



Commissioners of the Rochester City School District Board of Education
Date: 9-20-2020

Good Afternoon Commissioners:

I am writing you this afternoon on behalf of the Association of Supervisors and Administrators of Rochester (ASAR) regarding the proposed cuts to BENTE. The projected 200+ cuts will be a devastating blow to our employees and their families. As I have stated in the past, I urge patience as the State works through their issues and caution as the Governor employs strong language and threats in an attempt to influence Federal policy holders. The Governor's threats are purposeful and deliberate and carry the unanticipated consequence of creating panic in communities across the State.

BENTE President DiClemente has prepared and proposed a very thoughtful and focused plan that identifies alternative work opportunities. This plan would serve the students and families of the District well. I believe you all have seen this plan, but if not, I urge you to take a look at it and vote no to *any* furloughs or layoffs as we do our collective best to work together to re-engineer how to best serve students and families.

Regarding the savings of cutting BENTE staff, I have not heard, but am certainly curious as to the savings that the District expects to realize and the unanticipated reciprocal costs in re-hiring, re-training and recruiting people to take the place of these employees once we do re-open. This group of dedicated employees are amongst the lowest paid, hardest working people in the District and are predominantly city residents who will be devastated by the loss of income and potentially, health care.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration will make full school-aid payments to municipalities across the state later this month, officials said late Wednesday, after previously withholding funds because of revenue losses from the coronavirus pandemic.

Wednesday's announcement came amid rising pressure on the Democratic governor to keep school districts whole. The New York State United Teachers union sued Mr. Cuomo on Tuesday in state court, saying the withholdings violated the State Constitution. On Saturday, dozens of people rallied for school funding near the State Capitol and in other upstate cities.

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Thank you for your stewardship and thoughtfulness.
Sincerely,

Timothy Cliby

President ASAR

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¹ The Wall Street Journal, **New York State to Fund School Districts in Full After Withholding Money.**
September 17, 2020