federal grant funding, 21st Century Grants, the increase of proficiency standards for ELA and Mathematics, the redefinition of high school cohorts, and the elimination of local diplomas.

Mr. Brizard asked for members of the community to weigh in on the District's 5-year Strategic Plan. He asks that the community provide input into the plan's development by completing an online survey (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=isTw0VTiqylS38Z9KjvmjQ_3d_3d) that is designed to capture opinions, thoughts, and suggestions about the District's goals and priorities.

Commissioner White asked why New York State is redefining high school cohorts. Mr. Brizard said that the State believes that the redefinition will be better aligned with NCLB legislation. Commissioner White also expressed concern about the release of the cohort data. Mr. Brizard said the State recognizes

the challenges that the delay poses to local districts and is working to provide cohort data in a more timely manner.

VI. **Board Reports:**

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee met on July 23, 2009 with the District's external auditors, Freed, Maxick and Battaglia, to review the audit plan for the District's financial audit for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The Committee also reviewed the Office of the Auditor General's audit plan for fiscal year 2009-2010. The Committee recommends that the Board accept the audit plan for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the audit plan for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

Finance Committee

President Evans: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 16, 2009 to review the June 2009 Financial Reports and Resolutions No. 2009-10: 51 - 75. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the June 2009 Financial Report, recognizing that these figures are not yet final because the year-end closing has not yet been completed. Motion to accept the June 2009 Financial Report was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Williams. The Committee recommends Resolutions No. 2009-10: 51 – 74 to the Board for approval. The Finance Committee advances Resolution No. 2009-10: 75 without recommendation. Committee members received a presentation and engaged in extensive discussion regarding the Food Services Management Company contract and resolution. Members of the Finance Committee voted unanimously to advance this resolution to the Board without recommendation until additional information and documentation is provided. This resolution will be considered in the Board's Special Meeting on July 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on August 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

President Evans announced that Resolution No. 2009-10: 75 be pulled, at the Superintendent's request, and discussed at a later date.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee has not yet met in July 2009; the next meeting has been scheduled for July 30, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Compos: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet in July 2009; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Policy Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Policy Committee convened a meeting of the whole on July 21, 2009 to review and discuss policy proposals regarding disclosure of student information to military recruiters. Chuck Johnson, General Counsel, provided an overview of the legal issues and policy considerations to date. He explained that current Board policy is in violation of the law because it states that information will not be provided to military recruiters unless parents/guardians provide consent. Mr. Johnson presented a proposed policy, which would allow students to have input into the decision as to whether to share their information with military recruiters. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on August 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Board Governance Committee has not yet met in July 2009; the next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2009.

President's Report

President Evans announced that the Monroe County Fair has donated more than 1,000 hats, scarves, and mittens to students of the Rochester City School District. These items will be distributed in the District Customer Service Centers at the beginning of the school year when we distribute book bags and other donated supplies. He noted that this donation will be formally recognized by resolution at the August 2009 Business Meeting.

VII. Resolutions

2009-10: 1-2: Resolutions pulled at the request of the Superintendent.

2009-10: 3-11: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 12: Motion to table Resolution No 2009-10: 12 made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent.

2009-10: 13-18: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 19-20: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

2009-10: 21-23: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 24: Motion to separate Resolution No. 2009-10: 24 into 24 and 24a was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent. Motion to table Resolution No 2009-10: 24 and Resolution No 2009-10: 24a was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent.

2009-10: 25-26: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

2009-10: 27-50: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 51-55: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent; except Resolutions No. 2009-

10: 52-54 which were adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 56-60: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 61-66: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 67-73: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

2009-10: 74: Motion to table Resolution No. 2009-10: 74 was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent.

2009-10: 75: Motion to table Resolution No. 2009-10: 75 was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent.

2009-10: 76: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship.

2009-10: 77-81: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting; except for Resolution No. 2009-10: 79 which was rejected 3-1 with Commissioner Brennan and Commissioner Powell absent, Commissioner Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Williams abstaining due to familial relationship.

2009-10: 82-89: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

2009-10: 90: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

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

Motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m. was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** The Board considered a revised policy, Recruiting by Organizations with Restrictive Membership or Employment Practices Authorized and Permitted by Law (Policy No. 1240.1).

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to accept Policy No. 1240.1 as amended (Resolution No. 2009-10: 91). Seconded by Commissioner Campos.

Commissioner White said the law as it pertains to military recruitment in schools is unjust, unfair, and unconstitutional. He stated that the law is unacceptable and he will be unwavering in working to bring this law down. Commissioner Campos noted that at the Policy Committee of the Whole meeting the Board, along with the Administration, made an effort to draft a policy that would encourage parental involvement. President Evans stated that although he disagrees with No Child Left Behind legislation as it pertains to military recruitment, the federal government has threatened to withdraw Title I funds if the District does not abide by the law as it stands. He went on to say the District cannot afford to lose this funding source and encouraged parents and students to complete the student information non-disclosure forms.

Roll call vote, Resolution No. 2009-10: 91

Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner White	No
Commissioner Elliott	Yes
Commissioner Campos	Yes
President Evans	Yes

Adopted 4-1 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent and Commissioner White dissenting.

IX. **New Business:** Commissioner Williams referred a resolution to the Policy Committee. The resolution seeks to limit the class size to 18 students in grades K-2, 20 students in grades 3-6, and 22 students in high school.

X. **Speakers on Other Than Agenda Items:**

Parent Glenny Williams stated that the Board should publish the agenda of monthly Business Meetings in advance of the meeting. He also spoke against the proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year. Parent Elaine Francesco spoke against the proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year. Staff members Lori Thomas and Dion Rahill spoke against the proposed budget cuts and increased class sizes for the 2009-2010 academic year.

President Evans announced the next meetings of the Board. A Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. and the next Board Business Meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

XI. **Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioners Brennan and Powell absent at 9:32 p.m.