

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**Rochester Board of Education**  
**Finance Committee of the Whole**  
**April 22, 2008**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 3A**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Powell (Chair), Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Williams, and White. President Evans arrived at 7:20 p.m. District Staff: Superintendent Brizard, V. Carfagna, V. Connors, J. Giuffrida, C. Holloway, M. Hancock, C. Leech, M. Patterson Grant, L. Stagles, P. Lampe, D. Cottrell, and Board Staff H. Washington.

Chairwoman Powell convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Commissioner Elliott requested that a few changes be made to statements in the minutes.

**Motion** to approve the April 8<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole minutes was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 6-0**

Commissioner Powell asked the Superintendent if the legislation to repeal tenure changes has been acted upon by the State. Superintendent Brizard noted that the legislation has gone through and pointed out that he has sent the language to the Board and he would send it again. The policy took away the District's right to use student achievement as a factor in determining teacher tenure for teachers in New York State.

**Action:** Superintendent Brizard will resend information on tenure legislation.

**Section 14: School Development & Academics**

Commissioner Williams asked how the staffing allocations are derived and if various programs in the schools are taken into account. Marilynn Patterson Grant noted that this is an area that requires attention; that there are areas of equity that need to be addressed and that the District is moving towards building-based budgeting. V. Connors pointed out that in a regular program the allocations are on a per pupil basis; in the elementary/secondary schools it is the number of seats available in the school. There are additional allocations to staff specialty programs and site-based budgeting will provide more equity and more flexibility for principals and also address special needs. Superintendent Brizard pointed out that site-based budgeting will be in place in the 2009-2010 school year. Commissioner Elliott asked if principals will be trained to manage allocations. Superintendent Brizard is developing a plan with a group called RS to assist with building principals' capacity and show how the District will provide oversight. Commissioner Powell suggested that the Board begin to think about the kind of oversight they would like to provide. Superintendent Brizard pointed out that TAPU allocations have been increased by 10 percent.

Commissioner Williams asked how often textbooks are reviewed, who reviews them and who are the major suppliers. M. Patterson Grant said that textbooks typically are reviewed in a 6 year cycle. Paul Lampe, Director of Social Studies, explained that the textbook review process is done by a committee and the Board has to approve the books.

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Commissioner Elliott expressed her displeasure with the social studies textbooks that had smiling slaves in it and suggested that the Director of the African/African American Program be a part of the review committee. Commissioner White pointed out that the textbooks he has reviewed do not accurately reflect the significant contributions of African Americans, while the District is made up of 65 percent African American students. Mr. Lampe is working on developing local African American history with the Committee on Community-Based Cultural Responsive Education. Commissioner Powell pointed out that the textbook committee submits a report to the Quality Assurance Committee and requested that a schedule be prepared to inform the Board about textbooks that are forthcoming.

**Action:** Administration will provide the schedule of textbooks expected to be reported to the Quality Assurance Committee.

Commissioner Williams asked what are the major programs that drive the District's Budget at the secondary and primary level. Superintendent Brizard pointed out that the majority of the Budget goes towards full-time employees. The courses taken in elementary school are New York State regulation. At the secondary level, there is a general academic portfolio that students must take at different levels. This drives 95 percent of what the District does. He also noted that the State sets the framework and the District makes the selection of the curriculum.

Commissioner White pointed out that there are a number of great programs that come through the District and then the funding streams dry up. He asked what happens if the funding is no longer available; do the programs disappear? Superintendent Brizard noted that it was not about programs, but the practice and sustainability factor and creating capacity. Commissioner Elliott pointed out that in previous Administrations, the District tended to pull resources away from effective programs. Commissioner Campos would like to see the pipeline of resources available for inter-scholastic sports, bilingual education and transportation. L. Stagles pointed out that the Carol White and Pep funding are used for inter-scholastic sports and funding will end in 2010. The District is looking at foundations that will support programs aligned with the District's programs. The District has been waiting for New York State to release a grant on 2 way bilingual and dual language for the past three years. There is no additional information on additional transportation funding on this quarter.

### **Section 15: Student Support Services**

Commissioner Brennan asked about the MAP program's funding stream and if the grant was intended to be a one-time grant. Superintendent Brizard replied that it was a one-time grant and should be used for gifted kids; making sure that teachers are qualified so that the program will be brought to the schools that have gifted kids. Schools should have at least 17 students in order to create a class. Commissioner Williams asked where the funding comes from for the IB and MAP programs. V. Connors pointed out that the funding is included in the school's budget and it is additional funding beyond the TAPU allocation. Commissioner Elliott suggested that MAP programs be included in all schools. Commissioner Powell asked V. Connors to explain the State's expectation of magnet funding. He pointed out that the magnet funding no longer exists, the State gave more money to urban districts, which are called below the line allocations and the funds are rolled into foundation aid.

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**Section 5: Office of the Board of Education**

There were no questions on this section.

**Section 10: Human Resources**

Commissioner Williams asked for clarification on what contractual obligations are. J. Giuffrida said that there is release time for union officials who work full-time for the union and those on sabbatical, but are still paid for the original job. All time for these employees is approved by Human Resources. RTA reimburses the District for the base salary for employees on release time. Commissioner Elliott suggested that we seek a larger reimbursement for employees on sabbatical. Commissioner Evans asked about the breakdown of Professional Development.

**Action:** Administration will provide the Board with a breakdown on Professional Development.

**Section 11: Law**

Commissioner White noted that there is greater flexibility in selecting minority firms in the area of professional service contracts and the District needs to work harder at using minority firms; none were used in the past. D. Cottrell will work towards improving the numbers.

**Section 16: Debt Services**

The Board briefly discussed debt services.

**Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Elliott would like to see the model used at No. 4 School be replicated and would like to know the cost of the program.

Commissioner Powell recommended that the Program-Based Budget section of the Budget be covered at the final Budget deliberation session on 4/28/08.

**Motion** to cover the Program-Based Budget at the final Budget deliberation session was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Campos.

**Adjournment: Motion** by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner White at 7:56 p.m.

Prepared by H. Washington