

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Willa Powell, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Melanie Funchess, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: None.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, Deputy Superintendent Linus Guillory, Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Wright, Chief Financial Officer Everton Sewell, Chief of Operations Michael Schmidt, Chief of Accountability Raymond Giamartino, Chief of Human Capital Initiatives Harry Kennedy, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

- I. President White convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
- II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present
- III. **Presentation: 2018-19 Budget Update:** Superintendent Deane-Williams introduced members of the Executive Cabinet who presented an overview of the superintendent's proposed budget for the 2018-19 year, the fiscal outlook for the District, and the Board's fiscal, programmatic, and analytic priorities as they relate to the District's strategic framework.

Members of the Board posed several questions and concerns regarding the superintendent's proposed budget.

Commissioner Hallmark asked how the proposed Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI) program expansion will take place; i.e. will the program be expanded at East High and/or throughout the District.

Commissioner Elliott asked about graduation rates and statements made by the presenters. She asked how much did it cost the District to improve the graduation rate; i.e. what did it cost to improve the graduation rate by 4 percentage points. Commissioner Elliott also asked to be provided with a copy of the statements made by members of Executive Cabinet during the meeting in delivering the presentation on the 2018-19 budget update.

Commissioner LeBron requested information on several areas of concerns. With respect to the proposed expenditure on a Harvard Data Fellow, she asked to be provided with a cost measured analysis of the use of a Harvard Data Fellow, including discussion of the goals and outcomes of the expenditure, how will outcomes will be measured, and how it will benefit the District. She also requested a breakdown of the budget for

Teaching and Learning, including discussion of who would benefit from the 12% expenditure on Teaching and Learning as compared to a 2% spend on Bilingual Education, a 1% spend on Career Pathways, and a 1% spend on Parent Engagement. Commissioner LeBron asked about the distribution of 10,000 devices that were slated to be deployed and prioritized in throughout the District's schools and programs. In discussing online teacher professional development opportunities, Commissioner LeBron requested information on the type of courses that will be offered to teachers and how will the purpose, goals, and outcomes of these professional development offerings be measured. She also requested information on the teacher demographics and the assignment of teachers and other instructional staff members that might be impacted by proposed budget cuts. Commissioner LeBron concluded by asking about the District use of Title I funding in parent engagement programming.

Commissioner Funchess asked for data detailing the assignments of the District's diverse teachers; by tenure area and school. She also asked how the District is going to address disproportionality. In terms of socioemotional supports, Commissioner Funchess requested information on what the District doing to establish therapeutic educational environments; how is this reflected in the budget and how the District planning to increase the number of behavioral specialists throughout the District.

Commissioner Sheppard requested that the Administration provide a comprehensive overview of the District's current recruitment efforts, including costs, goals and outcomes, along with the proposed enhancements that could be realized as a result of an additional \$20K allocation for recruitment efforts. She also asked whether or not there had been a needs assessment of all of the ethnicities, other than Hispanic, Black, and White, to determine the needs of these populations. Commissioner Sheppard also asked about how much money has been allocated for East's TLI Program, are the services being duplicated, and are the anticipated outcomes for the increased resource allocation for the TLI program.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific person was made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 7:35 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 8:45 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.