

**Rochester Board of Education
2008-09 Budget Public Hearing
April 7, 2008**

Minutes

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, Commissioners Elliott, Powell and Williams. Commissioner Brennan arrived 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Campos arrived 6:30 p.m. Chief Academic Officer Marilynn Patterson-Grant, Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard (arrived 6:20 p.m.), Board Clerk Linda Dunsmoor.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Evans asked Commissioner Powell, Finance Committee Chair, to discuss process. Commissioner Powell said the Board was at the hearing to gather input; not necessarily to respond to questions. Questions will be recorded; if participants will leave their names/contact information the answers will be provided. Answers will also be provided to the Board in writing. She also noted that Mayor Duffy's "State of the City" address would begin at 7 p.m. and commissioners would like to attend. The Program Based Budgeting section was provided to the Board at the meeting and Commissioner Powell said questions on it were due to Board Staff Ms. Washington by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 14.

President White asked anyone who would like to speak to come to the podium.

Lori Thomas

Ms. Thomas had questions on Sections 3, 6, and 7 regarding computation, food service, professional development, and miscellaneous services. Commissioner Powell said several people were taking notes on Ms. Thomas' questions; they would be verified by staff, answered in writing and shared with the Board.

Glenny Williams

Mr. Williams said he was glad to hear people are ready to go over to City Hall. He said the Mayor is trying to break the Maintenance of Effort legislation and correlated it to breaking into a child's piggybank. The Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) helped make a deal for a sound education for the kids of Rochester last year and the Mayor should not break the deal. Citizens are ready to go to Albany to fight for additional funding for the City but needed funding should not be taken from kids. Mr. Williams said he was initially skeptical of the new Superintendent but is glad to see him refocusing the system on kids and implementing an accountability system for principals. There should be a correlation between kids succeeding and the resources provided to buildings/programs. Mr. Williams raised concerns that the budget book is still in a line item format instead of a program format, which lessens accountability. He would also rather see Contract for Excellence funding used to reduce class size rather than for Saturday School and Extended Day programs because there is data that reducing class sizes in urban districts increases achievement. Mr. Williams also discussed Wilson Commencement; parents want to see true shared decision making and real input. He said he will return with more details and noted for the Superintendent that he is basically very happy with the new commander in chief; he urged Superintendent Brizard to bring parents aboard in a collaborative process.

President Evans thanked the speakers for their comments and said they will be used as the Board deliberates.

Commissioner Powell ran through the future schedule for budget deliberation.

Motion to adjourn by Vice President White. Second by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0 at 6:40 p.m.

DRAFT; NOT APPROVED BY BOARD