

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting
July 30, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Cynthia Elliott (6:58pm), Commissioner Ricardo Adams, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, Commissioner Amy Maloy, Commissioner Willa Powell, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small, District Monitor Shelley Jallow, Acting District CFO Carleen Pierce, Chief of Operations Michael Schmidt, Chief of Communications Carlos Garcia, East EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, East EPO Ass. Superintendent Lorna Washington, Chief Shirley Green, Chief Carmine Peluso, Chief Counsel Karl Kristoff, Deputy General Counsel Steven Carling, Director of Learning Tim Johnsen and District Clerk pro tem and Community Liaison Specialist to the Board Kallia Wade.

- I. **Call to Order:** President White called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- II. **Speakers:** *Speakers List - –Due to the closure of meetings to the Public as a result of COVID-19, all Speaker comments will be provided via Zoom Teleconference.*

No Speakers

- III. Presentation: Reopening Plan

Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small presented the “School Year 2020-2021 RCSD Reopening Plan” presentation as prepared via PowerPoint. She noted that this presentation summarizes the plan that is to be submitted to New York State by Friday, July 31st, 2020. The presentation denoted actions that District Administration planned to address and/or take for opening as it relates to:

- Teaching and learning
- Communication/family and community engagement
- Health and safety
- Child nutrition
- Transportation
- Social emotional wellbeing
- School extracurricular and interscholastic activities
- Attendance and chronic absenteeism
- Technology and connectivity
- Bilingual education and world languages
- COVID-19 task force (and subcommittees)

The presentation also provided insights on the decision rationale for the above as well as next steps.

Board Approved August 27, 2020

The Commissioners and Administration engaged in a question and answer session regarding the presentation. Commissioners asked questions related to remote learning provisions, supplies and resources, training for social emotional supports, special education students, childcare, social distancing and mask wearing using District transportation, safety of students, parent hotline for resources and the involvement of unions

Questions for the Question Log:

Commissioner Sheppard: Have there been any significant changes in enrollment at the District during this time (Covid-19)?

IV. Presentation: Covid-19 Assistance/ Funding

Acting District CFO, Carleen Pierce addressed the Board regarding funding resources available to the District:

- CARES Act Funding
- FEMA Funding
- 2019-20 Carryover

CFO Pierce noted the CARES Act equitable share requirements and allocations and how to calculate each, as well as eligible uses for GEER and ESSER funding. She went on to note the proposed development plan for the CARES Act funding and then went into detail about FEMA requests for public assistance and allowable projects as well as eligible activities under this funding mechanism. Finally, CFO Pierce closed out the presentation noting the available \$575K in personal protective equipment as carryover from 2019-20.

The Commissioners engaged in a question and answer session with CFO Pierce. Questions and comments focused on PPE shortage and availability to the District, PBET food stamps for families and Free and Reduced Price Lunch for schools, the sharing of resources with parochial schools, FEMA paid leave provisions, the maintenance of effort and possible impact to the District Budget

Questions for the Question Log:

President White: What are the implications of receiving this funding for the District budget?

CFO Peirce noted words of caution regarding the usage of grant funding to supplement the District budget.

- V. Executive Session:** At 8:00 p.m., the Special meeting recessed into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal counsel from the District Attorney.
- VI.** At 8:45 p.m., the meeting resumed in open session
- VII. Motion to adjourn** at 8:57 p.m. made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Maloy. Motion carries 7-0.