

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

April 25, 2019

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

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Dan Lowengard, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a student in the audience.

Commissioner LeBron left at 7:05 p.m.

- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion to accept the minutes of the April 2nd Budget Hearing April 11th Budget Hearing and the April 23rd Special Meeting was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Hallmark and Commissioner LeBron absent.

Interim Superintendent Dan Lowengard recognized Principal Laurel Avery-DeToy and the staff and school community of Roberto Clemente School No. 8 for their efforts in improving the school's academic performance and advancing student progress even under receivership:

- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Howard Eagle spoke about the level of funding dedicated towards additional pay resolutions. He also expressed concerns about the Board's superintendent search and selection process.

- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Cynthia Clay spoke about an incident involving her son and an employee of the District. Parent Lachelle Hall spoke about the need for Home Hospital Instructors. Parent Fred Tanksley and Community members Donald Walling, and Donald Bartalo expressed concerns about the Board's superintendent search and selection process. Parent Michelle Smith and Staff members Candace Rubin, Deborah Green, Laura Tai-Maniro, Mark Campbell, and Michelle Mazzola spoke about the need for Home Hospital Instructors.

Student Leadership Congress Report: Student Representative Malik Jaff delivered a report covering discussion topics from a recent Student Leadership Conference meeting. He noted that the group recently addressed the current superintendent search process, selection process and qualities of school principals, and the upcoming annual educational student leadership conference to be held in Washington, DC.

Superintendents Reports: Interim Superintendent Dan Lowengard delivered a presentation highlighting the District's School Community Recruitment events targeting schools with multilingual student populations including Monroe High School, Edison Technical High School and Enrico Fermi School No. 17. Mr. Lowengard also discussed participating in recent training sessions for the District's school-based training teams. He concluded his presentation by acknowledging the efforts of District employees who were recently recognized by Ready to Learn program as leaders in early childhood education, and those recognized by the New York Association for Continuing and Community Education for efforts in promoting adult education programs.

Commissioner LeBron arrived at 7:55 p.m.

V. Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 777-786: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 787: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 788: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 789: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Sheppard dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 790-792: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 799-805: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 4-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 806-817: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 818-819: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 821: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 822: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 823: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 824: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 825: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Davis dissenting and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Resolution Nos. 2018-19: 826: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

- VI. Unfinished Business:** Members of the Board discussed the 2019-20 retreat session calendar.
- VII. New Business:** Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the quarterly change order report and the March 2019 monthly financial report, the motion was seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

General Counsel Karl Kristoff and Board Staff member Debra Flanagan presented proposed revisions to the “Health and Safety Program” policy and the “Safe Schools” policy as Discussion Items for the Board’s review and later consideration.

Citing the Board’s Alternative and Homebound Instruction Policy, Commissioner LeBron requested a quarterly report detailing the following:

- Number of students referred for alternative instruction;
- Disaggregated data of the reasons for alternative instruction referrals;
- Disaggregated data of the number of students placed in each alternative instruction program;
- Length of time between referral and placement in alternative instruction; and
- Student outcomes from alternative instruction.

Members of the Board discussed the need for a series of work sessions to prepare a response to NYSED Commissioner Elia’s comments on the District’s Action Plan. It was decided that these sessions would be scheduled for Wednesdays over the next several weeks.

- VIII. Motion to enter into executive session** to discuss matters related to the employment of particular persons and other matters with the General Counsel was made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Sheppard at 9:13 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 10:39 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

IX. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Davis at 10:40 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.