

# RCSD mulls rolling back Dade's budget proposals

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The Rochester school board Tuesday accepted the resignation of Superintendent Terry Dade, then went on to hear a budget update that unravels in part several of his primary recommendations.

Dade was absent for the board meeting, as he has generally been absent since his surprise resignation Thursday evening, but technically remains superintendent. The board voted to accept his 90-day notice (board member Amy Maloy opposed the resolution) but has not fixed his final date of employment, nor the financial terms of the early separation.

In Dade's absence, Deputy Superintendent Lynda Quick presented a series of changes to the district's draft budget proposal:

- An additional \$4.5 million reduction for East High School
- Restoring 12 social workers of the 33 who were originally to be cut
- Restoring eight special education positions and keeping the chief of special education in the superintendent's cabinet
- Canceling one of two planned early education centers Dade has proposed
- Further, unspecified cuts to Rochester International Academy, the newcomer program for refugees, for \$1.4 million of savings
- Restoring the director of African-American studies position
- Reducing the number of new instructional coaches

from 14 to seven

■ An additional \$5.5 million in savings from a charter school tuition rate adjustment The early education center to be canceled would have been at School 57; the one at School 44 would remain. Creating the centers was one of Dade's major initiatives. He also stood behind the proposed cuts in special education that are being partially restored.

The district has said it is proposing to close four schools: 20, 43, 44 and 57. Quick conceded Tuesday that School 3, too, would essentially close, though the district hopes to reopen it as a middle school in two years after renovations are completed.

The changes were summarized in a PowerPoint presentation; the district has not yet published the full, revised budget book but expects to do so by the end of the week.

That would give the board just a week for a breakneck final review before it is scheduled to vote on adopting the budget May 7.

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