

Rochester Board of Education
Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
August 27, 2007

Minutes

Attendance:

Chairman Evans, Commissioners Brennan (arrived 6:15 p.m.) and Powell. Commissioner Thompson excused. Board Staff L. Dunsmoor, District Staff R. Hannon, J. Carlisle, G. Larkins.

Chairman Evans informally opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and officially convened with a quorum at 6:15 p.m.

Rochester Children's Zone

Chief of Strategic Planning Jana Carlisle said the transition plan to move the RCZ from district leadership to the RCZ Board, Inc. is effective the end of this week; Dr. George Larkins is RCSD liaison to the Children's Zone. Ms. Carlisle discussed highlights of the RCZ initiative with commissioners and then took questions.

Highlights:

Eight areas of focus have been identified with corresponding strategies, actions, and measurement provisions. Year-one priorities have also been identified. Focus areas: Resident capacity, Financial Efficacy, Prenatal and Early Childhood Development, High School Graduation, Community Safety and Environment, Health Status, Adult Education and Employment, Coordination of Delivery Services.

Transition efforts. The northeast community not-for-profit and government leaders determined that such a broad community effort should be housed outside of the RCSD or any existing major public organization. RCZ, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization serving as governing body; its board includes five residents and four non-residents. Seven of the Board members participated extensively in the planning process.

Accomplishments. The RCZ, to date under district leadership, has raised funds and contributions, provided a framework for implementation with extensive community input, and secured broad community organization commitment.

Next steps. The following are targeted for September-November: Transition RCZ infrastructure to RCZ Inc., form the transition team, recruit a team leader, finalize job descriptions and hire staff, and raise additional implementation funds.

Discussion:

Commissioners and Ms. Carlisle agreed that accomplishments to date need to be captured and broadcast so the community knows that the RCZ is moving forward; that northeast residents need to stay and/or become more involved in the process through trust-building; and that transparency is the key to building trust.

Rochester City Council update

Chief of Governmental Relations Richard Hannon reported that the Rochester City Council on August 21, 2007, unanimously approved one resolution and three ordinances concerning District facilities, and, in so doing, brought closure to some matters of long standing contention between the District and the City. Mayor Duffy and President Giess spoke in very complimentary terms of the positive relationship between the District and the City represented by these pieces of legislation. Commissioner Powell was present at the Council meeting and she was recognized from the dais.

Chairman Evans said he hopes that the positive relations with the City continue and translate into momentum for the truancy project.

Maintenance of Effort provisions, NYS Budget

Mr. Hannon reported that the Commissioner of Education's Notice of Propose Rule Making has some elements that are objectionable and, as a part of the official record, could conceivably weaken the District's position. He said he could detect no conspiracy; it appears to be simply poorly thought out. Mr. Hannon agreed with the committee that the form and manner in which cities report compliance with the MOE provision should be added to the regulations and he will convey this in a letter to the Commissioner.

Apprenticeship Program

Chairman Evans said there is nothing new to report; he will circle back with Dr. Cala on a conference call with labor representatives and Newburgh City Schools. Board staff to continue work assigned earlier.

Draft letter to City of Rochester

Chairman Evans asked Commissioner Powell to work with Mr. Hannon; he will call a special CIR meeting when it is completed, for review.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Brennan. Second by Chairman Evans. Adopted 2-0 at 7:32 p.m.