

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

April 7, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Ricardo Adams, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron via Zoom Videoconferencing. Commissioner Amy Maloy, Commissioner Willa Powell, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Terry Dade, Deputy Superintendent Lynda Quick, and other Cabinet members, Chief Counsel Karl Kristoff and District Clerk Marisol O. Ramos-Lopez.

- I. **Call to Order:** President White called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and recognized the Heroes of Hope who have been working to serve our students and families during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- II. **Speakers:** *Due to the closure of meetings to the Public as a result of COVID-19, all Speaker comments were read aloud into the Public Record. This list reflects the names of anyone who submitted comments.*

A motion to suspend the Board Bylaws concerning speakers as would permit the reading of only 2 minutes of each written submission was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 7-0.

29 speaker comments were read into the Public Record. The list on Board Docs reflects those individuals their comments and the topics they were addressing.

Vice President Elliott arrived at 5:46 p.m.

- III. **Consideration of Tabled Resolution 881:** Matter was moved to Executive Session.

Special Meeting Discussion Items:

- **Covid-19 Update** – Superintendent Dade indicated that the district was communicating with the Board and Parents with consistent updates. The Chromebook distribution for 6-8 grade students and any 9-12 grade students who did not have one. Meals continue to be served at a variety of sites. The district remains closed until April 29, where the Governor will then decide the date for returning to brick and mortar teaching and learning. Guidance for continuity of learning has been distributed to teachers on how to engage with students; the RCDL Learns platform is being used; the deployment of technology will allow for more virtual lessons to take place; hard copies of lessons are being provided at the food distribution sites.

Board Approved July 23, 2020

- **Budget Update** – CFO Bob Franklin provided a Budget Update on State Action taking place and the implications on local school budgets. He began with good news: the district is going to receive \$35 million in Spin-up aid to be repaid in 30 years. With that funding an independent fiscal and academic monitor will be appointed. Mr. Franklin provided information on the State Budget Impact on RCSD and Implications for the Future: he indicated that by remaining flat in funding the district actually lost aid to the total of \$707 thousand dollars. He indicated that the lunch fund would be running on a deficit with a \$2.5 million overrun due to the food services being provided during the pandemic. He discussed Additional Risk for FY20 & FY21 and Short & Long Term Planning.

A discussion on the impacts of NYS imposing claw-back funding from school districts due to the pandemic was had. There are indications that the Governor may enact claw-backs to cover expenses caused by the pandemic.

Commissioner Powell made a **Motion to Amend Policy 6500** related to Fund Balances to suspend the policy for the 2020-21 fiscal year in an effort to allow for more planning time for the administration to reach a balanced budget this year. Seconded by Commissioner Adams.

Commissioner Maloy **moved to table** the resolution made by Commissioner Powell to April 14, 2020. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting. Superintendent Dade to develop a resolution for the Board to consider.

Superintendent Nelms provided an update on the East EPO budget including the budget adjustments made for FY 20-21 representing a 14.4% reduction.

- IV. New Business – Board Brainstorming Session** – Board members submitted ideas with proposals for savings during the budget process. (See Attachment 1: RCSD Board Budget Brainstorming)

President White congratulated Ricky Frazier who won the 2020 Leadership and Support Award.

- V. Motion to enter into Executive Session** at 8:58 p.m. to discuss the appointment of a specific individual and have a confidential conversation with Counsel seeking legal advice made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Motion carries 7-0.

- VI. Motion to adjourn** at 9:43 p.m. made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Motion carries 7-0.