

**Rochester Board of Education
Board Governance Committee
January 22, 2007
Minutes**

Attendance:

Commissioners Elliott and Powell; Board Staff Ms. Lee and Ms. Dunsmoor; District Staff Dr. Dyce-Faucette.

Chairman Elliott convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Approve November Committee Minutes

Motion to approve the November minutes by Commissioner Powell, second by Chairman Elliott. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner White absent.

Agenda Item 2: Overview of Committee Responsibilities

Discussion of committee responsibilities was tabled to next meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Personnel Committee Status

Discussion of personnel committee status was tabled to next meeting.

Agenda Item 4 and 5: Board Staff Support Discussion and Additional Support Staff

Chairman Elliott opened the discussion by stating that she would like additional staff for financial and legal support. She said that there is a need for staff that possesses a skill set to research local, state and federal legislation. Chairman Elliott also noted the need to have legal counsel on staff or contract to address concerns of the Board. Ms. Lee said that the Board does currently have a contract with legal counsel who in the past has worked with the Board to establish the Office of Auditor General.

ACTION: Ms. Lee will provide Chairman Elliott with a copy of the current contract and an explanation of why the firm was engaged.

Agenda Item 6: Date Change for Board Meetings

Chairman Elliott opened the discussion asking for the Committee's opinion on changing the business meeting date. Commissioner Powell said that she agrees that the Committee should discuss changing the business meeting date; and now would be an appropriate time to make a change since a new superintendent will soon be appointed. Chairman Elliott asked Dr. Dyce-Faucette when the decision to change the meeting date would need to be finalized in order to reflect the change in the 2007-08 District calendar.

ACTION: Commissioner Powell will complete the necessary documentation to submit the proposed policy change to the Policy Committee.

ACTION: Dr. Dyce-Faucette will provide the Committee with the deadline for submitting the change to the Communications department for reflection in the 2007-08 District calendar.

Agenda Item 7: Work Session

Chairman Elliott opened the discussion stating that a work session and or retreat is needed since a new commissioner has been elected to the Board. She expressed interest in discussing the goals of individual commissioners as well as the Board as a whole. Commissioner Powell said that a retreat would be a

useful format if we are able to find a facilitator that could effectively lead the discussion to spark dialogue around Board goals and the self evaluation tool.

ACTION: Chairman Elliott will contact the commissioners to gauge interest in holding a retreat.

Agenda Item 8: Asking Questions at Board Meetings

Chairman Elliott stated that she expects that a commissioner should be able to ask questions at business meetings without being silenced by Board leadership. She asked why weren't commissioners able to ask questions related to personnel resolutions at business meetings. Dr. Dyce-Faucette explained that the administration is available to answer questions related to personnel prior to the business meeting, but they are not able to comment on personnel resolutions in public forums because of confidentiality issues. Chairman Elliott commented that the possible change of the business meeting would give her more time to review resolutions and ask related questions of the administration prior to business meetings.

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

Commissioner Powell asked that the results of the 2006-07 Board of Education Self-Evaluation Tool be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Dunsmoor will present the results of the tool to the Committee at the next meeting (tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2007).

Agenda Item 10: Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Powell, second by Chairman Elliott. Adopted 2-0 at 7:25 p.m.