



## THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting: March 23, 2011  
Type of Meeting: Special Board of Education Meeting  
Location: Doyle Middle School - Auditorium

### MINUTES

#### I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:30 pm, Mr. Mayo called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Tom Mayo, President  
Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, Vice President  
Mrs. Mary Ellen Adams  
Mrs. Ilene Clinton  
Mrs. Carol Harvin  
Ms. Mary Marro-Giroux  
Mr. Jason Schofield  
Mr. Michael Tuttman  
Mrs. Martha Walsh

Member Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Fadhilika Atiba-Weza, Superintendent  
Mrs. Lorraine Colistra, Interim Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum  
Ms. Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Ms. Kathleen Culligan, Human Resources Coordinator

### III. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEM

Mr. Mayo stated that the decision to close an elementary school was the most difficult one the Board has ever made. State-aid and declining enrollment has left us no alternative and we are doing what we feel is best for all students in the District. Although it is difficult, it could and should be an exciting opportunity for School 12 children. The receiving schools will welcome your child with open and caring arms.

Mr. Mayo read the following statement:

The Board of Education encourages public input at our Board meetings. Persons wishing to speak should identify themselves and the topic they wish to address. Individuals should limit their comments to two minutes in length. Verbal attacks on individual Board and/or staff members will not be tolerated at Board meetings. The Board will not respond to questions during our meeting, however, individual Board Members and Administration will answer your questions and/or concerns at the end of our meeting or during the appropriate committee meeting.

At 6:35 pm, 72 public comments were heard in support of School 12 from parents, students, neighbors and employees until 8:20 pm.

### IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Mayo made a motion to approve the following resolution:

#### Resolution to Close Elementary School

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy shall approve the closing of Public School 12 located at 475 First Street, Troy, effective June 30, 2011.

Second the motion: Mrs. Wager-Rounds

#### Discussion:

Dr. Atiba-Weza: There are two options for restructuring the District: (1) relocate School 12 students to the four closest schools, not to exceed 90 percent capacity; or (2) re-draw all District lines which would impact every elementary school. Costs for each option will be reviewed by the Board of Education.

Mrs. Harvin: Thanked the EUES Committee. School 12 is a school in need of improvement and has students with disabilities; not all parents in this community have a car and there would be a lack of parent participation. The principal has done an excellent job. All students in Troy schools receive an excellent education. School 12 is Mrs. Harvin's district and she will not support the resolution to close this school.

Mr. Tuttman: This process has been unfortunate in that it forced the school communities to take sides. He hopes the teachers will remain in the District after the move because they are doing a fine job. There have been no secrets in the process. School 12 is an anchor in the south-end of Troy's community. He will not support the resolution to close this school.

Ms. Marro-Giroux: The process has been difficult for all schools. Had a different school been recommended, that community would be here with equally compelling reasons to stay open. District must make the best decision for all students. Faculty layoffs will be based on seniority.

Mrs. Adams: Thanked the public for their heartfelt emotions and is proud of students who spoke so well at the microphone to support their school. She will support this resolution because the Board has a responsibility that students in the entire District get a quality education. She would like to see the PK program to continue in the School 12 area and District to provide transportation to school events. Every child with an IEP will continue to receive same services. She asked that parents provide support to the children through the transition.

A roll call was requested regarding the motion:

Yes

Mrs. Adams  
Mrs. Clinton  
Ms. Marro-Giroux  
Mr. Mayo  
Mr. Schofield  
Mrs. Walsh

No

Mrs. Harvin  
Mr. Tuttman

Motion carries 7-2.

V. ADJOURN

Mr. Mayo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Schofield. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno  
Clerk of the Board