

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting  
November 19, 2020

## MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

**Board Members in Attendance:** President Van Henri White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Ricardo Adams, Commissioner Amy Maloy, Commissioner Willa Powell and Commissioner William (Bill) Clark

**Board Members Absent:** Commissioner Beatriz LeBron (in attendance but off camera due to medical reasons) and not able to submit an official vote during the meeting's proceedings

**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 Aaniyah Simmons; Board Executive Assistant Francine Scott and District Clerk Kallia Wade.

President White called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed Commissioner Clark to his first Board meeting as a newly inducted Board member.

### 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 as amended. Moved by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

President White explained that Commissioner Clark, as a newly inducted member of the Board, could reserve the right to abstain from voting where he did not feel prepared or informed enough to offer a response.

### III. Speakers:

1. Mary Starapoli, Parent, reopening of schools;

#### **Comments submitted in writing:**

One comment was submitted by Me'Chele Markajani, a staff member regarding Board Member behavior

### 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

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November 18, 2020. She reviewed the SLC agenda/discussion items—introductions, community check-in, debrief of the SLC wellness check-in, legislative discussion, school updates and open dialogue amongst the group.

- **Bilingual Education Council** President Myrna Gonzalez submitted a written report, which was read into record by Commissioner LeBron. The report informed about the Board about the Council's activities and agenda items over the past month. In particular, Ms. Gonzalez noted continued parental struggles with Mifi units and remote schooling challenges, informed about upcoming meetings with Administration, and advised about the cancellation of the November BEC Thanksgiving celebration due to COVID. Finally, Ms. Gonzalez advised about a successful coat giveaway for families, and shared that a special recording on District topics would be posted as a resource for families on the BEC Facebook page in the near future.

## **V. Board Reports:**

1. **ESA Committee** – Vice President Elliott reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- The Committee members provided their priorities from the September 8<sup>th</sup> brainstorm work session. These priorities will inform the ESA agenda for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year.
  - Betsy Hoffer, Associate Director of Student Attendance, presented on student attendance rates.
  - Superintendent Myers-Small provided an update on the AP African American Studies Course.
  - Deputy Superintendent Dr. Genelle Morris, provided an update on the use of the data deliverable chart to assist in tracking ESA data request to the administration.
- Finally, the Committee convened a work session to review a draft of State Monitor Dr. Shelley Jallow's, Academic Plan.

2. **Policy Committee** – President White reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- The Committee members were updated on the status of the Code of Conduct subcommittee.
- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Genelle Morris, presented proposed Policy 4765 Online Credit. Committee members voted to advance the proposed policy as an

information item via email correspondence.

- Board Commissioners were updated on the proposed Policy Manual Update subcommittee. President White suggested that Commissioners wait until a new Commissioner is appointed to move forward with finalizing a subcommittee structure.
- Finally, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, provided NYSSBA Policy Updates. Specifically Mr. Kristoff focused on the upcoming required changes to the records retention schedule and any necessary updates to the related policies.

President White advised about his temporary position as Policy Chair in an effort to fulfill a vacant seat for the position, though Chairmanship was not generally combined with the role of president. President White then shared that Commissioner Clark was willing to take over the role as Policy Chair. The Commissioners then took a vote regarding the appointment of Commissioner Clark to the role.

**Motion** to appoint Commissioner Clark as Policy Committee Chair made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent.**

3. **Finance and Resource Allocation Committee** – Commissioner LeBron reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, November 17, 2020

- The Finance Committee recommended the approval of:
  - **The District’s (unaudited) October 2020 Financial Report**
  - **The First Quarter Student Activity Funds and Elementary Activity Accounts Report (2020-21)**
- The Finance Committee discussions during the November 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 November 19, 2020 Business meeting.
  - CFO, Carleen Pierce presented to the Board on the state of the District’s finances. She noted budget and revenue expenditure trends, provided clarity on the current budget gap and the District’s financial forecast.
  - CFO Pierce, also shared updated data on the charter school utilization and enrollment.
  - Finally, Committee also discussed the development of a Budget Transfer

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Policy (*Policy 6150*) and updates to the Fund Balance Policy (Policy 6500). These policies will be revisited for action in upcoming Finance meetings

**Motion** to accept the District's (unaudited) October 2020 Financial Report and First Quarter Student Activity Funds and Elementary Activity Accounts Report (2020-21) made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.**

4. **Governance Committee** – Commissioner Maloy reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Topics discussed during that meeting included:
  - A presentation of the Superintendent's goals. Superintendent Myers-Small shared her 6 goals for the District—student achievement, accountability, parent and community engagement, healthy youth development, safety and discipline, and diversity, equity and antiracism. These goals are closely aligned with the Boards goals that were adopted in the October Business Meeting, and the metrics shared will allow for clear evaluation of these goals by the Board.
    - **Following the presentation, Board voted to adopt the Superintendent's goals**

Evaluations will take place informally in the spring and formally at year's end during the Board/Superintendent Retreat utilizing the SuperEval NYSSBA recommended tool.

- A discussion on the Board Meeting Poll results as at October, 2020. The Board discussed findings from this poll as it relates to timeliness, board meeting materials, participation, standards of conduct, meeting chair effectiveness, and Board impact. We will be having further discussion on the utilization of these poll results in the next Governance meeting
- The Board also was made aware of the updated Communications Protocol between District Administration and Board.

#### **VI. Superintendents Report:**

**Superintendent Myers-Small** presented an update to the Board regarding the reopening of schools. The presentation featured a note regarding the student-centered focus for the endeavor and reviewed facts about the District's student population. Following this, Dr. Myers-Small provided a timeline leading up to the current proposal and the steps taken to develop the plans shared. It also advised about the considerations factored into the decision making process and reviewed the District's needs. At the conclusion of the presentation Superintendent Myers-Small proposed a pre-K-12 hybrid implementation timeline and detailed 3 phases of implementation. Following this, she asked the Commissioners to weigh in on whether they'd like to move forward with the proposed plan. The Commissioners voted on the plan in order to direct the Superintendent how to forward with the proposals as presented.

**Consideration of Resolution 2020-21: 500:** General Counsel Kristoff dictated a resolution for the Commissioners to vote on the aforementioned plan as follows:

Resolve that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, this district adopt the hybrid instruction of students utilizing the phased- in model outlined in the Superintendent's presentation as recorded earlier during this meeting subject to further consideration as its implementation progresses.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 500:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Powell dissenting, and Commissioner LeBron absent.

There was no East EPO Superintendent's report for November in order to facilitate Superintendent Myers-Small's presentation on the reopening plan proposal.

## **VII. Consideration of Resolutions**

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 448:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 456:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 457:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 460:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 468-473, and 475-478:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 474:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 482:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting, Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 483-486:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 487- 490, 492 and 493:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 491:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting, Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 494-497:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 498 and 499:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent and Commissioner Clark abstaining.

**VIII. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting – None.**

**IX. New Business:** —President White recognized the evening as General Counsel Kristoff's final meeting and thanked him for his service. Mr. Kristoff offered a few words in farewell.

**Motion to enter into Executive Session** at 9:55 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 Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent.

**Motion to exit Executive Session** at 11:05 p.m. made by made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent.

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

**Resolution No. 2020-21: 501:** Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner LeBron absent.

Board members completed the meeting poll.

Commissioner Adams left at 11:11 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** at 11:13 p.m. made by made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner LeBron

absent.