

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mary L. Wright Academy of Excellence Charter School
September 2, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President Campos, Commissioner Cruz, and Commissioner Elliott; Superintendent Brizard and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans opened the hearing at 5:40 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 Mary L. Wright Charter School located in Rochester, NY has submitted an application for a planned opening of September 2011. The schools proposed enrollment and grades served are as follows: 1st year – 200 students in grades 7-12; 5th year – 200 students in grades 7-12.

He then requested public input and questions regarding this school.

Mary Adams

Ms. Adams questioned why the Rochester Board of Education is required to hold public hearings for local charter schools, given that the Board does not play a role in approving charter school applications. Ms. Adams also expressed reservations on charter schools based on their evidence of success and operational management. She noted that she would like to receive more information on the Mary L. Wright Charter School, since the proposed school will be located in her neighborhood.

President Evans explained the Rochester Board of Education is required by law to conduct public hearings, on proposed charter schools and applications for charter renewals or amendments, to gather public input to report to the State to assist in their consideration of the charter school applications. He went on to explain that the District essentially acts as the vehicle for the State to obtain public input, and has no influence or decision-making authority regarding charter school applications.

Commissioner Elliott articulated her support for charter schools.

Mr. Brizard expressed concern about the sustainability of the school, given the level of resources requested and proposed student enrollment.

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