

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Special Meeting Minutes Finance Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing December 15, 2020

**Board Members in Attendance:** President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner LeBron, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Maloy, Commissioner Clark

**Board Members Absent:** N/A

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent, Lesli Myers-Small, State Monitor, Shelly Jallow; Deputy Superintendent, Genelle Morris; Deputy Superintendent, Melody Martinez; Chief of Communications and Intergovernmental and Community Relations, Marisol Ramos-Lopez; Acting District General Counsel, Steve Carling; CFO, Carleen Pierce; East EPO Superintendent, Shaun Nelms; Auditor General, Anissa Henry-Wheeler; District Clerk, Kallia Wade; Executive Assistant, Francine Scott; Board Community Liaison Specialist, Rahimah Wynn; and several members of Executive Cabinet.

**Parent Representative in Attendance:** Rebecca Hetherington

**Guests in Attendance:** Nawrocki Smith LLP

President White convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

**I. Speakers:** *Due to the closure of meetings to the Public as a result of COVID-19, speakers will provide comments via the Board Email or via Zoom. These will also be posted to the District web site. The lists posted reflects the names of anyone who spoke, or submitted written comments for the record.*

- Claire Labrosa, a staff member, addressed the Board about charter schools and funding
- Lianne Dupree, a staff member, addressed the Board about layoffs and safety protocols

Two written comments were submitted into the record for Jessie Corgan, a parent, regarding the topic “vote no to mid-year layoffs”, and from Me’Chele Markajani, a staff member, regarding the topic “charter schools, RIA, and the December 10 Board meeting.

## **II. Special Meeting Discussion Items**

Monthly Claims Audit Report

**Board Approved 1/19/21**

Auditor General, Anissa Henry-Wheeler noted that the October Claims Audit Report from external auditors, Nawrocki Smith LLP, presented in the November Finance Committee meeting was not actioned by the Board. She requested a motion for the consideration of the October report.

**Motion** by Commissioner Maloy to approve the October Claims Audit Report. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 7-0.**

#### Board Departmental Budget Discussion

The Commissioners agreed to address this topic during executive session in order to confer with legal counsel

### **III. Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting:**

Commissioner LeBron convened the Finance Committee of the Whole at approximately 5:51 p.m. and welcomed the Parent Representative, Rebecca Hetherington once more to the meeting.

#### Finance Committee Discussion Items

##### Review and Acceptance of the Minutes

**Motion** by President White to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Finance COW Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Adopted 7-0.**

##### December Finance Resolution Review

Commissioner LeBron opened the floor for any questions related to the resolutions. She noted that Commissioner Questions could be forwarded for a response ahead of the December Business meeting. Commissioner Maloy and Parent Rep Hetherington asked questions related to Resolutions 2020-21: 569, 556 and 565. Commissioner Maloy's questions were addressed by the administration and Ms. Hetherington's question was forwarded to the question log.

##### Review and Discuss Financial Reports

CFO, Carleen Peirce addressed the Finance Committee and shared the November 2020 Finance Report and noted the new arrangement of the report to reflect recommendations made by the auditors.

**Motion** by Commissioner Powell to move the November 2020 Financial Report for acceptance at the December 17, 2020 Business Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Motion passed 7-0.**

##### Presentation: Current District Budget

CFO Pierce shared an update presentation via PowerPoint regarding the District's financial status. She reviewed with the Commissioners updates on revenue and expenditures, as well as

**Board Approved 1/19/21**

scenarios regarding state aid. Ms. Pierce also updated the Board regarding the District's fund balance and explained the various balances that make up fund balance. Following this, she briefly advised an update on the budget development process.

#### Finance Policy Recommendations and Updates re State Monitor Plans

Commissioner LeBron noted the need to address certain policies in keeping with the recommendation made in the State Monitor's Fiscal and Academic Plans. The Commissioners engaged in discussions regarding the following policies:

- Purchasing Policy (*Policy 6700*)
- Budget Policy (*Policy 6110*)
- New Budget Transfer Policy (*Policy 6150*)
- Fund Balance (*Policy 6500*)

Commissioners made suggestions, and submitted several considerations for the updating of each of the policies. Commissioner Powell noted a counter proposal for the Fund Balance Policy (*Policy 6500*). President White noted that this proposal would be revisited in the upcoming December 17, 2020 Business Meeting. In closing the discussion on policies Commissioner LeBron advised that the changes and suggestions made would be folded in via track changes and be represented in the next Finance COW meeting for further consideration.

The Finance Committee Adjourned at 7:42pm

#### **IV. Special Meeting New Business Items**

No "New Business" items.

**President White adjourned the Special Meeting to go into Executive Session** for the purpose of receiving the advice and counsel of the General Counsel at 7:44 p.m.

The Commissioners **reconvened in open session at approximately 8:20 p.m.**

The **tabled motion made by Commissioner LeBron** at the December 10, 2020 Special Meeting proposing a 20% cut to Board members' salaries for consideration **was lifted**

Acting General Counsel addressed the topic and explained that the proposal could not be addressed at this point in the fiscal year.

Commissioner LeBron requested that the motion be withdrawn, with the understanding that the proposal be readdressed at the next opportune time during the budget season.

President White requested that the topic be referred and revisited for discussion in the next Governance Committee Meeting.

The Board completed the meeting poll.

**Commissioner LeBron left at 8:30 p.m.**

**Board Approved 1/19/21**

**Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Maloy at 8:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Clark.  
**Motion passed 6-0 with Commissioner LeBron absent.**

Next monthly Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole: January 19, 2021

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