

Rochester Board of Education

Finance Committee

May 10, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Evans, Garcia, and Powell, Ms. Rohring, Mr. Marini, Mr. Looby, Dr. Cliby, Mr. Omiccioli, and Mr. Erwin Smith

Commissioner Powell convened the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

I. Receive and Review Monthly Financial Reports

Commissioner Powell asked if everyone had an opportunity to look over the monthly financial reports and whether anyone had any questions.

Motion to accept the monthly financial reports and recommend to BOE by Commissioner Garcia. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 3-0.

II. Receive and Review Resolutions for May Business Meeting

Dr. Rivera extended his support for Mr. Marini's efforts. He mentioned the improvements made to the District's financial management practices, greater scrutiny being given to the contracting process, and affirmed the desire to follow documented practices.

Dr. Rivera noted new contract regulations that were put in place this winter. He stated that he will keep the pressure on Mr. Marini and his staff to deliver on key projects, but will pay close attention to the processes/procedures in place in executing consulting/professional service contracts. He stated that he fully supports the contract requests before the committee this evening.

Mr. Marini added that he has instituted a very rigorous contract review and statement of work process. Specific statements of work are required and will be scrutinized prior to approving any contracts.

a. NuSoft and Connected Knowledge resolutions

Mr. Marini presented the SOWs as outcomes of what was presented to the Board in December of 2004, describing the vision of the Rochester Learning Gateway as a "one stop shop" (portal/gateway) where curriculum will reside on the intranet and be available for every teacher in the District. He then summarized each of the Statements of Work.

SOW2: SIF Enterprise Integration

“Schools Interoperability Framework” consists of putting in place, an environment where all systems purchased by the District will be able to connect and share data with all other systems in the District.

SOW3: SharePoint Portal Server

SharePoint technology becomes the District’s intranet platform.

SOW4: Data Marts and Dashboards

This provides the “dashboards” (view of key metrics) the District has been asking for. Gives the ability to view based on a number of different ways ... by demographic, grade level, subject Also gives the District the ability to link into the data for other NYS schools. Phase 1 includes administrators and teachers. Phase 2, parents and students

SOW5: Training by Connected Knowledge Solutions

Provides the training to enable District personnel on how to use the new Technology. The commissioners said since CKS is a separate company from NuSoft, this will require it’s own resolution.

SOW6: External Communications Envisioning

New technology ... reiterated the topic was covered in depth in December ... and there will probably be 2 retreats over the summer (early July and mid-August) to further define.

Mr. Marini stated that this proposed resolution also includes \$65K for Connected Knowledge to do training.

It was noted that this should be a separate resolution because it is a separate company. Mr. Marini stated he would correct that. The revised NuSoft resolution is for a total dollar amount not to exceed \$140K. It was also stipulated that the language of the resolutions needed to be amended to incorporate the term of the contract.

Motion to recommend these two resolutions with amendments to the Board for approval at the May Business Meeting by Commissioner Garcia, Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 3-0.

b. Complete Technology Solutions resolution

Mr. Marini stipulates that this consists of: extending Tom Numbere’s contract to assist me with defining the District’s SAN (Storage Area Network) recommendation and assist with defining the District’s DR (Disaster Recovery) Plan. He is working with Ed Omiccioli in collaboration with the City of Rochester on the Disaster Recovery Plan.

Commissioner Garcia asked, in light of the WROC report, asked if Tom Numbere has worked for or was associated in any way to any of the alleged companies in the report.

Mr. Marini stated that Compression Technologies is a totally different company, not related in any way to the companies included in the report.

Ms. Rohring asked for clarification of the time frame for the contract and noted it should be incorporated in the proposed resolution.

Mr. Marini responded that it will probably go through the end of July. He will add the exact timeline to the resolution.

Commissioner Evans expressed concern about a consultant representing the District's interests to the City and asked if District staff would also be closely involved in collaborating with the City in terms of finding the most efficient solution for disaster recovery planning?

Mr. Omiccioli stated that we are looking to collaborate on disaster recovery and other areas with the City. He noted that one of the deliverables on this contract is an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the District and the City relevant to disaster recovery. This would require District support/agreement with the plan. Mr. Omiccioli stated that he has established a relationship with his counterpart with the City and that all interactions with the City will be documented in the Memo of Understanding.

Commissioner Garcia asked if this consultant had any sort of relationship with any of the companies identified in the May 9th Channel 8 news story?

Mr. Marini stipulated he did not. He was a legitimate company that has provided all the requisite paperwork to the District, which has been reviewed by Counsel. He has provided good work so far and this is a request to expand the services provided and extend the term for an additional amount.

Commissioner Evans also asked about the consultant's input in terms of interviewing for a CIO, per the included statement of work.

Mr. Marini stipulated that Mr. Numbere has been pre-screening CIO candidates with Mitch Adams in terms of technical skills. If they meet those criteria, I meet with them regarding management, strategy, etc. Richard Sands, Constellation Brands CEO and Chairman volunteered his CIO, Steve Wallace, to assist in the first interview process. However, this time Mr. Wallace did not have time to assist with this effort. Mr.

Numbere's time in assisting in CIO interviews is based on his technology experience.

Commissioner Evans inquired about the Technology Breakfast program and asked if this was also assigned to a staff member; if the intent was to have this be ongoing?

Mr. Marini stipulated he has asked Dr. Cliby to participate in these going forward, and that this program will transition to Dr. Cliby and himself to carry out in the future.

Motion to advance the amended resolution to include term and other relevant information to the full Board for consideration made by Commissioner Garcia. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 3-0.

WROC Report

A discussion then ensued about the WROC report. Commissioner Garcia said he thought the policies and "checks and balances" were in place but questioned what was there.

Michael Looby responded that the process changes are in place and are being followed, but a full time attorney has not been put in place overseeing the Contracting Process. All the other pieces are in place. All RFPs must now be reviewed on a tri-annual basis.

In order for a contract to be approved. It must be signed off by:

1. the Chief of that area
2. Legal signoff
3. the Superintendent, and finally
4. the School Board (when contracts are \$25,000 or above)

Commissioner Garcia wanted to make it clear that he has always been a supporter of staff. The news report was very embarrassing. He will continue to support the staff, but the policies that the Board sets must be followed and not circumvented. It appears nothing illegal was done, but bad judgment was used.

Commissioner Powell stated nothing in the news report was new or news. It was presented to the Board months ago. No effort was made to disguise the addresses of the companies. They were identical. This was a deliberate intent to embarrass the Board and senior administration.

Commissioner Evans stated he did not like being taken by surprise. Dr. Rivera did hire a private investigator months ago. The Board did not have an Executive Session on these concerns that were raised. He asked, who gave this to the media?

Mr. Looby noted that this is a ratings week for the news channels. All the news channels sought out “spicy” stories. Rachel Barnhart has had this story for a long time, but waited until this week to air it. She had public documents, but also had internal District documents.

The Finance Committee requested an Executive Session to discuss the leak of documents to the media.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Adopted 3-0 at 6:28 p.m.