

Rochester Board of Education  
February 15, 2007  
6:30 p.m.  
Minutes

**Attendance:**

Vice President Evans; Commissioners Brennan, Elliott, Powell, Thompson and White. President Garcia out of town.

Vice President Evans convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

- I) Commissioner Elliott led the Act of Reverence and Pledge of Allegiance.
- II) Motion to accept minutes of January 9, January 18, January 24, February 2 and February 6, 2007 by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.
- III) Twelve speakers addressed the Board in support of a proposed African, African American Studies Department.
- IV) Dr. Rivera reported:
  - Funding is allocated in the 2007-08 budget for an African, African American Studies Department.
  - The District has met with representatives of the Gates Foundation and is hoping for continued support even with the change in leadership.
  - At Charlotte High School, eight students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
  - The 2007-08 Kindergarten registration process is underway.
  - A task force will be looking at the Pre-Kindergarten funding issue.
- V) Committee Reports

**Community and Intergovernmental Relations**

Chair Malik Evans said CIGR discussed the Truancy/Curfew resolution that Commissioner White submitted to the Board in January. Motion by Commissioner Brennan to have the Rochester City School District enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Rochester in which district staff are deployed to a Truancy/Curfew center so that district and city staff can work collectively and collaboratively on truancy abatement. Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Commissioners raised concerns that the city is expected to commit resources; the larger issue still needs to be explored; the MOU is not clear in its purpose and the Board is rushing into a relationship; having truancy operations under one roof is a good idea; the Board does not know what the City's position is; and the memo is not binding. Motion to call question by Commissioner White. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting. CIGR also recommended that Commissioner White's request that the minimum attendance rate be raised to 95 percent be referred to the Policy Committee, which it was.

**Quality Assurance**

Chair Shirley Thompson made a motion to approve the Quality Assurance Committee's revised "Mission, Vision and Duties." Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Will this step on the toes of the Policy Committee? What isn't working now? This is a recipe for confusion and delay. Amendment by Commissioner White to remove the word "policies" from the "Duties" section; accepted by

Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0. At its March meeting, QA also discussed the ELA audit, changes in the ASAR and RTA contracts, and the legal drop-out age.

### **Finance**

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 8 to review the monthly financial reports and recommend approval of resolutions 524 through 532 and resolutions 535 through 548. The Committee recommends all of the reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at 5:30pm. This regularly scheduled meeting will be followed by a Finance Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss and review the CIP. Motion to approve monthly financial reports by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent.

### **Audit**

The Audit Committee met on Monday, February 5 in executive session to receive a status update from the Auditor General including personnel issues related to specific individuals. The committee recommends adoption of Resolution 567.

### **Governance**

The Governance Committee discussed the need for additional staff for financial and legal support to research local, state and federal legislation. The committee discussed changing the business meeting date to allow for additional time to review Board resolutions and ask questions of administration prior to the business meeting. The committee discussed scheduling a work session or retreat to discuss the goals of individual commissioners as well as the Board as a whole. The committee discussed the proper format of asking questions at board meetings noting that a commissioner should be able to ask questions at business meetings without being silenced by Board leadership.

### **Superintendent Search Committee**

The Superintendent Search Committee met on Thursday, February 8 to review and discuss the survey summary, draft position description, and next steps of the search process. The committee has made the survey summary available to the community on the Districts website (<http://www.rcsdk12.org/>)

### **President's Report**

Vice President Evans asked for a motion to approve the District's submittal of a grant request to the State Library System. Motion by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0.

## **VI) Resolutions**

**2006-07: 500-523:** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Discussion: Commissioner Elliott asked that 2006-07: 518 be separated into 518 A and B. Agreed by consensus. Resolutions 500-523 adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent except for 518B, which was adopted 5-1 with President Garcia absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

**2006-07: 524-532:** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thompson. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent.

**2006-07: 533-534:** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent.

**2006-07: 535-548:** Motion to adopt by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent except for 535 and 545, which were adopted 5-1 with President Garcia absent and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to extend meeting beyond 8:30 p.m. by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent at 8:25 p.m.

**2006-07: 549-569:** Motion to pull 562 by Commissioner Elliott. Second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent. Motion to adopt 549-569 absent 562 by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Discussion: Make sure minority vendors are sought. At Superintendent's direction, Chief Financial Officer will provide information regarding minority vendor solicitation. Superintendent will provide date of when information will be presented within 24 hours. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent. 562 discussion: Should be prerogative of new Superintendent to hire CFO; should hold off on hiring CFO search firm; hiring search firm not premature; what is downside to a delay. Motion to table 562 by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent.

- VIII) Commissioner White introduced a resolution that a Department of African and African American Studies be created. He moved that the resolution be sent to QA with the stipulation that a recommendation be forwarded to the full Board for the March 15 Business Meeting. Second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent. Commissioner White introduced a resolution creating lead-free schools and motioned that it be sent to Policy Committee for a recommendation to the full Board for the March 15 Business Meeting. Second by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent.
- IX) Four speakers addressed the Board on the topics of: Violence in schools; racial justice; community communication; and lead-safe schools.
- X) Motion to adjourn to Executive Session by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent at 9:27 p.m. Motion to adjourn Executive Session by Commissioner Powell. Second by Commissioner Thompson. Adopted 6-0 with President Garcia absent at 12:15 a.m. February 16.