

Speaker Comment Board Meeting April 23, 2020

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comments
Roberto Ramirez	Student	JROTC Program	Hello, My name is Roberto Ramirez I attended Edison Tech as a senior, I am reaching out in regards to a meeting being held tomorrow about the JROTC programs in Rochester. I am the cadet battalion commander of the program. it would be much appreciated If some of our cadet leadership can take part of this meeting and speak to the board members to give our programs the fighting chance it deserves.
	Parent	NONE	
Claire Spenard	Community	Cuts to the Arts Department	I do not agree with the cuts that are being made in your 2020-2021 budget, particularly in the Arts Department. As an alumni of School of the Arts, I have seen the impacts that the arts have made on Rochester City School District Students and I believe that it would be a costly mistake in the lives of our students. Please reconsider your proposed 2020-2021 budget.
Kyle Steines	Community	Cuts to the Arts Department	I do not agree with the cuts that are being made in your 2020-2021 budget, particularly in the Arts Department. As a (RCSD Alumni) of (School of the Arts & School #42), I have seen the impacts that the arts have made on Rochester City School District Students and I believe that it would be a costly mistake in the lives of our students. Please reconsider your proposed 2020-2021 budget. I will start as saying if it wasn't for the arts in the city schools and their teachers I wouldn't be where I am right now! I started off as another troubled student in city schools, not knowing my calling until I found my passion which is dance! I would always get in trouble and when I found the arts everything changed. Without the arts I wouldn't be teaching at 3 dance studios and Hochstein School of Music! Without the Arts Department I wouldn't of been a

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			volunteering at school #42 helping the music teacher for a whole year, and after that knowing that I love working with kids and that's what I want to do for my career! Without the Arts I wouldn't be a Special Ed. Monitor in the Greece Central School District working on my Teacher Assistant Certification. The Arts Department isn't just a pathway for students working in the arts world it also sets a path to a career. The Rochester City School District always states that they want their students to be successful, and if you get rid of the Arts Department most of the students won't be successful. I know for a fact that I would not be if I was in school still! I want to end this by saying the Arts Department isn't just a special in a school day. It saves lives and keeps students in school and on track for college, then their career!
Claire Foster	Community	Cuts to the Arts Department	I do not agree with the cuts that are being made in your 2020-2021 budget, particularly in the Arts Department. As an <u>Alumni of School of the Arts</u> , I have seen the impacts that the arts have made on Rochester City School District Students and I believe that it would be a costly mistake in the lives of our students. Please reconsider your proposed 2020-2021 budget. The Arts department at School of the Arts has been extremely beneficial not just educationally but mentally to everyone who has attended the school along with anyone who participated in the arts outside the school. From my 6 years attending School of the Arts, I've seen people that without these arts, kids would not have graduated. A balance between creativity and education is necessary for many kids in order to thrive educationally. With the amazing benefits, the alumni have taken from their teachers and from this school, there have been famous actors, musicians, dancers, artists. This school helps kids prepare for college with their art allowing for kids to have the experience they need for their future. Since there are

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			so many different kinds of people with so many creative outlets, this school provides a safe space for so many people. I have had many instances where the Arts teachers took care of me when my family could not. School of the Arts also allows a safe space for trans kids and protects them in a way other schools cannot. Without the Arts in my school, I can say without a doubt everyone's high school experience would be drastically different and we would not be the community that we are today. Without School of the Arts, we would not have the lessons we have today. Without the Arts in this school, a part of the community would be taken away from everyone in Rochester. School of the Arts sits in one of the most Artistic spots in the city. Without School of the Arts, Rochester will not be the same.
Grace Lopata-Linn	Community	Cuts to the Arts Department	I do not agree with the cuts that are being made in your 2020-2021 budget, particularly in the Arts Department. As an (alumni) of (School of the Arts), I have seen the impacts that the arts have made on Rochester City School District Students and I believe that it would be a costly mistake in the lives of our students. Please reconsider your proposed 2020-2021 budget.
Lance Seeber	Community	Board of Education	The Rochester City School Board as a whole should resign their positions before they lose the best Superintendent they had in years.
Alyssa Lindstrom & Tess Meka	Community	Cuts to the Arts Department	We do not agree with the cuts that are being made in your 2020-2021 budget, particularly in the Arts Department. As co-chairs of New York State Art Teachers Association Region 2, we have seen the positive academic and social/emotional impact

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			<p>that arts education have made on Rochester City School District Students and we believe that it would be a costly mistake in the lives of our students. These proposed cuts would reduce access to arts programs district wide, creating further structural inequity for our students. Please reconsider your proposed 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>The Rochester City School District's art department are vital members of NYSATA, contributing consistently to art shows, region meetings, workshops, and many other activities. Last year, Dominic Pickard, the Arts Director, registered RCSD art teachers for a District Membership for the first time. With this addition we became the second largest region in NYSATA with about 225 members. With his position being cut this could lead to not renewing the membership next year. Therefore, the art educators will lose on content specific CTLE certified professional development, access to art education resources, scholarships, and opportunities for RCSD to participate in NYSATA held events. This is a major loss for students and teachers. The cuts to the visual arts program within RCSD should not be made for both the sake of students, teachers, families, and the positive growth of our community. It would be a tremendous loss if these positions were to be cut and would greatly impact the amazing work they have contributed to NYSATA.</p>
Vicki Meek, LMSW	Staff	Social Workers	<p>Dear Members of the Rochester City School District Board of Education:</p> <p>As an educator in the Rochester City School District, I would like to respectfully request that you reconsider the elimination of 32 School</p>

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