



# Mayoral control bill not yet ready in Legislature

Brian Sharp – Staff writer

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Mayor Robert Duffy has spent the past few days reviewing and offering input on the latest draft of what will be part of state legislation proposing mayoral control of Rochester city schools.

On Wednesday, he was in Albany, meeting with state Sen. John L. Sampson, D-Brooklyn, the top Democrat in the Senate, and Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, D-Queens, chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee.

There is no definitive timeframe for state officials to introduce a mayoral control bill, but it likely won't be in time for the next public forum on the topic Friday evening.

Duffy is scheduled to join school board President Malik Evans, Rochester Teachers Association President Adam Urbanski, and — for the first time at a forum — City Council President Lovely Warren and **Rochester Business Alliance President Sandy Parker.**

The forum, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave., is sponsored by the local chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Inc. Sigma Pi Phi is the nation's oldest fraternal organization of college-educated, professional African-Americans. James Lawrence, editorial page editor for the *Democrat and Chronicle*, is the moderator for the forum.

The mayor is asking to make city schools a city department, abolish the school board and align resources to improve student performance. Critics say improvements can be made without consolidating power.

William Clark, president and CEO of the Urban League of Rochester, is sire archon-elect, the equivalent of chapter president-elect, for the local Sigma Pi Phi group. He counts himself among those seeking change but uncertain whether mayoral control is the answer.

Given the city's four-year graduation rate — the lowest of any of the Big 5

cities in the state — “at some point you have to weigh the voting against the actual outcomes of our students and their future,” Clark said. “Is that (voting for school board) something we should be concerned about?”

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#### IF YOU GO

**What:** Forum on mayoral control.

**When:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday.

**Where:** Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave.