

Speakers Public Comment Board Meeting March 26, 2020

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comment
Jessica & Russell Nordquist 215-279-0771	Parent	The Future of RCSD	As parents in this district I am concerned for the future. The current budget shortfall has placed a strained system under crippling pressure. If cuts are made we hope that student's social and emotional well being is held as a priority. One can only endure so much trauma and given our current situation, that is amplified. When we all come back together, students will need a greater level of social and emotional support. I implore you to keep those fully funded and in place. If not, learning will not happen, schools will fall apart, students will fall apart, adults will fall apart, families will fall apart, attendance will drop, suspensions will increase, mental health arrests will increase- Our community will be destroyed.
Sara Oliveiri (585)442-2393	Parent	Proposals for budget	There are no rules, no guidelines, no handbooks to let you know how this pandemic will affect our children, families, city, school district, and world. I can assure you for the research that does exist around trauma, healing is how we become whole again. We don't approach trauma with more ELA and Math. We approach it through Social Emotional Learning. As parents we want our children's safety and emotional needs to be met before we can make a significant impact on our children's learning. bell hooks said,

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			“There are times when personal experience keeps us from reaching the mountain top and so we let it go because the weight of it is too heavy. And sometimes the mountain top is difficult to reach with all our resources, factual and confessional, so we are just there, collectively grasping, feeling the limitations of knowledge, longing together, yearning for a way to reach that highest point. Even this yearning is a way to know.” So when we are all yearning next year in our schools and homes because our resources have been cut, our jobs have been cut, our loved ones are gone, will you give us the humans who will put us back together again? Will you tend to our children’s heart minds first? Will you allow them to learn the emotional vocabulary to grow, heal, and learn? Or will you throw textbooks and instruction into our district, our tired and over-extended educators? Will you ignore practices and people who are the healing our ancestors have been reminding us that we so desperately need for our children? How will you live your truth?
Cathy Smith Phone: 585-244-8145	Community	Community Engagement	Moving forward, to engage the community and ensure timely communication and transparency RCSD needs to adopt a policy to continue to hold all public board meetings in live format.
Kevin Baldwin	Community	Proposed Budget	I am looking forward to hearing the proposed budget tonight. I had a great professor who once stated that our budget is our

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			values put on paper. I hope that the budget that is proposed tonight will be an embodiment of the values we must have to serve our families and address the inevitable trauma that we will all face when we are finally out of this pandemic crisis. Please consider the impact that this will have on our students' social emotional needs.
Kristen French 585-764-6579	Staff	2020-2021 Budget Considerations	This budget is predicted to further deprive our students of enriching and supplemental experiences for learning as well as deny them of fundamental resources and rights. This Board needs to undoubtedly reconsider all expenditures, but there are non-negotiable areas: -any position related to social emotional learning including social work and school counseling services, Restorative Practices, and the collaboration with community partnerships. -any positions related to students with disabilities (SWD) to continue to expand the continuum of services, to be compliant legal obligations related to SWD, to implement the Special Education Strategic Action Plan, to be compliant legal obligations related to SWD, and to honor the 3-year consent decree with the Empire Justice Center to bring special education services into legal compliance.

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			-any position related to the Strategic Plan for English Language Learner Achievement and Alignment If this Board can justify spending \$1,560,032 on Security Resource Officers then it can surely rationalize investing in our most vulnerable learners.
Angelica Matias (585)262-8274	Staff	RocRestorative	My name is Angelica Matias and I have been an educator in the RCSD for 14 years now. I am currently experiencing my first year as a member of the RocRestorative Team in our district. During my limited time on this team, I have witnessed the incredibly impactful work of many colleagues (including teachers, administrators, social workers, TA's, etc.) across the district as they move forward the work of Restorative Practices in our district. I have seen and heard students from a range of schools use their voice to advocate for their needs as well as the needs of others. My positions prior to being on the RocRestorative Team include Elementary classroom teacher and Math Intervention Teacher. In both of those roles, I have seen how the social emotional needs of our students have impacted their ability to perform academically. It is my hope that we make decisions regarding the 2020-2021 budget with those needs in mind. We will not improve academic success of our students by ignoring the very real social emotional and equity

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			issues present in our district. With all that is happening due to the precautions being taken with Coronavirus, it will be important now more than ever to make sure that students and families are supported in ways that will allow teaching and learning to happen. I respectfully ask that we think not only of the bottom line during this time, but that we think of the bigger picture needs of the community of which we are a part. How will our values show up in this budget? How will we show that we truly understand and respect the needs of those who have entrusted us to educate their children? Thank you.
Anonymous LVM if no response with full name, phone number comments will not be read into record.			Hi, I am the parent of a student at School No. 58, I am writing to advocate for appropriate social-emotional supports for next year. As you know, we are forced to be home due to this pandemic. This is an additional layer of trauma added to students who are already attempting to process challenges. Students transition back to school following this pandemic event will need significant social-emotional support. Please consider social-emotional needs in your focus for next year.