

**Rochester City School District Quality Assurance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**03/10/05**

Meeting convened at 6:37 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Commissioner Thompson  
Commissioner Brown  
Board President Porter

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

Ms. Carlisle  
Mr. Christman  
Ms. Padilla  
Ms. Rivera  
Ms. Rohring  
Mr. Silver

**Agenda Item I: Foreign Language Text Book Adoption**

Commissioner Thompson asked about the Spanish text coverage and whether or not it was written accurately: Realidades 1,2,3 A&B, is that the correct sequence?

Ms. Rivera indicated 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, & 3A, & 3B and that the resolution isn't written correctly.

Mr. Brown asked if the number of students is the same as the number of books and if all students would be able to have a book and if a process is in place.

Ms. Rivera indicated that students may take books home, however the texts are on line so if they want to access the text, they can do so at home if they have a computer.

Mr. Brown asked whether or not there is a procedure in place to ensure that there is a tracking mechanism in place to make sure that texts are not lost.

Ms. Rivera indicated that at her school, there is a system in place.

Mr. Silver indicated that tracking is done differently at different schools; there isn't a uniform standard of accountability.

Commissioner Brown inquired as to whether or not we shouldn't as a District establish a common process.

Commissioner Porter indicated that some people believe the District has policies for not taking books home when in fact it may be a building policy.

Commissioner Brown asked if we could look into a standard process across the District.

Commissioner Thompson asked if staff could provide an assessment of what the District currently has in place, where we have gaps, what recommendation is for standardization is by May QA meeting

Ms. Carlisle indicated that staff could provide this information by the May QA meeting.

The resolution that will be forwarded will be amended to have accurate information about the Spanish sequence.

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**Second Agenda Item: Alves Resolution Amendment**

Commissioner Thompson asked the question about why we still have an eight go nine choice process?

Ms. Carlisle indicated that this is the last year of the 8 go 9 process given the transition from the old 6-8 system to the new system. ...and that there would be a 9 go 10 transfer option process established that could be shared with QA if desired.

Commissioner Porter inquired as to whether or not there is a formal evaluation of Michael Alves work and then suggested that the Committee forward its recommendation as to whether or not the Committee felt his work was on target.

The QA Committee requested a summary of how Mr. Alves has performed the work laid out in his workplan.

Ms. Carlisle asked for clarification regarding the scope of the evaluation.... whether or not this should extend to 2003-2004 or just for the 2004-2005 \$20,000 contract.

Commissioner Thompson indicated that both years would be desirable.

Neither Commissioner Thompson nor Commissioner Brown felt that the resolution for continued work with Alves would be held up while staff prepared a status report.

**Agenda Item III: Quarterly Report to QA**

Commissioner Thompson asked why there was no target for social studies.

Mr. Christman indicated that a target for social studies for 2005 was not established because Dr. Rivera had requested just English and Math targets.

Commissioners Thompson and Brown asked about what the projected performance on ELA 8 was ... if it was expected to meet the Superintendent's target. They asked pointedly for a number given that staff had reviewed it already.

Mr. Christman indicated that the number was closer to last year's number but that ELA 4 was looking very good.

Commissioner Thompson asked why LEAP data was not included in this report.

Mr. Christman indicated that LEAP is official data and the District won't have it for 2004-2005 until August.

Commissioner Brown asked what it means for a student to be in attendance.

Mr. Christman indicated that the expectation is that a student is there for the day and that a student is in school for more than an hour a day.

Mr. Christman indicated that there will be on line period by period attendance in all schools.

Commissioner Brown asked about whether or not there are technology implications for attendance monitoring.

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Mr. Christman indicated in the affirmative and that the new Student Information System will make it possible.

Commissioner Brown asked if there are people working on technology systems to ease control, monitoring of access.

Ms. Carlisle indicated that the technology team is considering best practices for a range of things but neither she nor Mr. Christman could speak directly to attendance technologies.

Commissioner Porter referred to the Board's interest in using cards for access, tracking, monitoring, etc.

Commissioner Thompson raised the question as to what QA as a Committee would like to see in place and what kinds of things should come before Quality Assurance beyond academic performance. She further suggested that QA expand its purview to include good practices across the organization.

Commissioner Brown raised the issue of whether or not we can use NCLB as an opportunity to put some common sense things in place.

Commissioner Thompson asked questions about suspensions and what exactly we are doing about suspensions.

Specifically the Board was interested in gross trends and whether or not there has been a change in policy with regard to suspensions.

Commissioner Thompson asked whether or not we're controlling for mobility if students are moving from school to school and being suspended at more than one school.

Ms. Carlisle indicated that staff could come back to QA with a specific report on what is being done about suspensions.

Mr. Porter asked if we track in-school suspensions.

Mr. Christman indicated that we do track in school suspensions but that two things have occurred: an uneven playing field across schools and the elimination of in school

Commissioner Thompson posed a question on black-white achievement gap and where the District is in that regard.

Motion on both foreign language and Alves resolutions carried 2-0

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**Action Items:**

*Write ups to be included in an upcoming Friday packet:*

- Suspension intervention write up
- Black-white achievement gap write up – what initiatives, programs, interventions are in place to address this issue
- A summary of how Mr. Alves has performed the work laid out his the workplan (including 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 work)

*Upcoming QA Meetings:*

- May QA meeting: Provide an assessment of what the District currently has in place in regard to school by school policies for “checking out” textbooks / assigning textbooks, where we have gaps, what our recommendation is for standardization
- April QA Meeting: *9 go 10 Transfer Option* process