

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Special Meeting Minutes Finance Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing April 14, 2020

**Board Members in Attendance:** President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Lebron, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Maloy, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Sheppard (8:15 p.m.)

**Board Members Excused:** N/A

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent, Terry Dade, Chief of Staff, Annemarie Lehner; Deputy Superintendent, Lynda Quick; District Counsel, Karl Kristoff, Associate Counsel, Steve Carling; District CFO, Robert Franklin; Budget Director, Brian Pack; Chief of Human Resources, Harry Kennedy; East EPO Superintendent, Shaun Nelms; East EPO CFO, Carleen Pierce; East EPO Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Planning, Lorna Washington; District Clerk, Marisol Ramos-Lopez; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

President White convened the meeting at 6:47 p.m. He also entertained the following motions:

**Motion** by Commissioner Lebron to amend the Bylaws (Article B, Section 10)—that the Bylaws be suspended so that the comments of the first (30) duly registered speakers be heard this evening in the order provided in the said section 10 for 2 minutes each and that all the remaining comments are added and registered and inserted in a record of this meeting and online. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. **Motion passes 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Powell to amend the Bylaws during the time in which schools remain closed due to the Covid-19 crisis, so as to permit speakers to register through the Zoom process and otherwise consistent with the Board rules as adapted, limited for the first 30 persons to speak for 2 minutes taken in the order as required by the current Board policy. Seconded by Commissioner Lebron. **Motion passes 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

President White recognized the Information Management & Technology Team as Heroes of Hope for their work in providing daily online resources, training, and support for digital tools and devices, as well as for deploying 2,220+ Chromebooks to date for students in grades 6-8.

- I. **Speakers:** *Due to the closure of meetings to the Public as a result of COVID-19, speakers will provide comments via the Board Email. These will also be posted to the District web site. This*

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*list reflects the names of anyone whose comments were read/submitted written comments for the record.*

Speakers addressed the Board about concerns regarding the proposed 2020-21 budget. See attached list below. The first 30 of these were read into the record by District Clerk Marisol Ramos-Lopez, and Board Staff Kallia Wade.

## **II. Covid-19 Updates**

Superintendent Terry Dade addressed the Commissioners and provided regarding the District's Covid-19 response efforts. He indicated updated regarding the meal distribution sites and recognized the IM&T Department, security staff and District administration for their work in distributing Chromebooks to students and families. Superintendent Dad also advised about the next phase of deployments—that of Mi-Fi units and the new efforts under the “brick to click” movement. Following this, the Commissioners engaged in a brief question and answer conversation regarding Superintendent Dade’s updates.

## **III. Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting:**

Commissioner Lebron convened the Finance Committee of the Whole at approximately 8:09 p.m.

### Finance Committee Discussion Items

**Motion** by President White to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2020 and the Minutes of February 18, 2020 Finance COW Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

### Superintendent’s Budget Update

Superintendent Terry Dade provided an update on the Budget via a PowerPoint Presentation. He advised that there had been some changes to the 2020-21 projected deficit, indicating that there was anticipated 26.6M deficit. This deficit is attributed to the \$17.5M difference between enacted state budget and draft budgeted revenues, \$1.1M state aid deduction for 2019-20 “spin-up” payback, and the \$8M Fund Balance Restoration. During the presentations, Superintendent Dade also provided updates certain concerns as voiced by the Board including that of School Safety, school closures, and estimated staff reductions in each of the bargaining units. Superintendent Dade closed by noting that in the span of (8) months, the RCSD has had to close a deficit of \$152M. CFO Franklin also provided input on potential Covid-19 realized savings.

Following this update, the Commissioners and District Administration engaged in a discussion regarding the facets of the presentation. During this discussion, East EPO Superintendent Nelms interjected to respond to a proposed \$6M cut to East as suggested by Commissioner Lebron. Commissioner Lebron asked whether there was a renegotiation clause in the East EPO contract that could be enacted due to the financial distress the District is currently facing. This **Board Approved May 28, 2020**

question was submitted to the Board Question Log for response.

CFO Robert Franklin, via PowerPoint Presentation provided further insight on the request for a budget amendment for the current month. He noted several adjustments to revenue including the \$35M budget increase to reflect the accelerated state aid payment (spin up aid), as well as revenue budget decreases totaling \$2.2M. CFO Franklin also pointed out appropriation budget increases to areas of identified current year shortfall, as well as special aid fund-grant adjustments, and adjustments to the food service fund.

### Review and Discuss Financial Reports

CFO Franklin presented the April 2020 unaudited Financial Report.

**Motion** by Commissioner Powell to forward the April, 2020 Financial Report to the April 23, 2020 Board Business Meeting for approval. Seconded by President White.

**Motion passes 6-0 with Commissioner Sheppard absent.**

Commissioner Lebron discussed the upcoming Budget Deliberation Session and noted the expectations for the event.

President White noted a “New Business” discussion topic—consideration of the draft Resolution 2019-20: 822. This resolution addresses the District’s contracts with vendors during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and was in direct response to the State’s Executive Order. The resolution would direct Administration to do an inventory of all the contracts and report on those which the District should not pay and the potential realized savings, if any, as a result of these findings. President White then indicated his intent for this resolution to be voted on in the upcoming Thursday’s meeting.

Finance Committee of the Whole adjourned at approximately 10:52p.m.

The Commissioners considered Policy 6500 to allow Board to waive the provision that the District maintains a minimum unrestricted general fund balance of 5% of the District’s general fund annual operating expenditures, given the District’s current financial strain. The Commissioners tabled the remainder of the conversation for the next budget meeting in order to get more insight on this option.

Commissioner Sheppard requested information regarding the process by which students could go about receiving a work permit during the current Covid crisis. This question was submitted to the Board Question Log for response.

**Motion** by Commissioner Lebron to forward the Quarterly Change Order Report for Jan-Mar, 2020 to the April 23, 2020 Board Business Meeting for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Motion passes 7-0.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Adams to adjourn the Special Meeting at 11:06 p.m., seconded by Commissioner LeBron. **Motion carries 7-0.**

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Next monthly Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole: May 19, 2020

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**ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING CONVENING AS  
CIGR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Student/Parent/ Community/Staff</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1. Naaman Jones the Arts	Student	Budget Cuts to Department
2. Charles Mugisha	Student	Budget Cuts
3. Poe Jee RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
4. Masoud Aqa Jan RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
5. Ayat Al Sallami RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
6. Van Vo RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
7. Kerbyson Ceysaire RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
8. Rawan Khunaifes RIA	Student	Budget Cuts to
9. AaMeanah King	Student	Budget Cuts
10. Sareé Ware Social	Student	Budget Cuts to Workers
11. Suleiman Muhamed	Student	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
12. Rowan Nordquist	Student	Budget Cuts
13. J'Anna Worth	Student	Budget Cuts
14. Bethany Carrion	Parent	BOCES
15. Shawna Schmidt	Parent	STEPS Program

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16.	Htway Nyunt	Parent	Reinstatement of Abel Perez-Pherrett
17.	Tameka Powell Special	Parent	Budget Cuts to  Ed Services and Social Workers
18.	Sarah Peers the Arts	Parent	Budget Cuts to  Department
19.	Anne LaDoice the Arts	Parent	Budget Cuts to  Department
20.	Laura Smith	Parent	Budget Cuts
21.	Jess Gustafson Social	Parent	Budget Cuts to  Workers
22.	Shannon Peck Social	Parent	Budget Cuts to  Workers
23.	Curtis S. Long	Community	2020-21 Budget
24.	Cathy Smith	Community	Budget Concerns
25.	Robert Gardner	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
26.	Rashaad Parker	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
27.	Barbara Brown	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
28.	Lee Koonce	Community	Budget Cuts to the Music and Arts Department
29.	Stuart Hencke	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
30.	Colleen T. Knauf	Community	RIA
31.	Dr. Margaret Quakenbush	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department

32.	Sara K. Rosenfeld	Community	2020-21 Budget Cuts
33.	Dr. Petar Kodzas	Community	2020-21 Budget Cuts
34.	Becky Fox and Scott Weber	Community	2020-21 Budget Cuts
35.	Jessica Miller	Community	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
36.	Emanuel Muniz	Community	Budget Cuts
37.	Sean Smith	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
38.	Andrew Nicolas	Community	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
39.	Alyssa Lindstrom	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
40.	Michael Salzman the	Community	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
41.	Ken Riemer	Community	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
42.	Molly Gaudioso the	Community	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
43.	Breanna Villane the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
44.	Amanda Caminiti	Staff	Budget Cuts
45.	Jeanette G. Creighton	Staff	North STAR
46.	Michelle Sapere	Staff	Budget Cuts
47.	Angela Kraus	Staff	Budget Cuts
48.	Damaris Reinosa	Staff	Reinstatement of Abel Perez-Pherrett
49.	Reyita	Staff	Reinstatement of Abel Perez-Pherrett

50.	Brenda Murray Abel	Staff	Reinstatement of Perez-Pherrett
51.	Leticia Rodriguez Abel	Staff	Reinstatement of Perez-Pherrett
52.	Zhijuan Zhu	Staff	Reinstatement of Abel Perez-Pherrett
53.	Angela Nassimos Abel	Staff	Reinstatement of Perez-Pherrett
54.	Jennifer Woods the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
55.	Caroline Mezzoprete Budget	Staff	Suggestions to Cuts
56.	John O'Neil	Staff	Budget Cuts
57.	Sandra Moody	Staff	Chrome Books for Students
58.	Carols Lowe	Staff	Furloughing K-5 Teachers
59.	Julie Aldridge	Staff	Furloughing K-5 Teachers
60.	Gina Cordaro	Staff	Furloughing K-5 Teachers
61.	Kelly McElveney	Staff	Budget Cuts
62.	Karl Dear	Staff	Teaching K-5
63.	Katie Donlon	Staff	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
64.	Jenna Socash	Staff	RIA
65.	Katherine O'Hara	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers

66.	Lia Caricati the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
67.	Cory Lynn Riemer the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
68.	Nicole Perrine the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
69.	Alexandra L. Pitnell	Staff	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
70.	Korrine McCarthy	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
71.	Theresa Dunlavey the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
72.	Paula Rice	Staff	Furloughing K-5 Teachers
73.	Tamara Sheppard	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
74.	Caroline Howe the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
75.	Sarah Martyn	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
76.	Lauren Piampiano	Staff	Mental Health Education Outcomes
77.	Joann Brown the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
78.	Bridget M. Bell the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
79.	Elvira Papa the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department

80.	Alison Schmitt the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
81.	Jaime Cranker the	Staff	Budget Cuts to Arts Department
82.	Margot Egling Cuts	Staff	2020-21 Budget
83.	Megan Ruller	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
84.	Ashley Holland	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
85.	Tom Rossiter	Staff	Budget Cuts
86.	Sheila Eagan Teachers	Staff	Furloughing
87.	Andrew Knipfing	Staff	Budget Cuts to Social Workers
88.	Andrea Davis	Staff	Chrome Books for Students
89.	Regina Maier	Staff	Budget Cuts to the Arts Department
90.	Kristen French	Staff	Suggestions to the Budget Deficit