

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
ROCHESTER-GENESEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
April 28, 2015**

A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Redmond who determined that a quorum was present. Joining by conference call were Commissioner White and Commissioner Carl.

Present on Roll Call:

	County of Monroe	Stephen Carl	=	5 votes
➤	County of Monroe	James H. Redmond	=	5 votes
➤	County of Monroe	Robert Fischer	=	5 votes
➤	City of Rochester	Thomas R. Argust	=	2 votes
➤	City of Rochester	Barbara Jones	=	2 votes
➤	City of Rochester	Karen Pryor	=	2 votes
	County of Genesee	Paul Battaglia	=	2 votes
	County of Livingston	Milo I. Turner	=	2 votes
➤	County of Orleans	Henry Smith	=	1 vote
	County of Seneca	Edward W. White	=	1 vote
➤	County of Wayne	Michael P. Jankowski	=	3 votes
➤	County of Wyoming	Frank Vitagliano	=	1 vote
	Amalgamated Transit Union	Tracie Green	=	<u>0 votes</u>

Total Votes Possible	31
Total Votes Present	21
Votes Needed for Quorum	16

B. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Pryor, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Briefing on the contract with the Rochester City School District

Bill Carpenter, Chief Executive Officer, presented information regarding the RCSD contract in a power point presentation, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

D. Executive Session

On motion of Commissioner Jankowski, seconded by Commissioner Jones the meeting moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Board was called back into open session on a motion from Commissioner Argust, seconded by Commissioner Vitagliano. Chairman Redmond stated that no votes were taken during Executive Session and that a specific personnel matter was discussed and nothing more.

- In response to a question from Commissioner Pryor, Bill Carpenter, CEO stated that we will not be selling the buses a few each year. The list shown in the presentation is when the buses would reach the end of their useful life. The intent would be to sell the buses as soon as practical for the best value. Since Federal and NYS capital were used to purchase the buses, the remaining useful life of the bus would determine any amount that would need to be returned to the FTA and NYS.*
- In response to a question from Commissioner Jones, Bill Carpenter, CEO stated that the best evidence that we have of a reduction in students going to the Transit Center was during the week in February and the week leading up to Easter when school was off. We were not doing school transportation those two weeks. Young people could use RTS as they wanted. We did not have the volumes of young people coming into the RTS Transit Center in the morning and the afternoon (as compared with days when we provide student transportation). Jim Ramos, Director of Transit Center & Field Operations stated that during school recess the volume of students downtown is almost down to zero except for a few young people during different times of the day.*
- In response to a question from Commissioner Fischer, Bill Carpenter, CEO stated that the decision had been made to withdraw interest in continuing to serve RCSD. In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Fischer whether this was about cost and what would happen if they offered more money, Bill Carpenter, CEO, stated that to date we have not been able to develop a service model so customized for RCSD that it works for the entire public transit system, for RCSD and keeps the RTS Transit Center safe. Bill Carpenter, CEO, stated that he remains open to making the best decision based on the information available.*
- In response to a question from Chairman Redmond, Bill Carpenter, CEO stated we are doing this now because RCSD needs to put plans in place quickly for summer school that will start right about July 1st. Notifying them today does not provide them much time, but it provides them sufficient time because they had gone out to bid last fall and they have pricing from other providers for summer school and for the fall. Also, this is in response to our customers who have told us they are not using RTS because they do not feel safe in the RTS Transit Center.*
- Commissioner Argust stated that he understood that this was the decision of the CEO. In response to his question, Bill Carpenter, CEO stated he did speak with different people internally and externally to get different opinions and advice surrounding my decision. Commissioner Argust also asked about the budget for this year that the board adopted last month. Bill stated that budget is still in place with a target of a balanced budget at the end of the year.*
- Commissioner Jankowski made a couple of comments to express his significant reservations about this decision that he wanted put on the record. He is concerned that RTS has not explored all the options and that we owe that to the 20% of the workforce*

that will lose their jobs. He stated that he has a concern about the mid and long term financial impact that this decision is going to have on the Authority that would result in route reductions, reductions in spending and fare increases. He stated most importantly that he has questions and objects that the CEO would take a unilateral action like this. He believes this changes the business model, reduces staff and revenues; essentially this is a policy decision that the CEO should have briefed the Board first and then meet again to build Board consensus. That process has been short circuited here and that is very troubling. Bill Carpenter, CEO responded that keeping this contract or not keeping this contract, the financial structural problem that we have been talking about at this Board has not changed. Carpenter believes that with the focus off the school district contract, the ability to serve the community in a better way gives us the best chance to come out with the best outcome.

- *Commissioner Pryor stated that she wants to make sure we are not backing away from helping- being a community partner in solving this problem of our young people congregating and solving their problems violently.*

E. Adjournment

There being no further matters on the adopted Agenda, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Commissioner Argust with a second by Commissioner Smith.