

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes Finance Committee of the Whole November 12, 2019 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hallmark (5:38pm), and Commissioner Sheppard (via video conferencing service [Zoom])

Board Members Excused: Commissioner LeBron (flight cancelled due to weather)

Commissioners Elect in Attendance: Ricardo Adams and Amy Maloy

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent, Terry Dade; Chief of Staff, Annemarie Lehner; General Counsel, Karl Kristoff; Director of Information; Brendan O’Riordan; District Clerk, Marisol Ramos-Lopez; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

President White convened the Committee of the Whole as a Special Meeting at 5:35p.m.

No speakers addressing the Board.

Superintendent Dade addressed the Board for the purpose of providing a status presentation on the District’s budget. This presentation was facilitated by a PowerPoint and packets were provided to each of the Commissioners. Supt. Dade started out by highlighting the background to the current fiscal crisis affecting the District, noted the action steps being taken by the Administration and solicited feedback from the Board. Following this, Superintendent Dade indicated that the current fiscal situation was not ideal for long-range planning and advised that the District must address its financial crisis first. He then proposed reductions and efficiencies to several District provisions totaling \$28.0 Million. Superintendent Dade also presented several options for potential staff reductions and recommended a 5% reduction in this regard. Finally, Superintendent Dade noted the need to lobby for additional state funding to assist in solving the District’s immediate fiscal problem.

I. Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting:

President White surrendered the rest of the meeting and the role of facilitator for the “question and answer segment” to Commissioner Powell as Chair of the Board’s Finance and Resource Allocation (Finance) Committee at approximately 6:18 p.m.

Facilitated by Commissioner Powell, the Commissioners posed several questions and requests to Superintendent Dade regarding his budget presentation. These were submitted to the Board’s question log.

Superintendent Dade asked that the Board not include any ambiguity with their input and noted that he required a definitive direction from the Board in order to move forward.

Commissioner Powell concluded the question and answer segment by inviting the Commissioners to state their final stance on the budget and any suggestions they wanted to provide to the Superintendent as he moved forward. There being no further questions, Commissioner Powell turned the meeting back to President White.

President White called for the Motion as follows:

Resolved that the Superintendent's recommended approach to reductions contained on pp. 18-20 of this evening's presentation on the District's fiscal condition be approved.

Motion by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. **Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting and Commissioner Lebron absent.**

President White Closed the meeting by requesting a check-in timeframe from Superintendent Dade regarding next steps. Superintendent Dade advised that there would be further information and updates provided to the Board (and to affected District staff) regarding the staff reductions before Jan 1, 2020. He noted January 1, 2020 as the implementation for any cuts. Commissioner Davis requested that racial/equity percentages be provided in future presentations on staff reductions.

Motion by Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. **Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Lebron absent.**

Next monthly Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole: December 10, 2019