

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2011

Minutes

Attendance: President Evans and Vice President Cruz, and Commissioners Campos, Elliott, Powell, White and Williams. Superintendent Brizard; Deputy Superintendent of Administration John Scanlan; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

I. President Evans convened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Commissioner White arrived at 6:11 p.m.

II. **Speakers addressing an Agenda item:** NONE

III. **Resolutions**

2010-11: 461: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Williams dissenting and Commissioner Elliott absent.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 6:19 p.m.

IV. **Discussion of State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**

President Evans announced that the Board has been asked to consent to the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board (RJSCB) serving as the Lead Agency for the Rochester Schools Modernization Program – Phase 1 project.

Commissioner Williams asked what would happen if environmental concerns were discovered. Tom Rogér, Gilbane Building Co. Program Director, noted that though the RJSCB would serve as the Lead Agency, the Rochester Board of Education will continue to be notified of SEQRA determinations, proceeding and hearings in this matter.

President Evans asked if there were any other concerns. No further concerns were posed. President Evans announced that he, on behalf of the Board, would sign the request form indicating that the Board consents to the RJSCB serving as the Lead Agency for the Rochester Schools Modernization Program – Phase 1.

V. **Presentation of Equitable Student Funding Strategy**

The Board received a presentation on Equitable Student Funding (ESF) from John Scanlan, Deputy Superintendent of Administration. Mr. Scanlan provided an overview of ESF including strategic alignment and principal engagement, weights developed for the funding strategy, and the level of support offered to schools and administrators.

Commissioner Campos asked if principals been adequately trained. Mr. Scanlan said principals have been trained and provided with school improvement resources from the Human Capital Initiatives and Budget departments. In addition, the Chiefs of Schools have met with principals since Fall 2010 to insure that they are prepared and supported in implementing ESF.

Commissioner White asked if poverty will be weighted as a determinant in assessing funding levels. Mr. Scanlan said poverty would not be an explicit weight, but will be accounted for in the allocation of Title I funding. Commissioner White also asked about the projected impact on programs such as Career and Technical Education (CTE) and International Baccalaureate (IB). Mr. Brizard said that while principals will be given autonomy over money that is available for their students' needs, the implementation of ESF will create incentives to level the playing grounds of schools so that a wide array of programming, especially those for Special Education and English Language Learners, will be available to students throughout the District.

Commissioner Powell expressed concerns about programming for music and the arts stating that she would like to insure that students throughout the District are given opportunities to participate in music and arts programming.

Commissioner Williams asked about the factors used in weighting for the funding strategy. Mr. Scanlan explained that there are currently only two weighting factors, Special Education and English Language Learners. Commissioner Williams asked if these factors and their values will be made public. Mr. Scanlan said the values of the factors will be made public with the release of the budget.

Mr. Brizard concluded by noting that more accurate budget projections will be made available to the Board in late-January or early-February.

VI. **Executive Session:** NONE

VII. President Evans announced the next Board Business Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Vice President Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0 at 9:30 p.m.