

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Rochester Board of Education
Finance Committee of the Whole
November 28, 2007
5:30 p.m.
Conference Room 3A

Minutes

Attendance: Commissioners Powell (Chair), Elliott, Thompson and White, District Staff V. Carfagna, V. Connors, K. Dyce-Faucette, J. Giuffrida, J. Carlisle, C. Holloway, M. Hancock, C. Leech, K. Barclay, M. Patterson-Grant and Board Staff H. Washington

Chairwoman Powell convened the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson arrived at 6:30 p.m.

I. Discussion of Amended Budget Supplement Book

V. Carfagna provided an opening statement and stated that two budget amendments were being proposed to reclassify grants to the general fund. The amendment is less than 1% of the current budget, which equals 29 million dollars. A number of programmatic shifts occurred as a result of the grants.

Commissioner Powell stated this is the first time that the District has prepared a Budget Supplement Book. Commissioner Powell pointed out that the only way that the state can take back Contract for Excellence funding that was awarded is if the funds are not spent as allocated. V. Connors pointed out that we should make sure that the grant funding that we receive does not violate District policy.

The Committee reviewed questions and answers that were submitted in advance regarding the Budget Book.

Commissioner White expressed a concern about the organizational structure and the large number of direct reports to the Chief of Staff. Commissioner Powell agreed with Commissioner White regarding the large number of direct reports. Commissioner Elliott believes that the structure is appropriate and that the Board should allow the Superintendent to do the job that he was hired to do. Commissioner White expressed a concern about safety in schools being high on the District's priority list and would like the Coordinator of the Sentry Programs and the Director of School Operations to be a direct report to the Superintendent or the Chief of Staff.

K. Dyce-Faucette noted that the Goodman Street Parent Center will not be closing and that no decision has been made on whether a 3rd Counseling position will be added to the Parent Center.

Commissioner Powell expressed a concern about the Special Education Program and its effectiveness. Commissioner Elliott expressed a concern about the inappropriate labeling of kids by the program; particularly African-American males. K. Barclay will be reviewing the Special Education program for compliance and noted there that have been programs with over-classification of kids.

V. Carfagna noted that there will be a significant increase in the number of Board resolutions, due to the over-time for the Contract of Excellence for the extended Tuesday and Thursday program and for Saturday School. M. Hancock noted that the data from Summer School and the extended day program will be provided to the Quality Assurance Committee.

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II. Action on Amended Resolutions

Motion to recommend approval of the Budget amendments to the full Board made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 2-0**

Action Items:

V. Connors will meet with Diana Hernandez to summarize the Refugee School Impact Grant.

M. Hancock will provide a list of dates for Saturday School and extended-day programs to the Board members.

K. Dyce-Faucette will provide clarification on whether Chief Legal Counsel Position will be filled.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by H. Washington