

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting: Work Session  
November 12, 2020

## MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

**Board Members in Attendance:** President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott (6:05 p.m.), Commissioner Ricardo Adams, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, Commissioner Amy Maloy, and Commissioner Willa Powell

**Board Members Absent:** N/A

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small, Deputy Superintendent Genelle Morris, Deputy Superintendent Melody Martinez, Chief Counsel Karl Kristoff, Chief of Communications and Intergovernmental and Community Relations Marisol Ramos-Lopez, Associate Counsel Steve Carling, State Monitor Dr. Shelley Jallow, District Clerk Kallia Wade and other Cabinet members.

- I. **Call to Order:** President White called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and handed over the meeting to Commissioner LeBron, Finance Committee Chair.

On the onset of the meeting, Commissioner Powell expressed an objection to remarks made in the November 10, 2020 ESA COW.

- II. Commissioner LeBron convened the work session on the State Monitor's Fiscal Plan review. This was facilitated through the use of a worksheet detailing the "shall" recommendations from State Monitor, Shelley Jallow's Fiscal Plan.

Chairperson LeBron, having recognized Commissioner Powell to speak, then interrupted Commissioner Powell and refused to allow Commissioner Powell to finish, forcing President White to restore order at State Monitor Jallow's request. A copy of Commissioner Powell's statement is appended verbatim per Commissioner Powell's request.

One question was submitted to the Board question log: District receive funding from the State for technology and software?

Commissioner Maloy left the meeting due to technical difficulties at 7:19 p.m. and returned at 7:20 p.m.

Board members completed the meeting poll.

- III. **Motion to adjourn** at 9:23 p.m. made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. **Motion carries 6-0 with one vacant Board seat.**

**Board Approved November 19, 2020**

Commissioner Powell's remarks are below:

*"Before we start, I have a question [for Comm. LeBron]:*

*"This is a serious question that requires a serious answer.*

*"Why should this body afford you a smooth and productive meeting after you essentially threw hand grenades at President White for a full 40 minutes [on Tuesday], then retreated to your bunker of no audio, no video?*

*"That 40 minute tirade included Trump-like assertions - without any evidence whatsoever - that other Board members came to the meeting unprepared. It failed to recognize that we had an obligation to go through every recommendation - item by item - so that the public had a full understanding of what the State Monitor was asking us to agree to.*

*"you made it clear for 40 minutes that you weren't going to give President White's process a chance thus demonstrating NOT ONLY your contempt for him, but also for the hard work of staff that compiled the shorthand worksheet.*

*"Like Donald Trump, you have contempt for the norms that organizations adopt in order to foster smooth execution of their duties, and like Trump, you rely on OTHERS to CONTINUE to follow norms of decorum when the tables are turned and YOU become the chairperson responsible for the orderly conduct of this Board's business.*

*"So, ABSENT AN APOLOGY, for wasting 40 minutes of our time on Tuesday night, why should we give you the courtesy of following norms? Why?*

*"Let me be clear: I am confident that this Board WILL conduct itself in a manner consistent with our Code of Conduct, myself included. We will afford you the respect of the position that you refuse to grant others. But it is important for the viewing audience to understand that you have waged an asymmetric war. When we give you the respect of the position of Chairperson, we are taking the moral high ground, for the good of the people's business."*