

**Rochester Board of Education  
Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**May 6, 2004, 5:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Evans, Porter, Powell and Thompson, Dr. Rivera, Mr. Michael Looby, Mr. Henry Marini  
Absent: Commissioner Garcia (out of town)  
State Delegation Members present: Senator Robach, Assemblyman Morelle, Assemblyman Gantt  
State Delegation Members represented: Senator Alesi, Assemblyman Errigo

Commissioner Porter convened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson offered a welcome.

**Discussion:**

Dr. Rivera gave a presentation on key facts and figures. See handout.

Commissioner Powell arrived at 5:23 p.m.

Assemblyman Morelle: per pupil expenditures, instructional or otherwise, will play a role in CFE. We need to have an understanding of the numbers. The teacher contract recently agreed to is substantially higher than the rate of inflation, costing approximately \$8.5 million over two years.

Dr. Rivera: The District has a benchmarking formula in its contract. The raise agreed to is actually below the median.

Assemblyman Morelle: We need to be clued in more; current with the issues facing the District.

Senator Robach: Asked about \$17 million in non-recurring federal grant dollars whose expenses had been rolled into the local fund and the District was seeking state aid to cover.

Mr. Marini: There is a \$4.5 million decrease in Title I funding for 2004-05 from 2003-04; and \$8 million in other federal grants.

Senator Robach: The District wants to keep these programs, so state dollars are to cover a federal gap?

Dr. Rivera: These funds covered the costs of full-day kindergarten, 18 classroom teachers – resources for the students. Half the \$12.5 million decrease (\$6 million) are dollars needed for essential services.

Commissioner Thompson: Asked that legislators indicate what information they need, or would be helpful to them so we can ensure they get what they need.

Mr. Marini: We are budgeting with flat City aid and the Governor's proposal for state aid. The gap is \$29.14 million. Two primary drivers in that are teacher retirement rate increase and the employee retirement rate increase. Benefits costs are the primary contributor to the gap (includes health insurance, etc).

Commissioner Thompson departed at 6:05 p.m.

Assemblyman Morelle: The Assembly believes it is not responsible to do a budget without CFE downpayment.

Senator Robach: The Senate is not disagreeing, but it seems that no matter what the dollar amount is on the table, the plaintiff's answer is still "no". There is some dispute about maintaining share v hold harmless, particularly among the Long Island representatives.

Assemblyman Morelle: It is our job to drive as much revenue into CFE for low wealth districts as possible. It is critically important that RCSD continue to voice its needs.

Jody Siegle: How much money is available for CFE? What will the revenue stream for that appropriation be?

Assemblyman Morelle: We need to fashion a long-term plan. Given the state's fiscal situation, and acknowledgement that some of the issues in CFE are related to facilities, this year much of the money may be through capital, but outside of building aid, outside that formula, based on a wealth factor.

Senator Robach: Some of the proposed venues for raising revenue have been rejected.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown, Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 at 6:17 p.m. with Commissioners Garcia and Thompson absent.