

**Rochester School Board**  
Special School Board Minutes  
School Department Boardroom #1  
March 23, 2017

DRAFT

**Members Present:**

Mr. Paul Lynch, Chair  
Mr. Raymond Turner  
Mr. Thomas J. Jean  
Mrs. Karen Stokes  
Mr. Matthew Pappas  
Mrs. Audrey Stevens  
Ms. Julie Brown  
Mrs. Jennifer Bryant  
Mr. Travis Allen  
Mr. Robert Watson  
Ms. Nichole Gupta  
Mr. Thomas O'Connor  
Mrs. Amy Malone

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Mr. Michael Hopkins, Superintendent  
Mr. Kyle Repucci, Asst. Superintendent  
Ms. Linda Casey, Business Administrator  
Ms. Marilyn Martell, Executive Secretary  
District Administrators  
Public

Mr. Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on a roll call with a quorum present. Members participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Amber Bower, Nancy Loud School parent, previously voiced concerns with joint classrooms. Mrs. Bower had questions that she would like to get answers to; how much of the funding from the Waste Management Contract will be going into the school budget, a portion should; and who determines how much of the tax increase goes to the School Department?

Mr. Jake Smith, Nancy Loud School parent asked what cuts the City has made in the past few years; wasn't an entire Legal Department added? Would like to see families stay in the school community with a full and functioning staff. With continued cuts in school budget, people will not want to stay in Rochester.

**FY 2018 Budget Presentation**

**Operating Budget**

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of the FY 2018 Operating Budget in the amount of \$60,840,549.

Mr. Turner inquired how far over this budget is from having a Tax Cap Budget. Ms. Casey responded the budget as presented as \$1,375,229 over the tax cap. Mr. Hopkins indicated that confirmation had been received regarding health insurance rates; that caused a reduction since first reading of the Operating Budget.

Mr. Turner expressed concerns with moving forward with submitting a budget that does not meet the Tax Cap. There were no modifications or cuts done although several options were suggested, no changes were made; feels that due diligence was not done by the Board.

Mr. Lynch responded that he was not comfortable with reductions to reach Tax Cap; continually making cuts will be detrimental and a harm to students' learning. Collectively if anyone objects to the Operating Budget as recommended they should speak to it. He feels due diligence was taken by the Board with a focus on students continued academic opportunities and sustainability.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding concerns with the impact to students submitting a Tax Cap Budget; and the need to bring this forward to City Council to make them aware of the impact further reductions would have as a whole.

Mr. Jean brought forward the fact that \$830,000 was reduced out of the budget without City Council or Board control; \$500,000 retirement expense downshifted from the State to municipalities and \$330,000 in revenue.

Discussion regarding per pupil costs being \$1,800 lower than the State average; clearly shows that we are not overspending. Our budget is not too high, the Tax Cap Formula limits funds. Board members understand the purpose of the Tax Cap, but feel there has to be other options to help support continuing services to the students and families in Rochester.

A roll call vote was called.

YES: Ms. Brown, Ms. Guptel, Mr. Pappas, Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Watson, Mrs. Bryant, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Jean, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Stevens

NO: Mr. Turner

The motion carried with at 12:1 vote.

#### CIP Budget

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of the FY 2018 CIP Budget in the amount of \$24,774,127.

A roll call vote was called.

YES: Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Bryant, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Brown, Mr. Allen, Mr. Turner, Mr. Jean, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Watson, Mr. Pappas, Ms. Guptel, Mrs. Stevens

NO: None

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Food Service Budget

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of the FY 2018 Food Service Budget in the amount of \$1,800,000. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Grants Budget

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Allen, the Board approve the FY 2018 Grants Budget in the amount of \$3,571,000. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Other

None.

#### Adjournment

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to adjourn. On a unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Hopkins  
Board Secretary