

**Rochester Board of Education
Finance Committee
January 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Commissioners Powell, Evans, Elliott; District Staff Dr. Rivera, Ms. Dyce-Faucette, Mr. Coney, Mr. Keysa, Mr. Connors, and Ms. Wilson; and Board Staff Ms. Lee (Commissioner Elliott arrives at 6:21 p.m.)

Chairman Powell convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Chairman Powell requested that the agenda be amended to discuss the Superintendent's Proposed 2007-08 Budget Priorities immediately following the approval of the December committee minutes.

Motion to approve the agenda with the above revision made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Chairman Powell. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.

I. Approve December Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the December minutes made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Chairman Powell. Adopted 2-0.

Chairman Powell stated that the format of the meeting minutes should be changed to reflect discussion and action items; and it is no longer necessary for the minutes to be presented as a transcription of the meeting unless requested.

II. Superintendent Proposed 2007-08 Budget Priorities

Dr. Rivera presented the proposed 2007-08 budget priorities noting that the Strategic Plan plays an important part in defining the priorities. He discussed non-mandated but essential elements our instructional programs; continuing services, programs and initiatives; and strategic plan initiatives and priorities.

Commissioner Evans asked Dr. Rivera if he knew the approximate cost of making 2 sets of textbooks available for every student. Dr. Rivera responded that he had not determined the exact number, but he was aware that other districts had begun this initiative for some core subjects and our district should .

Commissioner Evans asked if there has been any discussion about adding additional counselors to meet student needs. Dr. Rivera responded that our average students to counselor ratios are higher than other districts within the County, but we are consistently trying to meet student needs and should consider in the future.

Commissioner Evans asked if the District is still able to contract with BOCES for school nurses. Dr. Rivera said that he would have to gather more information to respond to the status of school nurses.

ACTION: Dr. Rivera will provide Commissioner Evans with a status of the school nurse contract.

Chairman Powell asked for a status of the Rochester Children Zone. Dr. Rivera explained that there has been a major initiative to engage the community in discussion about health, safety, education, and other related areas. He expects that there could be budget implications for our district, but at this point the amount of these implications is not known.

Chairman Powell asked for the expected amount of State aid to be received for 2007-08. Dr. Rivera said that he will be able to better able to answer that question in a couple of weeks. He asked Mr. Connors to provide the Committee with the amount of funding received from the State over the past 3 years.

ACTION: Mr. Connors will provide the Committee with the amount of funding received from the State over the past 3 years.

Commissioner Elliott asked Dr. Rivera to explain the purpose of demonstration classrooms, as listed among the budget priorities. He explained that demonstration classrooms allow specialist teachers to work with students in a subject while allowing other teachers to observe proven teaching techniques; these classrooms are intended to provide professional development and growth with enhancing student learning.

Commissioner Elliott asked Dr. Rivera who would champion the Rochester Children Zone since he plans to leave. Dr. Rivera responded that he along with other community leaders have designed the initiative so that an entity other than the District would oversee the implantation of the program.

III. Review of Proposed Resolutions for the January 2007 Board Business Meeting – motion to advance to Board for consideration.

The Committee discussed the need for engaging Upstate WorkComp, Inc. for consulting services for workers compensation management. Chairman Powell said the proposal should have been presented in a format that showed competing bids and a three case scenario that would identify the cost savings associated with engaging the agency.

The Committee discussed the facilities resolutions and the supporting information forwarded to the Board. The Committee decided that the information could be condensed.

Motion to advance the following resolutions to the Board for consideration made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Chairman Powell. Adopted 2-0.

- a. Upstate WorkComp, Inc.
- b. O'Connell Electric Co.
- c. John McErlain Electric, Inc.
- d. Kuitems Construction, Inc. (2 resolutions)
- e. Lozier Environmental Consulting, Inc.
- f. Unified Mechanical Contractor's, Inc.
- g. State Education Department – Revision of Financial Information (Form FP-FI)

IV. Receive and Review Monthly Financial Reports – motion to accept and recommend acceptance to the Board.

The Committee discussed the Available Funds and Cash Flow Analysis reports.

Motion to accept and recommend acceptance the December financial reports made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Chairman Powell. Adopted 2-0.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2007.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Chairman Powell. Adopted 2-0 at 7:49 p.m.