

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Hearing on the Budget

April 4, 2017

**Attendance:** President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner José Cruz, Commissioner Malik Evans, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and Commissioner Willa Powell.

**Board Members Excused:** None.

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

President White stated that the purpose of the budget hearing is for the Board to receive input from the public on the Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

President White requested public comment regarding the proposed budget.

## **Cynthia Middleton**

Ms. Middleton, a community member, asked the Board for information related to the specialized education services provided by the District.

## **Conger Gabel**

Mr. Gabel, a community member, urged the Board to continue providing high-quality summer learning opportunities.

## **Suzie Gutierrez**

Ms. Gutierrez, a parent, spoke about the need for more ESOL and bilingual teachers for the District's HOLA program and other dual language programs throughout the District.

Commissioner Evans left at 6:15 p.m.

## **Giancarlo Giannini**

Mr. Giannini, a parent, spoke of the benefits associated with redeploing centralized services from Central Office to schools, expanding successful programs (such as Montessori education, arts programming, and expeditionary learning) throughout the District, continued funding for extracurricular education, resource allocation for socioemotional supports and restorative practices, and offering a full continuum of services for students with disabilities. He also noted that customer service for parents continues to be an area of concern and urged the Board to appropriately fund and monitor the level of service offered to families.

## **Regina Bailey**

Ms. Bailey, a community member, urged the Board to continue providing high-quality summer learning opportunities.

**Lydia Rodriguez**

Ms. Rodriguez, a community member, spoke about the importance of bilingual education and urged the Board to consider allocating resources to allow for bilingual Reading and Special Education teachers.

**Pia Marla**

Ms. Marla, a community member, spoke about the funding allocation to support restorative practices and socioemotional supports for schools throughout the District.

**Nazir Anderson**

Mr. Anderson, a student, spoke about the need for socioemotional supports.

**Sheila Lebolder**

Ms. Lebolder, a student, spoke about the need for socioemotional supports and how the proposed budget cuts may impact students.

**Jabar Hilton**

Mr. Hilton, a student, spoke about the importance of restorative justice practices.

**Rob Setter**

Mr. Setter, a community member, urged the Board to continue providing high-quality summer learning opportunities.

**Josh Mack**

Mr. Mack, a staff member, spoke about the need for a resource allocation scheme that reflects student needs.

**Ravi Mangla**

Mr. Mangla, a community member, spoke about the need for restorative practices throughout the District.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Cruz at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.