

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2018

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Powell, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Melanie Funchess, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Beatriz LeBron.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Deane-Williams, Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Deputy Superintendent Cecilia Golden, Chief Financial Officer Everton Sewell, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

II. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item

No speakers were present.

Commissioner Funchess left at 5:40 p.m.

Meeting recessed from 5:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

III. Discussion of Connected Communities Resources

President White opened discussion of the District's use of resources secured by Connected Communities. Commissioner Sheppard introduced LaShunda Leslie-Smith, Executive Director of Connected Communities, who discussed resources secured by Connected Communities and available for use by the District. In discussing the resources, Ms. Leslie-Smith spoke of the efforts of Connected Communities to address the needs of the EMMA and Beechwood neighborhoods. She stated that the organization has been able to secure approximately \$637K to develop a community engagement team with assistance from Coordinated Care Services, Inc. Ms. Leslie-Smith noted that the resources are also designed to support staffing resources to facilitate community engagement and the overall enhancement of the community schools model. She added that the position would also work to address the needs of children effected by trauma.

Citing historical concerns, Commissioner Elliott expressed concerns about gentrification. Ms. Leslie-Smith noted that she has made several attempts to meet with Board members to address their individual concerns. She stated that Connected Communities has commissioned several reports to highlight the efforts to develop without displacement.

President White thanked Ms. Leslie-Smith for her efforts, and noted that the Board would not consider the use of resources secured by Connected Communities until the concerns of members of the Board could be addressed.

President White convened a Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole at 6:40 p.m. to discuss the “Investing in Student and School Success: Innovative Ideas for Reinvesting Resources in the Rochester City School District” Budget Deficit Plan, proposed projects for Phase III of the facilities modernization program, and financial reports and budget amendments.