

Rochester Board of Education
Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
April 23, 2007
6 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: Chairman Evans, Commissioner Thompson. Commissioner Brennan excused. District staff Jana Carlisle and Rochester Children's Zone representatives Carlos Santana, Nicolle Crocker, Tonya Poyser, Dr. George Larkins. Dr. William Cala. Board staff Linda Dunsmoor.

Chairman Evans convened the hearing at 6 p.m.

Rochester Children's Zone Update:

- The Rochester Children's Zone community planning process has been a collaboration of residents, educators, service providers, and many others. Over the past year, hundreds of people have joined forces to plan a community initiative that can improve the health, wellness, education, living conditions, and livelihoods of children and families in northeast Rochester.
- The RCS Community Plan encompasses 40 multi-year objectives and more than 190 strategies, which together represent a call for widespread change within all levels of the Rochester Children's Zone community.
- The community planning process has thus far involved four phases: 1) design for planning, 2) vision development, 3) problem and asset identification, and 4) strategy formulation. Phase 5 is implementation planning. An implementation conference entitled: Moving from Plan to Action: The Rochester Children's Zone, will be held for 2.5 days from Tuesday, May 22-Thursday, May 24, 2007. Represented at the conference will be funding providers, RCZ residents, RCZ youth, faith community, service providers, business, government, higher education, and private, parochial, and public schools.
- Current funding: There is no estimate yet on total cost or sources of funds that will be devoted to the RCZ community plan implementation. Cost will be determined based on the elements and priorities of the community plan. Since November 2005, approximately \$120,000 has been pledged to & received by RCZ, Inc. \$1.4 million has been pledged and not received (\$400,000 in appropriations aid from Congresswoman Slaughter, as is the case with all 06/07 appropriations, is no longer expected this fiscal year). The expenditure of \$4 million from Governor Spitzer will be determined by the RCZ, Inc. Board of Directors and used to support the community plan priorities established between April and June 2007.
- Future funding: Additional resources will be sought once the RCZ plan has been prioritized between April and June 2007. Implementation priorities are needed before most funders will provide resources for services. It is anticipated that additional grants and funds will be solicited once the project moves out of the District in June 2007. Potential sources of funding include public officials/government; private local and national foundations; corporate and individual philanthropists.

A key difference between the Harlem Children's Zone and the Rochester Children's Zone is that the HZC provides the services to residents; the RCZ will not provide services but will facilitate delivery.

Commissioner Evans asked whether the low-hanging fruit has been identified. Dr. Larkins identified health care for students and their families, including dentistry, and cited the models of the Jordan Health Center and No. 6 school, and the school-linked health center at No. 17 school. Ms. Crocker said 'Baby College,' a program similar to the district's Young Mother's Program, may get underway in the Fall of 2007.

Commissioner Thompson asked how funding needs will be prioritized. Ms. Carlisle said plans will be written based on the receipt of \$5 or \$10 or \$15 million, etc. in funding.

Commissioner Thompson asked how concerns from the Hispanic community are being identified and addressed. Mr. Santana said there is support from that part of the community but work still needs to be done. Ms. Carlisle said documents have been translated into Spanish and arrangements are being made for an all-Spanish dialogue. Commissioner Thompson pointed out that it is important that the Hispanic community not feel alienated from the RCZ effort. Mr. Santana said the group is stressing that the RCZ is not just about African Americans and includes Hispanic and other nationalities. Commissioner Thompson iterated that this cannot be an after-thought.

Chairman Evans said there has been a great deal of progress since the last update and he and the CIGR Committee look forward to future progress reports.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Thompson, second by Chairman Evans. Approved 2-0 at 6:55 p.m.