

Rochester Board of Education
Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
September 13, 2006
6 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: Chairman Evans, Commissioner Brennan. Commissioner Thompson excused. R. Hannon, L. Dunsmoor, S. Lee.

Chairman Evans convened the meeting at 6 p.m.

I) Facilities Modernization Program

Mr. Hannon said he will provide talking points for Commissioners on the FMP when the wording of the draft legislation is completed; that could be as early as the end of this week. He shared the draft dates and specifics of the public information sessions set up for the FMP.

- Principals -- Sept. 19 and 26
- Parent Partnership Council -- Sept. 28
- Education Leadership Council -- Oct. 6
- DACT - Oct. 10
- General Public
 - Northeast Zone -- Oct. 16
 - Northwest Zone -- Oct. 23
 - South Zone -- Oct. 30

Chairman Evans said he would notify other Committee chairs of these dates so that conflicts could be minimized; he will urge Board members to attend.

Commissioner Brennan offered a resolution adopting the dates, second by Chairman Evans, carries 2-0.

Action item: L. Dunsmoor to include dates in Chairman Evans' CIGR report to the Board.

II) Legislative Agenda

Mr. Hannon distributed a second draft of the proposed 2006-07 Legislative Agenda. Commissioner Brennan moved that it be forwarded to the full Board as a discussion item for Sept. 21, second by Chairman Evans, carries 2-0.

Action item: L. Dunsmoor to forward draft to full Board in 9/16/06 packet as discussion item.

**ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2007 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVOCACY AGENDA
DRAFT**

1. Increase non-categorical school aid appropriations allocated for the District in the 2007 – 2008 State budget proposed by the Governor to ensure adequacy and equity and to permit closure of a projected budget gap without serious disruption of the educational program. Follow up as necessary / appropriate with the Legislature.
2. Increase funding for universal pre-K programs.
3. Ensure that the District receives an appropriate portion of any funding stream committed to Campaign for Fiscal Equity / Alliance for Quality Education's initiatives.
4. Obtain statutory authority for the Facilities Modernization Program.
5. Obtain statutory authority for creative and flexible approaches to student discipline, including but not limited to the following: tutoring for long term suspension students that is designed to modify behaviors; permission to impose community service obligations, restitution, or financial penalties for disruptive or violent behavior; allow teleconferencing and other technologies for impartial hearings; obligating charter schools to retain disciplinary cases; aligning suspension time lines with school calendars; and conditioning the return of suspended students on the receipt of counseling, dispute resolution, and / or anger management services.
6. Exempt school districts from court filing fees.
7. Place positions in the Superintendent's Employee Group in the Unclassified or Classified / Exempt categories under Civil Service.
8. Bar passage / approval of legislation inimical to the interests of the District, including but not limited to efforts to (a.) presumptively hold the District responsible for and penalizing it for delays in construction projects, (b.) mandate bargaining unit wage increases upon a determination of failure to bargain collectively in good faith, (c.) shift the burden of proof to the District in disciplinary and other proceedings, (d.) mandate burdensome and expensive (but unfunded) recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and (e.) mandate the provision of services without a corresponding appropriation of funds.

NEW YORK STATE (continued)

9. Support reforms to the applicable elements of the New York State public employee retirement system to ensure their long-term security and viability for retirees and employees and their affordability for employers.
10. Support reforms in State Education Department's system of reporting of violent and disruptive acts to ensure that the process is fair and meaningful.
11. Increase the District's school year calendar from 180 to 200 days and provide commensurate funding increases.

12. Exempt the Rochester Children's Zone from those State regulations that limit innovation and stymie those change opportunities determined to be essential for the success of the RCZ (i.e., create a special "empowerment zone" or "community of the future zone" that allows the City, County and the District to implement new models and approaches to serving students and families).

13. Obtain permanent, adequate funding for school health services, and the permanent ability to access, partner with, and / or contract with the full range of health care provider, insurance, and technological assets of the community, expressly including, but not limited to, BOCES.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Monitor the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act and advocate as appropriate for features and elements of concern to the District (e.g., accountability, performance management).

2. Advocate on behalf of the District's application for a 2007 – 2010 magnet school grant.

3. Seek Congressional "earmark" funding commitments for appropriate District initiatives.

4. Advocate on behalf of other Department of Education grant applications.

CITY OF ROCHESTER

1. Increase the non-categorical school aid appropriation for the Rochester City School District in the 2007 – 2008 City budget proposed by the Mayor to ensure adequacy and to permit closure of a projected budget gap without serious disruption of the educational program. Follow up as necessary / appropriate with the City Council.

CITY OF ROCHESTER (continued)

2. Collaborate with the City on appropriate initiatives including but not limited to the Facilities Modernization Program, Rochester by the Numbers, the curfew pilot program, the truancy program, academic performance / reward incentives, and the Educational Leadership Council.

3. Exempt the Rochester Children's Zone from those City regulations that limit innovation and stymie those change opportunities determined to be essential for the success of the RCZ (i.e., create a special "empowerment zone" or "community of the future zone" that allows the City, County and the District to implement new models and approaches to serving students and families).

COUNTY OF MONROE

1. Exempt the Rochester Children's Zone from those County regulations that limit innovation and stymie those change opportunities determined to be essential

for the success of the RCZ (i.e., create a special “empowerment zone” or “community of the future zone” that allows the City, County and the District to implement new models and approaches to serving students and families).

III) School 33/Ryan Center Project

Mr. Hannon reported that Stantec is working on the design of the building. Budget remains a top oversight priority.

IV) Other

Lobbyist -- Mr. Hannon said he had anticipated proposing a contract with an Albany-based lobbyist but is doing further research on cost. Chairman Evans said that if a contract is brought forward for CIGR recommendation and Board consideration, it must include specific deliverables.

ELC -- Mr. Hannon said the Education Leadership Council, which grew from Mayor Duffy’s campaign, is in the formative stages and working on its functionality. He will keep CIGR apprised of its progress. Chairman Evans asked how the participants were selected; Mr. Hannon noted that they were invited by Mayor Duffy.

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Brennan, second by Chairman Evans, carries at 6:25 p.m.