

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole
Governance Committee Meeting
March 10, 2020

Board Members in Attendance: President, Van White, Commissioner Amy Maloy, Commissioner Ricardo Adams, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, Commissioner Willa Powell, Commissioner Natalie Sheppard

Board Members Not Present: Vice President Cynthia Elliott

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Terry Dade, Chief of Staff Annmarie Lehner and other Cabinet members, General Counsel Karl Kristoff and District Clerk Marisol Ramos-Lopez.

President White called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

I. Speakers Addressing the Board of Education: No speakers.

Special Meeting Discussion Items:

- a) Update on Covid-19 – Superintendent Dade provided an update on the measures being employed and the communication with the County Department of Health, SED, and other local districts.

- b) Pre-K Discussion – Superintendent Dade provided an update on the issues surrounding the Rochester Early Childhood Educational Center. The program has been in operation as an RCSD Early Childhood Center (Program School) for 4 years. The administration was under the belief that we were governed by the guidelines and requirements of NYSED. OCFS has also been aware of RECEC since its inception in 2016-17. He also reported the following:
 - In anticipation of opening two additional Pre-K centers, on February 21, 2020, the District proactively submitted an inquiry to NYSED as to whether the new Pre-K centers would require OCFS licensing.
 - They took this step because when reviewing OCFS requirements, the language was subject to interpretation.
 - NYSED responded to the inquiry and informed the district that they should seek OCFS licensing.
 - NYSED will also be developing a statewide solution to provide guidance to other school districts in NYS who also operate stand-alone Pre-K Centers. Both OCFS and NYSED have confirmed that District Pre-K Centers will not require OCFS licensing if the Center has at least one 1st grade class of students.
 - Grade levels 1-12 fall under NYSED compulsory education requirements; essentially this center then becomes a school/program subject to NYSED oversight.
 - They are planning to offer K-1 Special Education continuum programming at EACH of our three Pre-K Centers in 2020-21.

Board Approved August 11, 2020

- This will provide an extra level of support for our students with special needs.
- In 2020-21, the three Pre-K Centers will no longer require OCFS Licensing.

President White handed over the gavel to Commissioner Maloy for the commencement of the Governance Committee Meeting at 5:59 p.m.

II. Governance Committee Discussion Items

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2020 Governance Committee Meeting.** Moved by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

- ❖ **Live Streaming Meetings**

Governance Committee adjourned and Committee of the Whole Special Meeting resumed at 7:06 p.m.

III. Reconvene Special Meeting

- ❖ **Code of Ethics:** Commissioner Powell requested that this item be added to the next Governance Committee Meeting for discussion.

IV. Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter related to a personnel issue with Counsel was made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Maloy at 7:05 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

Motion to reconvene in open session was made at 7:58 p.m. by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

V. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner LeBron at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.