



What a day! Rumors have been flying! I'm going to start from the beginning. Stephen Henry and I were scheduled to meet with Dr. Garcia and the cabinet at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Garcia was on the phone when we were scheduled to start, so everyone (the cabinet, two principals, Stephen and I) waited outside Garcia's office. Then, we were all called in and ushered back out after about five minutes of waiting in Garcia's conference room. The whole time Garcia was on the phone. Eventually, he called the cabinet back in, and they met with him for 35-40 minutes before the rest of us were allowed in to begin the budget discussions an hour late.

About 9:45, I got a call from the MNEA Office, so I stepped out to take it. The call related to telephone inquiries MNEA was getting about Dr. Garcia being fired. My response was that I just left him in his office. Apparently, the rumors started at the Central Office about the time Dr. Garcia called the cabinet into his office.

Dr. Garcia has not resigned but asked the Board for a severance package. I went to the Central Office to speak with reporters at about 4:45 p.m. They told to me that the Board met with legal for about an hour. I spoke with Board Chair Marsha Warden who says that the Board's rules allow for a business meeting to be called with 24-hour notice. Thus, the Board plans to meet tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. to discuss their options. Most observers have theorized that the evaluation session in the morning will be very brief since the real work will come in the business session in the after noon.

The Board meeting tomorrow is open to the public and begins at 4:30 p.m. I hope this helps.

Erick Huth