

**Rochester Board of Education  
Finance Committee Of the Whole  
April 20, 2004 at 5:30 P.M.  
Minutes**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Evans, Garcia, Porter, Powell and Thompson.

**Commissioner Bowers** called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

**Commissioner Garcia** moved to accept the prepared agenda. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. **Adopted unanimously 5-0.** Commissioners Brown and Powell absent.

**II. Secondary Schools Redesign Update**

Chief of School Development and Operations C. Michael Robinson spoke to the Board about the elementary and secondary schools redesign and explained the budget items that support the redesign. Mr. Robinson provided a written handout on the redesign budget.

Commissioner Powell arrived at 5:42 p.m.  
Commissioner Rob Brown arrived at 5:51 p.m.

The Board questioned Mr. Robinson about several matters related to the redesign, including the expenditure of \$400K for new textbooks. Mr. Robinson explained that the District wants to maximize reimbursement for textbooks.

Commissioner Bowers remarked that when the Board was originally asked to approve the redesign, they believed it would save approximately \$1M. He questioned where that savings has materialized.

**Action Item:**

- Commissioner Bowers requested that Mr. Robinson document and categorize the expected \$1M savings from the redesign.

**III. General Budget Deliberation**

The Board then turned to review a list of detailed questions it had submitted to Management Cabinet for review and response.

Mr. Marini, Mr. Connors and Ms. Trippi responded orally to several questions posed in turn. Generally, the Board agreed that it expects written responses.

**Action Items:**

- The Board requested that Management Cabinet provide written responses to the questions by Friday, April 23, 2004.
- Regarding Character Development, Commissioner Powell requested that MS. Dye provide a break out of FTEs and costs by school and demonstrated results for each program along with benchmark numbers. Commissioner Thompson suggested that the program

evaluation be used as part of this. Commissioner Porter asked for a breakdown on what the District is spending for those targeted kids.

- Commissioner Garcia wants to have detailed the percentage of the grant that covers indirect costs. (Question 7)
- Question 9 - Commissioner Powell wants to know if there will be a reduction of FTEs. Commissioners Porter and Thompson requested that Chief Ed Lemon provide written details on FTEs by school; detailed information about any adjustment to the roles of these individuals.
- Commissioner Thompson requested that asterisks be put on the organizational chart to show where departments under Maurice Bell moved to in '04-'05.

Next, a discussion ensued about the CALC program redesign. Michael Robinson indicated he would prefer to show the reallocation in the whole context of a complete presentation on the redesign. He explained that the Dare to Care program is preventive and helps avoid suspension, while CALC provides temporary instruction for those students who have been suspended. Commissioner Powell observed that the Quality Assurance Committee would be considering this matter and invited Commissioner Porter to attend their sessions next week.

Commissioner Bowers indicated that the committee would skip over the next section of questions regarding the recommended budget to focus on the questions related to departments. He asked for brief oral answers.

Regarding the second question about a decrease in FTEs of 17.71 but an increase in the salary appropriation, Mr. Connors explained that this year, the District has located costs into schools where the services are provided and that the District has adopted a standardized definition of FTEs through position management.

**Action Items:**

- Commissioner Bowers requested that the number of department questions be reviewed and grouped based on the definition of FTEs. He requested a summary chart on FTEs.

Commissioner Evans asked if there is a plan B if things we don't get additional aid. The Board currently is looking at closing two schools now, and he wondered if it will be necessary to close more.

Commissioner Thompson left the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner Bowers explained that the Board retains right of authority to make recommendations on what will be in the budget and what is out.

Commissioner Powell inquired about whether Mr. Hofer will return to grant writing. Dr. Rivera indicated that there are some organizational issues he needs to address and that there is currently a vacancy in the grants department (Director of Grants).

Commissioner Powell reiterated the importance of a grant writer in the current circumstances. She asked if the District is filling administrative openings at school level at 100% or are there cutbacks in schools for budget reasons?

Dr. Marie Cianca said that the elementary staff had been reduced last year, and the plan is to move forward with current level of staffing. We are at bare minimum at elementary level.

At the secondary level, as enrollments are shifting, we are shifting positions from one school to another.

**Action Items:**

- Commissioner Bowers asked the other Commissioners to submit any additional questions they have regarding the proposed budget to the Board's Executive Assistant.
- Written responses to all the questions previously submitted by the Board to the District administrative staff should be sent to the Board by this Friday.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Porter seconded.

Adopted 6-0 at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Thompson absent.