

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
November 25, 2008
5:30 p.m.
Conference Room 3-A

MINUTES

Attendance: Chairperson Campos, Commissioners Brennan and White; District Staff: Gladys Pedraza-Burgos, Tom Petronio, Nicolle Crocker; Board Staff: Hazel Washington

Chairperson Campos called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Commissioner Powell (not a committee member), came in at 6:10 p.m.

Commissioner Williams (not a committee member) came in at 6:20 p.m.

President Evans came in at 6:45 p.m.

Agenda Items:

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the August Minutes was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 3-0**

II. Update on the Edison Program

Ken Warner, who had confirmed attendance at the meeting, did not show.

III. Update on Parent Partnership

Nicolle Crocker distributed a pamphlet entitled, "*Parent Perspective.*" The pamphlet includes a letter from Superintendent Brizard encouraging parents to serve on the Parent Advisory Council, a note from the Office of Parent Engagement, and the responsibility of the Council, and a number of areas that we have not collaborated on with the Council. It also includes a nomination form that is in the form of a postage-paid postcard. The Districtwide Parent Advisory Council kickoff meeting was held on November 24, 2008. Each family received a copy of the pamphlet. Ms. Crocker said they have received a lot of positive feedback from the Latino community regarding a Spanish version of the pamphlet.

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Twenty-nine (29) of forty-four (44) parents voted for the structure of the Parent Advisory Council. The focus areas are in Board Policy 1900 (Parent Involvement). If there are other areas not covered by policy, we will refer to the Policy Council of parent leaders and school-based planning team representatives. The Council will have elections in May of 2009, so that parent representatives will be in place at the beginning of the school year.

The Parent Institute has been established to train parent leaders and school-based planning team representatives on how meetings should take place. Commissioner Brennan expressed a concern regarding elections at the building level not taking place. Ms. Crocker stated that the District serves as support, and that parents own the process. Commissioner White pointed out that community activists can sit on the Council, but only parents can vote. The goal of the election is to get 2000 parents involved in the process. They will ask each building to get 50 voting parents in each meeting; encourage parents to read through the manual on school-based planning; will ask for evaluations to be completed after every meeting; compile the information and send back to the committee. Gladys Pedraza-Burgos noted that they want to reduce the duplication of services, and to have one place to access everything that parents need; and by offering guidelines and consistency.

The Bilingual Council will become a part of the larger Council under the area of Bilingual and Bicultural Education. Ms. Crocker said that she would like to have seats on the Council for parents of students with disabilities, ELL parents. Latino students have the highest dropout rate.

IV. Community Conversations

Commissioner Campos noted that this was Commissioner Powell's suggestion. It is similar to "City Hall On the Road." Commissioner Brennan supports the idea and thought the meetings should begin at 7:00 p.m., they could be extended meetings with an agenda that is not so structured. Commissioner White stated that this will be an opportunity to engage people which we are not able to do at a Board Meeting. He recommended having meetings quarterly. Commissioner Campos suggested that the meetings be held during the months that the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee does not meet. Ms. Pedraza-Burgos suggested that we explain the process that occurs at Board meetings; especially the fact that the Board cannot respond but is listening to the public. Ms. Crocker suggested that the agenda be posted on the website in advance and also include responses to inquiries on the website.

V. Agenda for Meeting with City Council in December

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the 3 on 3 held at City Hall on November 6th. They discussed the agenda for the Joint Session meeting for December, which includes Central Office Reorganization; In School Suspensions; Curfew/Truancy Initiatives; Future Strategies; Zero Tolerance; Other Opportunities. Commissioner Brennan said we need to discuss the possibility of Mayoral control, to clarify

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conflicting reports of the Mayor's position. After discussion, it was agreed upon that the topic would come up under legislative matters, but in the later part of the meeting.

VI. Miscellaneous

Action Items

H. Washington will schedule a Community Conversation in mid-February.

H. Washington will give recommendations to President Evans:

- When people call in to speak, make sure that they are placed on the proper list
- Attach agenda to monthly meeting notices
- Post agenda items on the website prior to the meeting
- Post responses to questions on the website

H. Washington will explore Glenny Williams' idea of discussing parent involvement further.

H. Washington will add Legislative Agenda to the January CIGR agenda

H. Washington will ask Board members to hold January 12th and 13th for the joint session. (CIGR meeting will be held on that date that is not selected for the joint session)

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner White at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. **Adopted 3-0**