

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

ESA Work Session Minutes  
Via Zoom Video Conferencing  
November 10, 2020

**Board Members in Attendance:** President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner LeBron, Commissioner Maloy, and Commissioner Powell

**Board Members Absent:** Vice President Elliott

**Parent Representative in Attendance:** Yvonne Clinkscales

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent Myers-Small; State Monitor, Dr. Shelley Jallow; Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Genelle Morris; Deputy Superintendent of Student Support, Melody Martinez-Davis; Chief of Communications, Marisol O. Ramos-Lopez; District Counsel, Karl Kristoff; Associate Director of Attendance, Elizabeth (Besty) Hoffer; District Clerk, Kallia Wade, Board Community Liaison Specialist, Rahimah Wynn; and other Cabinet members.

President White convened the meeting at 5:34 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.*

- Kack Peltz, a parent, addressed the Board about attendance
- Daniel Delehanty, a parent, addressed the Board about the reopening of schools
- Sandra Boehlert, a community member, addressed the Board about the reopening of schools
- Meghan Delehanty-Reddington, a staff member, addressed the Board about the reopening of schools

There were no written comments submitted into the record.

The Board engaged in discussion regarding the timing provided for speakers addressing the Board.

**Motion** by Commissioner Powell to change the time allotted to speakers from 2 minutes back to 3 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

## II. Special Meeting Discussion Items

**Board Approved 1/12/21**

## CIGR

External Claims Auditors, Darin Iacobelli, Richard Vitulli, and Dimitris Bantileskas from Nawrocki Smith LLP presented the Board with the Claims Audit Report for October 2020. The Commissioners engaged in a brief question and answer session regarding the report. Following this, the Auditor General, Anissa Henry-Wheeler, engaged the Commissioners in a brief discussion regarding the regularity of claims audit reports and the expectations for the Nawrocki Smith group. The Commissioners agreed to receive quarterly in-person reports, with monthly reports emailed. A schedule will be drafted up accordingly and shared.

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

The ESA Work Session convened at 6:02 p.m.

#### ESA Committee Discussion Topics:

##### Review and Acceptance of the Minutes

**Motion** by Commissioner Maloy to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 and October 27, 2020 ESA COW Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott absent and one vacant Board seat.**

#### Standing Item:

##### Student Absentee Rate

President White introduced Deputy Superintendent Martinez-Davis to provide a Student Attendance presentation. Ms. Martinez-Davis stated this will be a standing item and introduced Associate Director of Student Attendance, Elizabeth (Besty) Hoffer, who provided the presentation on the current student absentee rates. A discussion ensued regarding the data provided. Commissioner LeBron asked about the discrepancies between the charts. Ms. Hoffer explained that COVID has impacted how attendance is tracked as attendance can be updated if work is submitted showing students were engaged in learning for the day. Commissioner LeBron questioned the impact attendance has upon finances and revenue. Ms. Hoffer reported it impacts accountability, but was unsure of the specific formula. Commissioner LeBron will submit a question for the Question Log via email. Commissioner Powell asked several questions regarding the use of the presented data. Specifically, how are resources redirected if results do not change and how will the data be used to improve all schools?

Superintendent Myers-Small reported the data is reviewed during weekly Cabinet meetings along with how the data is utilized at District and School level. Parent Rep, Yvonne Clinkscales suggested the District lean into community supports regarding attendance efforts.

#### ESA Discussion Items:

##### African and African American Studies AP Course

President White introduced Superintendent Myers-Small to present on the development of an African and African-American AP Course.

**Board Approved 1/12/21**

Commission Powell noted the College Board is a private entity and asked what the role of the Board of Regents is. Dr. Myers-Small has reached out to NYSED and they are supportive.

#### Brainstorm: ESA Work Plan

President White introduced a work session, led by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Morris to prioritize 2020-21 ESA priorities. The priorities will inform the ESA Committee's agenda and work for the coming school year. Each Commissioner provided their top 5 priorities.

#### Brainstorm: ESA Data Reporting Schedule

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Genelle Morris reintroduced the reporting schedule which will track the data associated with the chosen priorities as well as connect to presentations. Dr. Morris asked if there were any additional academic data sets the Board would like to have available.

President White suggested a 5 minute break before the Board began the Work Session on the State Monitor's Academic Plan.

ESA Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm

The Commissioners engaged in a 5 minute break before convening the remainder of the Special meeting.

#### **IV. New Business (as needed)**

##### Work Session: State Monitor Academic Plan Review

President White led Commissioners through a work session dedicated to reviewing the recommendations in the State Monitor's Academic Plan. Commissioner discussed all "Shall" required recommendations and documented their decisions via a spreadsheet document.

Commissioner LeBron the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Adams at 10:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner LeBron absent and one vacant Board seat.**

**Board Approved 1/12/21**