

## Speaker Comments December 15, 2020

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comments
	Student		No Comments
Jessie Corgan	Parent	Vote No to Mid-Year Layoffs	<p>Dear Board of Education Members, Superintendent Dr. Myers-Small, and State Monitor Jallow,</p> <p>I write to you today in disbelief that this is the second year in a row I have to beg you to reconsider removing teachers from classrooms midway through a school year. Last year, my son lost his second grade teacher, a wonderful and kind educator named Karen Haak. This year, my daughter may lose her kindergarten teacher, Christopher Dardis. Mr. Dardis taught our son as well, and we were thrilled to know he'd be taking on the monumental task of trying to virtually educate our extroverted daughter who from day one was disappointed about not being in school.</p> <p>I was encouraged earlier this year by the leadership of our new superintendent and the decisiveness of the district in focusing on a sole learning plan for teaching in a pandemic. In a year of uncertainty, RCSD made a difficult, but strong decision enabling our children to start their school year in safety.</p> <p>Now, in the midst of a raging pandemic, with my kids in their eighth month of quarantine, in a district in which board members draw a salary, your best solution for fixing the financial woes is to cut yet more general education teachers? No. Do better.</p> <p>Teachers this year have had to go to enormous lengths to do their jobs with any amount of efficacy. They have become truant officers, tech gurus, and counselors. Any engagement students experience is a direct result of the efforts put forth by these teachers. And yet you would express your appreciation for all this by laying them off mid-year? No. Do better.</p> <p>My daughter talks every day about the things she'll do "after the sickness." At the top of that list? Getting to go to school all day for the first time ever. The pandemic robbed her and us of one of the most significant childhood experiences: her first day of "big girl" school. She hates Zoom school. Every sound she has learned, every sight word she now proudly picks out during bedtime reading is due to the persistence and compassion shown to her by Mr. Dardis. But your best solution for fixing the problems of adults is to take these teachers away from the children that rely on them? No. Do better.</p> <p>Two year ago when my son was in first grade, his teacher, Matthew Glover of Nathaniel Rochester School #25, literally put himself between my son and the sound of bullets being fired. There was nothing my husband and I could to thank this man enough for making our son feel safe when every parents' nightmare was happening. But you can't bring yourselves to give your salaries back to the very district you purport to safeguard? No. Do better.</p>

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	Community		No Comments
Me'Chele Markajani	Staff	Charter Schools	<p>I want to address the issue that has been raised around Charter Schools. I think the statement that why our students are going to charter schools goes way beyond just giving our students a quality education. There are a variety of reasons why and some of which we could control in the near future. Some parents rely on child care. Charter Schools promise parents the world to get them and then once there the promise is not always fulfilled. Last school year alone many charter schools reopened enrollment at the end of the school year and offered child care during covid. They sometimes did this without a real plan in place but to get the students to their schools they told parents this would be a promise. So, they use competitive measure to get our students, but at the same time do offer some child care in which our parents do need. Another big issue around charter schools is around the issue of student behavior. If a parent has a negative experience sometimes with our schools, many times it has to do with a child's behavior in school and the parent does not want to be called about a child behavior or does not want to work with the school around the child's behavior, they quickly jump ship to charter schools. Within a year, those students comeback to us for obvious reasons. One other issue is how our student get into school from pre-school. If we don't have enough room or places for our younger children to enter kindergarten or pre-school, parents then go to charter schools to get their children into school one way or another either to educate them or for day care once again. I know no one wants to talk about a lot of these parts, but these are real issue and needs real conversation. Very few parents leave our district because of lack of a quality education. Please look at all these different reason why first. Nowhere in all of what we talk about in anything has to do with how to get parents to become more interested in their child's education. I wish the only reason we had to compat was giving our students a quality education, but we can't get most our parents even interested in</p>

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			<p>their education, in for conferences, come in for curriculum night to even see the quality of our education even is, let alone wonder if they leaving because they don't think they are getting a quality one. This is where we need to put a lot of our energy.</p> <p>I just want to add another note on the on- line learning. I have a student who does not want to come into class or go onto zoom as he has many anxiety issues and mental health issues. However he wants to graduate. He is a NYSAA student so he does get his education differently but his graduation means the same. You talked about on-line learning for a lot of reasons. For him it's about just basic survival. I offer him all his education online. He has to check in everyday for him to get credit for for attendance and he has to have his work done weekly. So a variation of online learning is so essential for our students. For us to be able to offer our most neediest students support like this is also needed. At the beginning of this school year he did not want to even come to school. That would mean another lost RCSD student and all the years he has put in are lost. So I know what you are talking about for on-line learning may apply differently than my student, but I think we need to consider in the future after covid, some sort of on-line learning to continue like he is. Happily as of today he is now on track to graduate this is our goal, correct? Thank you for your time and to allow me to discuss the many issues above and hope all of it is being heard.</p>
Me'Chele Markajani	Staff	RIA	<p>While watching the end of the December 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting I heard one of the Commissioners give a shout out to RIA. Well deserved! But, I too want to give a shout out:</p> <p>While giving shout outs, A huge shout out to Wegmans and The NorthStar Alternative Education Program along with student doing their 1<sup>st</sup> community service project of the year. Wegmans donated \$450.00 in gift card money for 15 of our neediest family members to receive a Wegmans Gift Card to have a thanksgiving day meal. A lot of our families by the end of the month are out of food and cannot enjoy a nice meal on Thanksgiving. So through the thoughts of students at NorthStar, thoughts were generated on how this would work. The end results was overwhelming. Our parents were so appreciative and our students learned the value to give and work within the community. So shout outs to NorthStar who at times is never recognized for some of the great things going on there!. Thank you once again for listening,</p>

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Me'Chele Markajani	Staff	December 10, 2020 Board Meeting	<p>Dear Superintendent Leslie Myers-Small and Commissioners of the Board of Education,</p> <p>WOW WOW, that's all I can say. I am watching the 12/10/20 board meeting and I am appalled! I am so embarrassed in the way Beatriz LeBron is allowed to talk on public television to Board Members. How dare her? Why is she allowed to do this? She is not a role model to the public. We have parents, students and community member that we want to buy into our district. She calls people names. She comes on and off when she wants to and if she doesn't like someone she says I'm going off now but proceeds to yell while her camera is off. There needs to be some accountability for these actions of board members. She is out of line. People can agree or disagree without stooping to this level. If we want community members to help support us financially we need to act like we have some class here. If they want to argue they need to do it behind doors and not act like children. She is so full of herself that she talks to people with disrespect. Doesn't the Superintendent have authority to take action on people who act like this. You Commissioners LeBron are representing us as a district. Remember that. If I speak to teachers, students, or parents this way I would be fired. I am so upset about this and really don't enjoy watching our board meetings anymore. Thank you again</p>
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