

Rochester Board of Education
Policy Committee Meeting April 15, 2008
Minutes

Attendance: Chairman Brennan, Commissioners Elliott, Powell and Campos (non-member); Board Staff L. Dunsmoor; District Staff C. Briggs and R. Smith; several guests. Commissioner Campos departed at 6:40 p.m.

Chairman Brennan convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and asked whether the committee wanted to approve the draft minutes of October 2007. Motion to approve by Commissioner Powell. Second by Chairman Brennan. Approved.

Agenda Items:

1. Hearing date, Code of Conduct: The committee set the public hearing date on the 2008-09 Code of Conduct for Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.
Valarie Johnson asked about parent input. Parent input has been solicited and will also be collected at the public hearing for inclusion in the Code. Ms. Johnson noted comments made last year. Commissioner Brennan said all comments will be discussed and encouraged people to send comments to the Board by email or letter. Commissioner Brennan said an additional meeting could be scheduled to discuss the proposed changes, and comments can also be made at the Board meeting at which the Code is to be adopted, which will likely be June 26.
2. Proposed amendment to Responsible Bidder, Policy 6725. The amendment was referred to the Legal Department to gain clarification from Commissioner White.
Action item: Attorney R. Smith to work with Commissioner White on clarification in time for consideration at next committee meeting.
3. Proposed amendments to Parent Preference/Managed Choice, Policy 5153.
 - Commissioner Powell, who co-chaired the ad hoc committee that made recommendations, briefed the committee on the changes. They include the removal of temporary transitional language, the addition of zone improvement teams, and that the zone improvement teams report at least annually on recommendations for change and the status of zone schools as compared to other zones.
 - Chairman Brennan noted that it may be a matter of philosophy as to whether the transitional language is needed, and that it could be discussed by the full Board.
 - In response to Davis Passmore of DACT (District Advisory Council to Title I), Commissioner Powell said there should be at least one parent on the zone improvement teams and that there would be a zone improvement team for each zone. It has not been determined how the parents would be selected.
 - Nicolle L. Crocker, Program Administrator, Department of Parent and Community Involvement, said she is working on a plan to standardize the selection process for parents across the District when their input is sought through various committees. Ms. Crocker also shared her vision of what a zone improvement team should look like, perhaps modeled after the SURR teams used by the state.
 - Commissioners agreed with Ms. Johnson that parents should select parents.
 - Ms. Crocker stated that parents will always be involved in her departmental work. She is a parent of two students at SWW; she does not separate the roles. She added that there are two parent advisory councils authorized by the Board, DACT in 1983 and PPC in 2005. She is working with both of

DRAFT; NOT APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

them and other parents as well on a plan she will bring to the Superintendent to standardize the process for parent involvement on district committees. Board staff Linda Dunsmoor clarified that there is not a Board resolution creating the Parent Partnership Council and that she had not found a resolution specifying DACT in research to date. Commissioner Powell pointed out that DACT is required by federal legislation and does not need Board approval. The Board is not in the business of approving parent organization bylaws. Commissioner Elliott suggested the committee members refocus on the amendments in front of them.

- Ms. Johnson registered her objections to several components of the PP/MC policy.
- Commissioner Powell noted that the committee was charged by the President with considering the recommendations of the ad hoc committee; the remainder of the policy can be amended in the future.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to forward the policy as amended by the ad hoc committee to the full Board. Second by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted.

4. Proposed Bylaws amendments, Policy 2300

Chairman Brennan, as a member of Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, said it was the will of the committee to change Relations to Partnerships. Commissioners Powell and Elliott did not see the need for a Bylaws amendment. There was no motion. He also discussed CIGR's recommendation that Student Recognition be added to the Order of Business, which was referred to Policy by the President. That also died for lack of a motion. Commissioner Elliott noted that the issue should have been raised in the Board Governance Committee.

5. Proposed amendment to Policy 5100, Attendance/Participation

Commissioner Elliott explained her effort to have the mandatory attendance age raised from 16 to 17; this is allowed by current NYS law. Students need to be as mature as possible before making the decision to leave school without a diploma. Motion by Commissioner Elliott to forward the recommendation to the full Board for consideration. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted.

6. Hearing date for review of Parent Involvement (1900) and School Based Planning (2265) policies

Commissioners set the date for Wednesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. The policies will be reviewed, with possible amendments identified for consideration by the full Board. Commissioner Brennan thanked everyone who had pledged to help publicize the meeting.

7. Next meeting date

To be determined as necessary.

Discussion items:

Transparency Policy and Policy Manual Update will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Powell. Second by Chairman Brennan. Adopted at 7:47 p.m.