

Speaker Comments
State Monitor Public Hearing November 18, 2020
Academic and Fiscal Plans

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comments																								
	Student		No Comment																								
Paul Conrow	Parent / Teacher	District Budget	<p>Dear Dr. Jallow,</p> <p>I am the third generation, on both sides of my family, to attend/graduate from RCSD schools. Three of my children attend East High. My youngest daughter is a third grader at school #52. I have taught science at East High since 2001. I am deeply invested personally and professionally in the RCSD.</p> <p>The district's budget has steadily risen since 1992 (see chart below). The city of Rochester's contribution has remained flat as the total budget has nearly tripled. By far, the nearly \$600 million increase in revenue comes from state sources.</p> <div data-bbox="1008 760 2045 1339" data-label="Figure"> <table border="1"> <caption>RCSD Budget (in Millions of Dollars) and City Government's Contribution to the RCSD Budget</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>School Year Beginning In</th> <th>RCSD Budget (\$ Millions)</th> <th>City Contribution to RCSD Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1992</td><td>350</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>1997</td><td>400</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>500</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>650</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>700</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>850</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>920</td><td>120</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>The annual budget book does a great job describing the individual school staffing allocations in section 4. This section provides an easy way to see how each school's teacher ranks change year to year. It is a convenient way for parents to</p>	School Year Beginning In	RCSD Budget (\$ Millions)	City Contribution to RCSD Budget	1992	350	120	1997	400	120	2002	500	120	2007	650	120	2012	700	120	2017	850	120	2022	920	120
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			<p>see if the school's art/music/specials are increasing or decreasing year to year. The central office budgets (section 6 of the budget book) are much less transparent. It is hard to justify some of the larger departments, including the office of the deputy superintendent (formerly the department of teaching and learning).</p> <p>There are some specific budget measures and school configuration perspectives that I would be pleased to discuss with you at a convenient time. I have institutional knowledge that goes back to the early 1990's when I was a 6th grade student in the year that the district moved from a k-6 and 7-12 model to a k-5/6-8/9-12 model. I have taught at East High under three configurations including: 9-12, 7-12 with common bells, and lower school (6-8) upper school (9-12) with separate bell schedules. I hope that you are able to steer this district in a fiscally responsible direction that better serves the interests and well-being of all students. Thank you for your hard work in this crucial role.</p> <p>Regards, Paul Conrow</p>
Sara Oliveiri	Parent	Academic Plan	<p>Dear, State Monitor Jallow,</p> <p>My name is Sara Oliveiri. I am a parent of a 7th grader at the School Of the Arts and a 9th grader at the World of Inquiry. I am also a special education teacher in the RCSD and have been for almost 2 decades. I agree with many of your recommendations, but one of them I have concerns about is adhering to class size. We know smaller class sizes benefits Black and Brown children. We know, yet we are recommending something else? Over the past year there have been cuts in social workers, reading teachers, intervention teachers and pre-12 educators. My daughter spent her elementary years in a school that had the maximum amount of students due to the school's popularity. The system failed her. She is a quiet kid who was able to move through the system without having her learning disability detected or properly addressed. Her teachers were over extended trying to address student disabilities, the effects of concentrated poverty, trauma, and racialized trauma. As a white parent with privilege, I have found more community resources like the Children's Dyslexia center to support my child as I have watched resources continue to be stripped from the RCSD. Less teachers means less choices for classes and opportunity. Over the years I have watched art, music, intervention, sports and so many jobs and programs that directly support children be cut. How will we support children and reimagine education when we return to in person learning? Will there be counselors and social workers to address the effects of trauma students are experiencing? Will there be reading teachers, restorative practice educators, and academic intervention teachers to work directly with children? How will you ensure our school leaders engage in professional learning that addresses Anti- Racism? How will you hold school leaders and educators accountable when work around racism becomes "too uncomfortable for them? Or they feel like being called out is not</p>

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			<p>an opportunity for learning and growth?” What guidelines will the state recommend to allow student voices to be at the decision-making table instead of the kids table? Accountability is strongly missing in the RCSD. How will resources be adequately distributed among schools? What recommendations do you have for the RCSD so students and families feel heard, valued, and seen? What recommendations do you have for the RCSD to ensure their employees feel cared for, appreciated, valued and without worrying about burnout? What will this pandemic teach us about public education and systemic structures that are designed only for some to succeed? How will compassion over compliance be embraced at a state level? What is the state willing to do to support integrity and creativity over systems and structures like standardized testing and operations? I don’t want your standardized recommendation that matches the last person’s who did this job. I want you to present a plan that will meet the emotional and learning needs of all students. I want you to present a plan that honors parents as trusted members of the school community. I want you to create a plan that holds adults accountable if they are doing harm and honors their expertise and profession. I want you to recommend a design that helps children first. Am I asking too much of this public education I want to believe in so much? Please tell me I am not. Dr. Bettina Love said it best: “ To love all children, we must struggle together to create the schools we are taught to believe are impossible: Schools built on justice, love, joy, and anti-racism.” Please consider this when you are giving your recommendations.</p> <p>Thank you, Sara Oliveiri</p>
Iyhana Avent	Community	Academic Plans	<p>I think it would be essential to have an in depth look into the academic needs of the students; by speaking directly with teacher, student, parents , and school counselors and not just through surveys. Speaking directly with the student can provide a better understanding of what things can be impacting their academics. I think it would be essential to have an in depth look into the finances , budget and expenses from previous years; In order to understand where the money is going and to adequately allocate the funds for the 2021-22 school year to what's most beneficial for the students because they come first period</p>
Daniel DiClimente	Staff	Staffing Analysis	<p>Will there be an analysis conducted regarding the amount of high level cabinet and managerial positions in the RCSD in comparison to other Districts similar in size?</p>