



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
89 Washington Avenue, Room 111
Albany, New York 12234

E-mail: commissioner@nysed.gov
Twitter: @NYSedNews
Tel: (518) 474-5844
Fax: (518) 473-4909

May 19, 2021

Mr. Van Henri White, President
Rochester City School District
131 W. Broad Street,
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Mr. White:

In accordance with Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020, the academic and fiscal monitor was appointed to the Rochester City School District ("the District"), Dr. Shelley Jallow, has provided me with her findings regarding the District's proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year. Using the State-enacted budget as the basis for her analysis, Dr. Jallow has found the District's proposed budget to be balanced in the context of revenue and expenditure estimates. Dr. Jallow has also found that the proposed District budget provides adequate resources for mandated programs and there is consistency between the proposed budget and the District's approved academic and financial plans. Dr. Jallow has shared these findings with you and the other members of the Board of Education.

Dr. Jallow has recommended that I place special conditions on the District's use of federal stimulus funds due to the District's historical failure in consistently developing a balanced budget and implementing the majority of the recommendations in the monitor's fiscal and academic plans for reducing expenses, increasing revenue, and improving academic outcomes.

I have accepted Dr. Jallow's recommendation, and hereby provide notice of the New York State Education Department's intent to impose specific conditions on the use of Rochester's Federal stimulus funds. This is necessary to ensure that the funds are not diverted to address any structural imbalances in the District's general aid budget over time. These conditions may include:

- Requiring payments as reimbursements rather than advance payments;
- Withholding authority to proceed to the next phase until receipt of evidence of acceptable performance within a given period of performance;
- Requiring additional, more detailed financial reports;
- Requiring additional project monitoring;
- Requiring technical or management assistance; or
- Establishing additional prior approvals.

The specific conditions that will be imposed on the District will be contained in the formal Grant Award Notices that will be sent to the District upon approval of the District's applications for funding.

As Dr. Jallow has indicated, the 2021-22 school year is an unusual one in terms of the unprecedented infusion of State and Federal resources into the District. The Board of Education must be diligent in ensuring that the District remains on track to long-term fiscal stability once these resources are no longer available.

I appreciate the work that the District has done to develop a proposed budget that the monitor has found to be balanced. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all students in the District receive the support they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty A. Rosa", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner

c: Lesli Myers-Small
Shelley Jallow
Kim Wilkins