



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

Commissioner of Education
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May 7, 2021

Mr. Bruce Singer, Monitor
East Ramapo Central School District
105 South Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Mr. Singer:

I have received your analysis regarding the East Ramapo Central School District's (ERCSD or "the District") proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year, which the District is required to submit to me for approval pursuant to Chapter 89 of the Laws of 2016, as amended by Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2017 and Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020. I understand that your analysis was informed by guidance documents that the New York State Education Department (NYSED or "the Department") provided to you on January 14 and March 26, 2021.

You conclude your analysis by recommending that I approve the 2021-22 school year proposed budget because you have determined that the proposed budget is balanced within the context of revenue and expenditure estimates and mandated programs, expands educational programming for students, and appropriately utilizes the increased aid the District will receive. Your findings reflect the State's enacted 2021-22 budget.

Based significantly in part upon your recommendation, I have preliminarily approved the District's proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year without amendment, subject to a number of conditions that I specified in my letter to the President of the Board of Education.

As I noted in my letter to Board President Weissmandl, the District's budgeting and fiscal control practices have been unacceptable and must be improved. Only the most fortuitous intervention in the form of an unprecedented infusion of State and Federal aid avoided a potentially catastrophic situation occurring in the District.

Consequently, I will be placing conditions on the District's use of Federal funds that will significantly increase the oversight responsibilities of you and Dr. Lowe. It is imperative that you and Dr. Lowe use this enhanced authority to not only ensure the District uses funds in accordance with the provisions of the law but also that the District faithfully executes the District's long-term strategic academic and fiscal improvement plans.

I want to thank you for your tireless efforts to address the endemic fiscal mismanagement that has occurred in the District and your work with the District to place it back on the path to long-term fiscal stability.

