

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

January 21, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

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

Board Members Absent: President Van Henri White

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Lesli Myers-Small, Superintendent Shaun Nelms, East EPO Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Planning Lorna Washington, 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, General Counsel Steven Carling; Student Leadership Congress President Aaniyah Simmons; and District Clerk Kallia Wade.

Vice President Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Act of Reverence and The Pledge of Allegiance

II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** January 4, 2021 Organizational Meeting. Moved by Commissioner Clark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

III. Speakers:

1. Jack Peltz, parent, in-person education for 7-12th graders
2. Mary Staropoli, parent, reopening of schools
3. Peter Burkin, community member, eradicate bullying
4. Anthony McCabe, staff, reopening of schools

Comments submitted in writing:

There were no written comments submitted into the record.

IV. Presentation on the Preliminary Settlement of the Special Education Class Action Lawsuit

Alison Moyer and Yolanda Asamoah-Wade, District Counsels, as well as representatives from Empire Justice led a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary settlement in the NN v RCSD case (also called the Consent Decree case). All materials related to this case and presentation may be accessed by visiting a designated page of the District's website here: <https://www.rcsdk12.org/NNvRCSD>.

V. 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

Board Approved February 25, 2021

January 20, 2021. She reviewed the SLC agenda/discussion items—introductions, community check-in, Superintendent’s Forum, president’s announcements, and sustainability measures. She noted support for the resolutions following resolutions from the standpoint of an advisory vote:

- **Resolution No. 2020-21: 627**
 - **Resolution No. 2020-21: 633**
 - **Resolution No. 2020-21: 635**
 - **Resolution No. 2020-21: 639**
- **Bilingual Education Council-** Mrs. Angelica Perez-Delgado presented the BEC report on behalf of BEC President, Myrna Gonzalez. The report highlighted several topics, but focused on the need to overcome challenges faced as a result of Covid-19, and concerns about learning loss. She also noted the BEC’s reaction to the resignation of Monroe’s Principal Ms. Chevalier-Blackman. She shared to Committee’s gratitude to the principal for her service, and reminded the Board to include the Committee in the selection process of a new permanent principal for Monroe.
 - **Parent Leadership Advisory Council-** no PLAC report was submitted for the January Business Meeting.

VI. 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, January 12, 2021.

Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- The January ESA meeting included several informative presentations, Student Attendance; School Spotlight: Monroe; Special Education: Transition Planning and Graduation; Community Schools; and Data and Accountability.
- Commissioners engaged in robust discussions related to the presented topic matters and request were made for future presentations, including a focus on attendance improvement strategies and chronic absenteeism.

2. **Policy Committee** – Commissioner Powell reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- Acting General Counsel Steve Carling, introduced Student Voter Registration Policy (*Policy 5605*). Committee members voted to advance the proposed policy out of Policy Committee as an information item.
- Board staff provided an update on the policy manual update process which began

Board Approved February 25, 2021

this month.

- Finally, Acting General Counsel Steve Carling, informed there are no new NYSSBA updates.

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, January 19, 2021

- The Finance Committee recommended the approval of:
 - **The District’s (unaudited) December 2020 Financial Report**
 - **Second Quarter Change Order Report (Oct-Dec 2020)**
- The Finance Committee discussions during the meeting focused on a variety of topics and several discussions were entertained:
 - January & February 2021 Finance Resolutions Review
 - December 2020 Financial Report and Trend Analysis
 - PD Presentation: Title Funds and Fiscal Practices
 - A review of the Finance Policy Recommendations and Updates re State Monitor Plans:
 - Purchasing Policy (Policy 6700)
 - Budget Policy (Policy 6110)
 - New Budget Transfer Policy (Policy 6150)
 - Fund Balance (Policy 6500)

Following the review of the purchasing policy, language for purchasing in the correction facilities will be removed. However, the Board has agreed to write a letter as body to the NYS legislatures ensuring they review and act to remove that requirement from the law, so that no schools in NYS also face this requirement. The Budget policy, new budget transfer and Purchasing policy have been forwarded out of the Committee as first Discussion items in tonight’s meeting. We will revisit the Fund Balance Policy in the January 26, 2021 Special Meeting.

- Other Discussion Items:
 - January & February 2021 Finance Resolutions Review
 - 2021-22 Budget Calendar Amendment- as a result of time constrictions we weren’t able to address this topic in Finance. So it has been added for discussion in the new business section of the Board Meeting tonight.

Motion to accept the District’s (unaudited) December 2020 Financial Report and Second Quarter Change Order Report (Oct-Dec 2020) made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. **Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.**

4. **Governance Committee** – Commissioner Maloy reported that the Committee met as a Committee of the Whole via Zoom Video Conferencing on Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Board Approved February 25, 2021

Topics discussed during that meeting included:

- An update presentation on the Commissioner Onboarding Process and Standards of Procedures. In order to address action items listed in the State Monitor’s Fiscal and Academic Plans District Clerk Wade shared changes that have been made to enhance the onboarding process for newly appointed commissioners. This process is closely aligned to Policy 2510, which dictates the actions to be taken to orient new members to their role on the Board. Our enhanced process now features orientation-based meetings not just with the major departments and members of the administration within the District, but also with the Board’s advisory groups. As an added feature, the Board orientation process now also includes definitive timelines to allow for better tracking of completion.
- The next discussion focused on the Board liaisons to preschool programs. As many may know, the Board has a longstanding practice of assigning liaisons the District schools. This allows for a unique relationship to be built between Board members and the communities and schools they serve. However, preschools are traditionally not a part of this process. In response to Administration’s identification of this gap, Commissioner Adams has now been appointed as the liaison to Rochester Early Childhood Center, and Commissioner Powell, who is already the liaison to School No. 33, will be the liaison to their preschool program.
- During the Governance Meeting, we also discussed Board resources. Traditionally, the Board utilizes the unabridged version of the Roberts Rules as a textbook for Board meeting proceedings. However, acting General Counsel Carling shared that it may be more useful to refer to the “In Plain English” version of the text. This version is more aligned to smaller Boards such as our own and would be an asset. Board members may purchase a copy for personal use or speak with Board staff regarding acquiring a copy
- In respect to time constraints the discussion item on BOE Compensation (related to Resolution 2005-6: 420) was been tabled to our February meeting. We will revisit the topic at that time and also provide a promised update on the Board Poll

VII. Superintendents Report:

Superintendent Myers-Small presented another update to the Board regarding the reopening of schools. Dr. Myers-Small also advised provided an update on the most recently released graduation data and provided a refresher on her annual goals for the District. Following this, she provided Covid-19 updates, updates on hybrid learning and professional development, updates on teaching and learning, and updates on the State Monitor Academic and Fiscal Plans. Dr. Myers-Small closed with an update on the IB program at Wilson and a recognition of School Board Appreciation Month.

Superintendent Nelms presented an update on the use of Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy CRRP at East EPO.

VIII. Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution No. 2020-21: 601: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner LeBron. Commissioner Clark. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner LeBron dissenting and President White absent.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 602-622: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 626-628: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Clark. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting, and President White absent.

Resolution No. 2020-21: 629: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 630-635: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with President White absent.

Commissioner Adams left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Resolution Nos. 2020-21: 636-650: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Adopted 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Adams absent.

IX. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting – N/A

X. New Business:

Consideration of the Updated 2021-22 Budget Calendar. Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Adopted 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Adams absent.

The following proposed policy items are slated for discussion (First Reading) in the January 21, 2021 Business Meeting :

- Budget Policy (Policy 6110)
- New Budget Transfer Policy (Policy 6150)
- Student Voter Registration Policy (Policy 5605)
- Purchasing Policy (Policy 6700)- suggestion made and verified by General Counsel Carling, to update the policy verbiage to reflect “or any other legally required procurement entity” in the section on procurement vendors.

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:45 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.

Board Approved February 25, 2021

Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Motion carries 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Adams absent.

Commissioner Adams returned to the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 10:34 p.m. made by Commissioner LeBron. Seconded by Commissioner Clark. Motion carries 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Adams absent.

Board members completed the meeting poll.

Motion to adjourn at 10:36 p.m. made by Commissioner Maloy. Seconded by Commissioner LeBron. Motion carries 5-0 with President White and Commissioner Adams absent.