

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes Finance Committee of the Whole January 14, 2020

Board Members in Attendance: President White (arrived at 6:32pm), Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Maloy, Commissioner Lebron

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Sheppard

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent, Terry Dade; Chief of Staff, Annemarie Lehner; General Counsel, Karl Kristoff; Chief of Operations, Michael Schmidt; District CFO, Robert Franklin; Acting Budget Director, Brian Pack; East EPO CFO, Carleen Pierce; District Clerk, Marisol Ramos-Lopez; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

Commissioner Beatriz Lebron, newly appointed chair of the Board Finance Committee, convened the Committee of the Whole as a Special Meeting at 5:33p.m. She noted that President White was in court and would be delayed. As a result, Commissioner Lebron indicated that the agenda would be adjusted to allow the Finance Committee of the Whole (COW) to commence following the speakers portion of the special meeting and would be discussed subsequent to President White's arrival.

I. Speakers: Kristen French, a staff member, spoke about budget cuts.

II. Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting:

Commissioner Lebron welcomed Superintendent Terry Dade to provide an update on the lobby efforts in Albany and a general financial update.

Superintendent Dade updated the Board on his efforts in Albany for "Lobby Day". He advised that two key asks were made:

1. Urgent need for \$25M emergency funding to close the budget gap for the current 2019-20 school year
2. Increase in Foundation Aide share for the Rochester City School District (RSCD) for 2021 and beyond

Robert (Bob) Franklin, the District's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) introduced himself to the Committee. CFO Franklin shared his plan to manage the District's finances more holistically and his hopes to bridge the gap between finance and program.

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Superintendent's Update: Finance

Superintendent Dade shared a Finance Update PowerPoint presentation with the Committee. The presentation featured a spreadsheet which identified an overall deficit reduction for the District based on the efforts taken in by the Board and District Administration in December 2019. Superintendent Dade indicated that the deficit is now at \$37.2M (actual cash). He noted that cost avoidance structures are still being monitored to put additional measures in place to end the year more favorably. Following this, Superintendent Dade noted the need to address the District's structural budget deficit as noted in the 11/12/19 Finance Meeting and that Board *Policy 5153: Parent Preference/ Managed Choice* would also need to be addressed in the future. The presentation then featured a list of upcoming presentations, discussions, events and actions to be taken by District Administration in addressing the budget and appealing for the needed funds, including updates to be provided to the Board regarding the anticipated Governor's budget any subsequent impacts to the District and the magnitude of the District's budget. Finally, Superintendent Dade advised that a proposal for potential school closures would be before the Board for vote at the February 27th monthly business meeting. He acknowledged the short timeline, but noted that this date was especially crucial for Board vote to ensure that these closures could happen on time per State regulations.

Following the Superintendent's presentation, the Committee engaged in a brief question and answer session and discussion.

President White arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Review of the 2020-2 Budget Calendar/ Timeline

Committee Chair, Commissioner Lebron noted several changes to the 2020-21 Budget Review Calendar/ Timeline and pointed out important dates as follows:

1. February 20, 2020- Part I of a two part community training. This Budget Town hall/community training event would provide community members with an overview of how to view, interpret or understand the budget
2. March 25, 2020- Part II community training. Would feature round tables where community members could ask questions about the 2020-21 budget after the budget presentation

Commissioner Lebron noted that the budget review process would be posted to the website and to social media for the public. She also indicated her hopes to develop a true partnership of accepting and sharing information with the community through the budget process this year. Finally, she called for the commissioners to submit their suggested Board priorities to Board Staff by February 4th, 2020. She noted the need to provide the District Administration with clear Board input as they developed the budget for the 2020-21 school year.

Committee Chair, Commissioner Lebron noted the need for a motion to address the finance minutes.

Motion by President White to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2019 Finance COW
Board Approved April 14, 2020

Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Review and Discuss Financial Reports

Motion by President White to forward the December, 2019 Financial Report to the January 23, 2020 Board Business Meeting for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Motion passes 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Action: Vice President Elliott requested that the Claims Audit Department provide a presentation to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to forward the 2019-20 Quarterly Change Order Report (Oct-Dec) to the January 23, 2020 Board Business Meeting for approval. Seconded by President White. **Motion passed 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Commissioner Powell noted that the financial reports for September through November have already been forwarded to the full Board. Commissioner Lebron noted that they would be on the Business meeting docket for consideration. Commissioner Lebron also advised the Committee that the memos to the financial reports had been amended per Board suggestion in the prior business meeting.

Finance Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

III. Special Meeting Discussion Items

Mission Statement Update

The Special Meeting reconvened with a discussion on the mission statement. Newly elected Committee Chair, Commissioner Amy Maloy noted that a discussion would be held at the next Governance Meeting, on January 2st, 2020, to finalize the mission statement. Board Staff will be working to wordsmith the suggestions and provide 2-3 options for consideration.

SRO Public Hearing Update: March 19, 2020

District Clerk, Marisol Ramos Lopez provided an update on the SRO Public Hearing, noting the date slated for March 19, 2020, indicated the timeline and reviewed the requirements for public input. All information is to be placed on the District website.

Action: Vice President Elliott requested for the SRO position job description to be provided and also placed on the website.

Consideration of Resolution 2019-20: 603

Board Approved April 14, 2020

Motion by Vice President Elliott to approve Resolution 2019-20: 603. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Motion passed 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Motion by Vice President Elliott to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:09 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Lebron. **Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Next monthly Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole: February 18, 2020