

**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Rochester Career Mentoring Charter School**  
**May 26, 2011**  
**5:45 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** President Evans, Vice President Cruz, and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans opened the hearing at 5:45 p.m.

President Evans stated that Education Law subdivision 2857(1) and regulations of the Commissioner of Education 8 N.Y.C.R.R. § 119.4 require the Board to conduct a public hearing within 30 days of receipt of notice of an application for a new charter school.

President Evans explained that the Rochester Career Mentoring Charter School has filed an application with the New York State Board of Regents to open a secondary small school offering a community of diverse learners in a personalized 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school that engages each student in career exploration, college preparation and rigorous academic standards. He explained that the school has an anticipated opening date of August 27, 2012 with an initial enrollment of 80 grade 9 students and a proposed grade level range of 9 through 12 in 2017.

President Evans then requested public input and questions regarding this school.

**Howard Eagle**

Mr. Eagle, parent and community member, spoke in support of best practices employed by charter schools but expressed concerns about patterns of low performance and high attrition that have emerged. He also spoke in opposition to locating charter schools in existing space within the District; particularly on the Benjamin Franklin High School campus. Mr. Eagle also spoke about the need for equity in the distribution of educational resources and the selection and de-selection processes used by charter schools that result in an enrollment of students that do not reflect the demographics of the District. Mr. Eagle also spoke in response to a former speaker asking that the community not group all students of the race or gender together, surmising that they all have the same level of academic ability.

**Wallace Smith**

Mr. Smith, community member, asked that the Board not endorse any of the reforms put in place by the former superintendent and spoke in opposition to the creation of charter schools with the District boundaries.

**Rebecca Hilliard-Patent**

Ms. Hilliard-Patent, community member, spoke in response to a former a speaker and suggested that the mission of the charter schools is to reduce the achievement gap and promote equity of all students.

**Mary Adams**

Ms. Adams, parent and community member, spoke about the District's charter compact noting that the agreement was entered into without the input or consent of the Rochester community. Ms. Adams spoke in opposition to the charter schools within the District nothing that charting schools promote inequity not equity in public education.

**Mark Friedman**

Mr. Friedman, RCSD teacher, asked whether or not charter schools will be located in existing District space.

**Tim Adams**

Mr. Adams, community member, asked for increased accountability in charter schools and expressed concern about the selection and de-selection process of charter schools.

President Evans concluded the hearing at 6:06 p.m.