

Rochester Board of Education
Finance Committee
June 28, 2012

Attendance: Commissioner Powell (Chair); Commissioners Cruz and White. Parent Representative: Giancarlo Giannini absent. District Staff: Gary Smith, Purchasing Officer; Jerome Underwood, Senior Director of Operations. Board Staff: Debra Flanagan

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 6:07PM.

I. Review of Additional Resolutions for June 28, 2012 Board Business Meeting

A. FACILITIES

Contracts:

- 1. Regional Transit Service Incorporated – transportation for summer school – Resolution No. 2011-12: 853**
- 2. Aramark Educational Services LLC – to provide food for summer programs for the District and the City**

Jerome Underwood explained that the contract with the Regional Transit Service (RTS) was delayed due to negotiations, which led costs to be reduced from last year. He noted that closer examination was made of the students eligible for summer school transportation, which also reduced costs.

Mr. Underwood stated that additional detail was needed from the City regarding the scope of food services to be provided for their summer programs, which delayed submission of the resolution regarding the contract with Aramark. He noted that provision of food services for City summer programs actually generates income for the District.

Commissioner Powell inquired about the percentage of the food services for City programs as compared to District programs. Mr. Underwood replied that two-thirds of the food services costs are for RCSD summer programs.

Commissioner Powell asked whether the District will still be able to use federal subsidies for summer programs. Mr. Underwood confirmed that these subsidies will be available, and reported that the District just received approval for the Community Eligibility Option. He explained that the federal government now allows school districts to deem all students eligible for free- and reduced-price meals if a high percentage have been eligible in the past. Mr. Underwood pointed out that this will eliminate some administrative processes in using charge cards and pursuing collections for unpaid meals. He reported that unpaid meal balances totaled \$130K in 2010-11 and \$15K in 2011-12, which contributed to Food Services deficits. Mr. Underwood stated that this approval will enable the District to realize an increase in revenue without an increase in cost.

Commissioner Powell inquired about the way in which the federal subsidy will be paid to the District. Mr. Underwood replied that these subsidies will continue to be paid as reimbursements for Food Services costs, and the District will have to continue to certify students' eligibility and monitor these costs.

Commissioner Cruz pointed out that this District-wide eligibility removes one additional challenge to families coming into the District.

Commissioner Powell stated that she didn't think that this would affect the movement of middle class families into the District.

Mr. Underwood stated that this District-wide eligibility will improve the quality and acceptability of obtaining free- and reduced-price meals, removing the stigma that some students have felt in this respect.

Motion by Commissioner Cruz to approve both above Facilities contracts. **Adopted 3-0.**

Motion by Commissioner White to adjourn. **Adopted 3-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:27PM.