

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee Meeting
January 17, 2012 at 6: 00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Cynthia Elliott (Chair), Commissioners Mary Adams and Melisza Campos (via conference call); Board Staff: Jacqueline Morgan

Absent: Felix Jacobs (Parent Representative)

Commissioner Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the October Minutes was made by Commissioner Campos; seconded by Commissioner Elliott.

II. Finalizing of 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda

Commissioner Elliott suggested that the draft agenda be included on the Board Retreat agenda for discussion to allow the full Board to have input and to ensure that the Board's priorities are included.

In addition to the recommendations listed below from a previous meeting, the committee added the following recommendations from the Diversity Committee:

- ♦ Advocate for the advancement of legislation to require that African and African American history be taught efficiently, faithfully, and employing approved methods of instruction.
- ♦ Advocate for the advancement of legislation to employ a merit-based evaluation system that considers teacher performance rather than seniority when addressing the academic needs of our students and operational needs of the District.

Commissioner Campos made the following additional recommendations to be included in the Legislative Agenda:

- ♦ Advocate to enforce mandatory kindergarten attendance
- ♦ Advocate for consequences for social media bullying

Commissioner Campos noted that the social media bullying may be an item to be considered for the 2012-2013 Legislative Agenda.

- ♦ Commissioner Adams would like to see a Financial Transaction Task at the federal level for financial regulation and taxation combined that would contribute revenue for education.
- ♦ Advocate for enforcement of judgments for Campaign for Fiscal Equity and the Contract for Excellence.

Previous Legislative Agenda Recommendations:

- Increase funding for early childhood programs
- Extension of school year
- Increase funding for summer school programs
- Mutual collaboration with the City on initiatives and opportunities for shared services
- Collaborate with City in providing funding for Pathways to Peace
- Eliminate the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law including tenure and the LIFO Bill
- Obtain statutory authority to extend tenure beyond three years
- Obtain funding to modernize Central Kitchen

III. **Annual Professional Performance Reviews**

Commissioner Elliott noted that the while school boards are being represented by the New York State School Boards Association, she wanted to give this committee an opportunity to contribute to this conversation, and to determine if there is any action that the committee wants to take.

Both Commissioner Elliott and Adams stated that they would need to study any legislation that may be brought forward before determining if this Board should contribute anything to the conversation.

IV. **Miscellaneous**

The committee discussed asking Mr. Kenneth Bell to come to the February CIGR Committee to update the Board on the FMP plan. It was suggested that this meeting be a committee meeting of the whole.

The committee also discussed the possibility of a forum on violence in collaboration with the Rochester Police Department in March or April to gather input from the community around the issue of violence in the schools in order to come up with strategies to minimize it.

Jacqueline Morgan will contact the Office of the Police Chief to obtain his availability to participate in the forum, as he has already agreed to be a part of the forum.

Ms. Laurie Thomas noted that there was a general lack of respect in education and in the community; and that teachers are not modeling respect. Commissioner Elliott suggested that Ms. Thomas address this issue at the upcoming forum on violence.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elliott at 7:07 p.m.

The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting will be held on February 7, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.