

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting
December 10, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

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

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small, District Monitor Shelley Jallow, East EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, Acting Chief Counsel Steven Carling, Deputy Superintendent Genelle Morris, Deputy Superintendent Melody Martinez-Davis, Chief of Communications and Intergovernmental and Community Relations Marisol Ramos-Lopez and other Cabinet members, Board Executive Assistant Francine Scott, and District Clerk Kallia Wade.

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Laura Jean Shipley, Dr. Jeffrey Kaczorowski, Dr. Jill Halterman, Dr. LeKeyah Wilson, Dr. Brenda Tesini, Dr. Michael Mendoza

I. **Call to Order:** President White called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

II. **Presentation:** Covid Safety in Schools

The group of medical practitioners, Dr. Laura Jean Shipley, Dr. Jeffrey Kaczorowski, Dr. Jill Halterman, Dr. LeKeyah Wilson, Dr. Brenda Tesini, and Dr. Michael Mendoza presented to the Board on Covid-19 and Schools—information for Rochester and Monroe County. Dr. Shipley and Dr. Kaczorowski led the presentation, which detailed the facts about COVID transmission in children and provided insights on the pandemic’s impact on students. The group noted that “schools are not the source of rising infection rates”, and advised that schools are safe for students. They also described measures that could be taken to keep students and families safe and how the healthcare systems in Rochester are working together be a resource to schools. Finally, the doctors indicated how collaboration efforts have been taking place between healthcare systems, community organizations and schools, and directed persons to additional resources and answers to pertinent questions.

The Commissioners engaged in a question and answer session with the doctors. Questions and comments focused on student safety, statistics, available resources, and aid to the District.

III. **Discussion:** Board Departmental Budget Discussions

President White shared the proposal for a 20% cut to the Board’s Departmental Budget. Board members engaged in discussions on this proposal. Commissioner LeBron noted disapproval with the plan and indicated that the proposal was not a true 20% cut to the budget. President White reiterated

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the 20% cut was one that was calculated based on the adopted budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. He also noted that other proposals were solicited from the Board, but none were presented except the proposal currently on the table. Commissioner Clark suggested that the Board could consider the proposal for the 20% cut on the table now and then discuss further cut proposals later on for the current budget. Board members agreed to vote on the proposal presented.

Motion to accept the proposal presented for a 20% cut to the Board Department's 2020-21 adopted budget made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. **Motion carries 6-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting.**

The Board members engaged in further discussion regarding potential additional cuts. Commissioner Maloy shared a proposal to cut Board Members' salaries by 20%.

Motion to accept the proposal for a 20% cut to Board members' salaries made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion unresolved

Commissioners discussed this proposal further, with some members sharing hesitancy for making a rushed decision. President White suggested a tabling of the motion in order to allow for more time to deliberate. Commissioner Clark suggested that the additional time would be useful in order to ascertain the concrete figures related to the proposal.

Motion to table the proposal for a 20% cut to Board members' salaries for consideration at the December 15, 2020 Special Meeting made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by President White. Motion carries 4-3, with Commissioner LeBron, Commissioner Adams, and Commissioner Maloy dissenting.

Action: President White requested that Board Staff distribute the figures corresponding to a 20% cut to Board Members salaries to Board members ahead of the December 15th Special Meeting.

Board members completed the meeting poll.

IV. Motion to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion carries 7-0.