

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

October 22, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

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

Board Members Absent: Vice President Cynthia Elliott

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Lesli Myers-Small, Superintendent Shaun Nelms, Deputy Superintendent Genelle Morris, Deputy Superintendent Melody Martinez-Davis, Chief of Communications and Intergovernmental and Community Relations Marisol Ramos-Lopez and other Cabinet members, State Monitor Dr. Shelley Jallow, Chief Counsel Karl Kristoff; Student Leadership Congress President Ayana Simmons; Board Executive Assistant Francine Scott and District Clerk Kallia Wade.

President White called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

I. Act of Reverence and The Pledge of Allegiance

II. Acceptance of Minutes: September 24, 2020 Business Meeting; November 5, 2020 Special Meeting- PD Session; November 12, 2020 Special Meeting: Work session; Moved by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

III. Speakers:

1. Karen Fellows Sones, Parent, Opening plans/special education needs;
2. Peter Burkin, Community, Bully Proofing;

Comments submitted in writing:

No comments submitted for the October meeting

IV. Advisory Council Reports:

- **Student Leadership Congress** Student Representative Aaniyah Simmons reported on the most recent meeting of the Student Leadership Congress (SLC) planning meeting from October 23, 2020. She reviewed the SLC agenda/discussion items—introductions, community check-in, update on ESSA Meetings and community wide youth leadership project, update on the community wide wellness check-in, reopening focus group and open dialogue.
- **Bilingual Education Council** President Myrna Gonzalez submitted a written report, which was read into record by Commissioner LeBron, and informed about the Board about the Council's activities and agenda items over the past month. The report advised, in particular,

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about meetings with Superintendent Myers-Small and Deputy Martinez, where BEC concerns and expectations were shared. Finally, report also provided a brief review of the happenings of the October 2020 BEC meeting.

V. Board Reports:

Policy Committee – President White reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. A detailed policy Board report was not shared.

Finance and Resource Allocation Committee – Commissioner LeBron reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, October 20, 2020

- The Finance Committee recommended the approval of:
 - **The District’s (unaudited) September 2020 Financial Report**
 - **The Quarterly Change Order Report (Jul-Sep 2020)**

- The Finance Committee discussions during the August meeting focused on a variety of topics and several discussions were entertained:
 - Finance Committee conducted a brief resolution review to vet the resolutions with fiscal impact that are slated for consideration in tonight’s October 22, 2020 Business meeting.
 - CFO, Carleen Pierce presented to the Board on the state of the District’s finances as at October 2020. She started by noted several areas of concern for the 2020-21 budget and the associated estimated cost impact. She also advised about the dilemma with state aid and provided a summary of the facts surrounding what the District can expect regarding anticipated payments. Following this, Ms. Pierce provided details regarding transportation aid and expenses. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, she reiterated the plans for moving the District forward through short-term action plan accomplishments. This conversation is expected to continue in the next November Finance Committee Meeting, where we will gain further understanding of how the District will address its funding challenges.
 - State Monitor, Dr. Shelley Jallow provided a high level overview of the anticipated fiscal plan in development. She advised about several of the components making up the plan and noted her fiscal observations during her residency in the District thus far. Dr. Jallow also raised the points of declining enrollment, high chronic absenteeism rate, inaccurate budget projections, and financial discipline. Following this, she provided additional recommendations and fiscal improvement plan goals with the Committee. Dr. Jallow will be presenting an overview of the academic plan in next week’s ESA meeting and will be submitting the plans to the Board in early November.

- The Committee also discussed the development of a Budget Transfer Policy (policy 6150) and will be revisiting the parameters of this potential policy in the next meeting
- Lastly, the Committee reviewed the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar. This is the first time in several years that the budget calendar has been presented this early to the committee. Built within this calendar are several opportunities to engage with the public on the District's budget, and for the Board to have increased conversations with the Administration as well. While certain components of the calendar may be updated as we get closer to March, we are pleased that the major components of the Budget calendar have been finalized.
 - As a result, the Finance Committee requested a motion to approve the:
 - **The 2021-2022 Budget Calendar**

Motion to adopt the 2021-22 Budget Calendar made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

Governance Committee – Commissioner Maloy reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, October 6, 2020
Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- A discussion on **Board Goals and focused primarily on the development of Metrics**, as a follow-up from the Board's Goal Setting Retreat with Sherry Johnson from the Monroe County School Board Association. The Board voted to adopt the following goals for the 2020-21 School Year:
 - a) Improve Fiscal Condition of RCSD
 - b) Increase Academic Achievement
 - c) Equity

The overwhelming feedback in the October 6th meeting indicated that much work was still to be done to finalize a document that the entire Board can stand behind. It is also important for the Board is comfortable sharing with the Superintendent as she moves forward with the development of her own goals and metrics for the District. As such, the governance Committee added this discussion as an agenda item on the October 13th and 20th Special meeting to gather further input and insights. The Board goals and metrics have now vetted several times by the Board and is now ready for consideration.

The Governance Committee requested a Motion to accept the 2020-21 Board Goals and Metrics

Motion to adopt the 2020-21 Board Goals made by President White. Seconded by

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Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 4-0 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting, Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

- A discussion on the 2020-21 Board Professional Development Schedule. While the details regarding facilitation and time and date are still to be finalized, it was established that moving forward the Board will be participating in informational sessions focused on (6) categories throughout the year: finance, governance, academics, operations, interpersonal collaboration, and legal. We have already begun working from this schedule and held the first session on the Capital Improvement Plan on October 15th with Board members. Special thanks to Chief Operations Officer, Michael Schmidt. Our next session will be conducted by General Counsel Karl Kristoff, on the topic: The Board and Superintendent: Governance vs. Management.
- **The Governance Committee requests a Motion to Accept the 2020-21 Board Professional Development Schedule**

Motion to adopt the 2020-21 Professional Development schedule made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by President White. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

- A discussion on the Board Orientation Manual was also entertained in the October 6th meeting. Commissioners were presented with the table of contents and have agreed that the document is comprehensive and will be an adequate resource for newly on-boarded Board members. The New Member Orientation Manual will also now be available virtually on BoardDocs starting October 31st.
- **The Governance Committee requests a Motion to Accept the Board New Member Orientation Manual**

Motion to adopt the Board New Member Orientation Manual made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by President White. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

Audit Committee – Commissioner Powell reported that the Committee met as a Work Session via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, October 13, 2020

- The Committee received a status update on the financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2020, which is being performed by Freed Maxick. Selected financial schedules required by the City of Rochester were also shared with the Board.
- The Board received a status report on work performed by the Office of Auditor General. The Auditor General discussed three audit reports including: the Building Safety Audit, Textbook Management Follow Up Audit, and Professional Service

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Contract Audit.

- All three audit reports were accepted by all members present.

The Audit Committee requested a motion to formally accept the Building Safety Audit, Textbook Management Follow Up Audit, and Professional Service Contract Audit.

Motion to accept the Building Safety Audit, Textbook Management Follow Up Audit, and Professional Service Contract Audit made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

- The Board will receive the draft Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in mid-November for review and questions. The final CAFR will be presented to the Board at the next Audit Committee meeting on December 8, 2020 at 5:30pm. Freed Maxick will be present at that meeting to review the results of the financial audit.

VI. Superintendents Report:

Superintendent Myers-Small recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, advised about the United Way Racial Equity Challenge and encouraged persons to join, and shared the results on the survey conducted with parents, students and staff on reopening schools. Finally, Dr. Myers-Small recognized the Commissioners for School Board Recognition Week.

Superintendent Nelms shared that East is taking part in the United Way Racial Equity Challenge, provided information on the Monroe County Curriculum, advised about University of Rochester's Commitment to the District, and shared details about digitally enriched learning and virtual lessons learned at East. Finally, Dr. Nelms recognized Hispanic Heritage Month and noted how this was folded in to learning and practices at East.

VII. Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution No. 2020-21: 436: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 400: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting, Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 404: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 411- 414, 416, 417, and 419-423: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 415: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 418: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 425-428: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 430 and 431: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat

Resolution No. 2020-21: 432: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting, Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 433 and 434: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 435: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

VIII. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting – None.

IX. New Business: —New Business Items were considered during the “Board Reports” section of the agenda.

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss matters related to the employment of a particular individual, or other matters permitted by Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law, or to receive the advice and counsel of the General Counsel made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion carries with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. made by made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.

President White advised about the consideration of a walked on resolution.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 437: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board

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seat.

Board members completed the meeting poll.

Commissioner LeBron left at 9:29 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. made by made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.