

**MONITOR OF THE ROCHESTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING**

July 8, 2020

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Moderator:
Kevin MacDonald, District Superintendent, Genesee Valley Educational Partnership
- State Monitor:
Shelley Jallow
- Rochester City School District Representative:
Lesli Myers-Small
- New York State Education Department Representative:
Kim Wilkins

AGENDA

- Virtual Meeting Protocols
- Presentation on the NYS legislation regarding school district academic performance and desired outcomes (Shelley Jallow)
- Opportunity For Public Comment
- Next Steps in Process

VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOLS

- After the monitor has finished her presentation we will open the meeting up for questions.
- Anyone who submitted a request to speak will be given 3 minutes to talk and will be called upon by name when it is his or her turn.
- Anyone who did not submit a request to speak prior to the hearing can still submit comments to statemonitor@rcsdk12.org

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OF THE ROCHESTER MONITOR

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020 requires the Commissioner to appoint a Monitor to the Rochester City School District to provide oversight, guidance and technical assistance related to the academic and fiscal policies, practices, programs and decisions of the District, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent.

APPOINTMENT OF MONITOR

On May 26, 2020, I was appointed by Interim Commissioner Tahoe to be the monitor of the Rochester City School District.

REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Chapter 56 of the laws of 2020 requires that the Monitor of the Rochester City School District hold three public hearings within 60 days of his appointment.
- The first hearing, which focused on governance and intervention issues and the role of the State Education Commissioner, the NYS Education Department, and the Board of Regents, was held on June 25th. The minutes of the first hearing is available on the school district website, as is the PowerPoint presentation.

REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The purpose of this second hearing is to explain the role of the Monitor in providing oversight and assistance in academic matters of the Rochester schools and to take public comment on the academic performance of the school district.
- The third hearing will be held on July 22nd and will take public comment on the fiscal performance of the school district.

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Rochester City School District: Total Enrollment numbers

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
28,316	27,552	26,687	26,057	25,669

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Rochester City School District Gr. 3-8 ELA assessment: % proficient

	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19
All students	5	7	8	11	13
Black or African American	3	5	6	9	11
Hispanic or Latino	4	5	6	10	11
White	13	18	19	24	29
SWD	1	0	1	2	2
ELL	1	1	1	3	3
Econ Dis	4	6	6	10	11
Not Econ Dis	13	19	18	30	32

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Rochester City School District Gr. 3-8 Math assessment: % proficient

	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19
All students	7	7	8	11	13
Black or African American	5	6	6	9	10
Hispanic or Latino	7	6	7	9	12
White	18	19	21	25	29
SWD	2	1	1	2	3
ELL	2	1	2	3	4
Econ Dis	6	6	7	9	11
Not Econ Dis	19	18	18	25	31

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Rochester City School District District: % cohort graduating (4 yrs - 8/31)

	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19
All students	51	53	57	59	63
Black or African American	52	55	59	60	63
Hispanic or Latino	44	50	52	55	63
White	62	55	61	67	64
SWD	29	32	36	42	47
ELL	21	23	25	27	43
Econ Dis	48	50	54	56	60
Not Econ Dis	63	68	71	79	81

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Rochester City School District Elementary and Secondary Chronic Absenteeism Rates

	Elementary 2018 – 19	Secondary 2018 - 19
All students	37.6 %	59.9 %
Black or African American	35.2 %	58.3 %
Hispanic or Latino	46.2 %	68 %
White	31 %	53.3 %
SWD	44.2 %	67.7 %
ELL	39.7 %	60.8 %
Econ Disadvantaged	39.7 %	63.6 %

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MONITOR

- Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board.
- Assist the Board in adopting a conflict of interest policy that ensures board members and administrators act in the District's best interest.
- Work with the Board to develop a proposed academic improvement plan and proposed financial plan for the District no later than November 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year and the four subsequent school years.
- Beginning with the 2021-22 school year budget, ensure that the budget is balanced and consistent with the District's long-term financial plan.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board*
 - The Monitor will, by virtue of her position, serve as a member of the school board, with the right to attend all meetings - both public and executive sessions - and to participate in discussions on all matters coming before it.
 - The Monitor is not entitled to vote on matters coming before the Board of Education, nor is her presence considered in determining a quorum of the BOE.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Assist the Board in adopting a conflict of interest policy that ensures board members and administrators act in the District's best interest.*
 - Ensuring that no employee or Board member has a conflict between their official duties for the school district and their outside interests is critical to maintaining the fiscal and operational integrity of the Rochester schools.
 - The development of a comprehensive ethics / conflict of interest policy, in accordance with Article 18 of NYS General Municipal Law, will assist greatly in attaining compliance.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Work with the Board to develop proposed academic improvement and financial plans for the District no later than Nov. 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year and the four subsequent school years.*
- It is crucial to the academic and fiscal stabilization of the school district that long-term academic improvement and financial plans be developed to guide the Rochester schools into the future.
- We will discuss the process of developing the proposed financial plan at the next public hearing on July 22nd.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- The academic improvement plan will contain a series of programmatic recommendations designed to improve academic performance of the district in academic areas that the Commissioner deems in need of improvement. The plan will also include addressing the provisions contained in any action plan set forth by the Department.
- Remember, a plan is just that - a plan. It consists of best estimates, fact sets and decision-making at a given point in time. Plans are subject to alteration as conditions change and must be updated to correspond with present conditions.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- The draft academic improvement plan will be subject to public review and comment prior to being finalized.
- Should there be a disagreement between the Monitor and the Board on aspects of the plan, such matters will be brought to the attention of the Commissioner for resolution.

ACADEMIC PLAN

- In July 2018 Commissioner MaryEllen Elia appointed Jaime Aquino to be the Distinguished Educator to the district. He issued a report in November 2018 with 84 recommendations that the district has been working to implement. It is anticipated that the Academic Plan developed by the Monitor and the Board will rely heavily upon the work of Dr. Aquino.

ACADEMIC PLAN

- The academic plan is likely to create findings and recommendations regarding many of the topics below:
 - District Governance and Leadership
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Special Education
 - English Language Learners
 - Organizational Structure
 - Accountability
 - Human Capital
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - School Climate and Social/Emotional Learning
 - School and District Operations

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Beginning with the 2021-22 school year budget, ensure that the budget is balanced and consistent with the District's long-term financial plan.*
 - Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, the Monitor will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive analysis of the district's proposed budget.
 - A comprehensive review of all budgets going forward will be conducted by the Monitor, in conjunction with the administration and BOE, as well as outside parties, such as NYS OSC, to ensure that assumptions and projections are reasonable and the budget appears balanced.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MONITOR *CONTINUED*

- Provide semi-annual reports on the academic, fiscal, and operational status of the District.
- Assist in resolving any disputes and conflicts between the Superintendent and the Board and among members of the Board.
- Authority to disapprove travel outside the State paid for by the District;
- Recommend cost saving measures including, but not limited to, shared service agreements; and;
- Notify the Board in writing regarding violations of the academic and/or financial plan.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Provide semi-annual reports on the academic, fiscal and operational status of the District.*
 - The legislation requires that a report be provided twice a year to The Governor, NYS Legislature, Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Education on the academic, fiscal, and operational status of the Rochester schools. The report shall include copies of all contracts entered into by the school district.
 - The Monitor will have access to documents and records of the school district, including databases.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Assist in resolving any disputes and conflicts between the Superintendent and the Board and among members of the Board.*
- Usually, when disagreements arise between the Superintendent and board members, or among board members themselves, they can be resolved internally. For such cases when these disagreements cannot be resolved, the Monitor will make every attempt to bring the parties together amicably.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Authority to disapprove travel outside the State paid for by the District.*
 - In the past, there have been questions raised regarding the travel of employees, administrators, and board members to out-of-state conferences. Due to the fact that the school district is operating under very tight budgets, these expenses must be controlled. The Monitor is empowered with final decision-making on the necessity and benefit of travel outside of the State for meetings and conferences.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Recommend cost saving measures including, but not limited to, shared service agreements.*
 - In recent years, the State of New York has made it increasingly easier for school districts to seek out economically-efficient ways to procure goods and services, with the goal being to save money through bulk purchasing in conjunction with other governmental entities.
 - The avenues to do so include buying cooperatives, NYS, County, and BOCES purchasing contracts, Federal contracts, as well as businesses receiving Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification from the State of New York.

MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES - DETAILS

- *Notify the Board in writing regarding violations of the academic and/or financial plans.*
- In such cases, the monitor would notify the BOE of the violation, and request corrective action. If a correction is not made, the Monitor would advise SED for possible action.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Next we will allow persons who have signed up to speak a maximum of three minutes to make their comments and/or ask their questions.

NEXT STEPS

- A record of this public hearing will be made available on the district's website at <https://www.rcsdk12.org/>.
- Answers to any questions that were not addressed in this hearing that are relevant to the topic will also be available in the public record.
- We thank you for your participation in this evening's hearing and look forward to working together with the administration, school board, and the community, to stabilize and improve upon the fiscal performance of the Rochester public schools.