

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2019

Minutes

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

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Sheppard.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Dan Lowengard, Chief Financial Officer Everton Sewell, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, EPO Chief Financial Officer Carleen Pierce, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

- I. President White convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.
- II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present
- III. **Presentations of Proposed Budgets for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year**

EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms presented the budget proposal for the East EPO initiative. He provided an overview of the programmatic priorities and strategic direction for the coming year, noting that the budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year will be reduced from the previous year. Dr. Nelms stated that the 2019-20 budget reductions will not impact East EPO initiatives. He underscored the historic savings that have been returned to the District, noting that the realized savings do not include all grant funds, operational efficiencies, and salary and benefit savings. Dr. Nelms stated that this year's savings are estimated to be \$2,189,389. He noted that the savings are primarily due to efficiencies in master scheduling, contractual reductions, and the development of internal checks and balances.

Interim Superintendent Dan Lowengard opened the presentation of the District's budget proposal noting that the budget was developed based on the following priorities: focus on racial equity, quality instruction and social emotional support to all students, reduction in the structural deficit, implementation of the action plan from the Distinguished Educator's Report, and an increase in graduation success rates. He also noted that the structural deficit is based on several factors including declining student enrollment and additional and increased student need; including specialized academic services for students with disabilities, English language learners, and social emotional supports.

Chief Financial Officer Everton Sewell noted that the projected budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year budget is approximately \$925MM. He presented the sources of budget revenue along with the revenue trend over the past several years, along with budget expenditures and project per pupil spend. The key assumptions used to develop the draft budget were also presented. In discussing the fund balance appropriation, Mr.

Sewell noted that for the 2019-20 fiscal year, the budget is balanced with the use of \$8MM from the Fund Balance. He noted that the District is taking steps to reduce dependence on the Fund Balance.

Mr. Lowengard presented the proposed staffing reductions. Mr. Sewell noted that the reductions are primarily due to a decline in student enrollment. In doing so, he presented District enrollment versus that of charter schools. Mr. Sewell also noted the budgetary impacts to programs and initiatives of the District, including alternative educational programs, expanded learning programming, and community school initiatives. It was also noted that the District will implement a redesign of special education compliance and support to include the addition of Associate Directors (7.0 FTEs).

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific person was made by Commissioner Hallmark and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 6:05 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 8:20 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.