

Commissioner Betty Rosa  
NYSED  
Via email

November 14, 2022

Dear Commissioner Rosa:

We were pleased to learn that the 2022-23 Update to the Academic and Fiscal Improvement Plan (“Update”) for the East Ramapo Central School District (“ERCSD”) has been revised in response to comments from constituents, including the NYCLU, and discussions with NYSED staff. Today is the first business day that the Update has been available for public review, and it is scheduled to be voted on by the ERCSD Board tomorrow, November 15th.



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Donna Lieberman  
*Executive Director*

Wendy Stryker  
*President*

The AFI Plan is essential to addressing the systemic racism in ERCSD and the denial of public school students’ constitutional right to a sound basic education. While we do not wish to delay the process of the Board vote, we are requesting that you allow at least 15 business days after the Board vote for public review and submission of additional comments to you, prior to your approval of the Update.

Because the Board gives short shrift to the legislative mandate for public engagement, parents, students, and community members are seeking your assistance to make their voices heard. The white Board majority continues to be every bit as antagonistic and dismissive towards parents and students of color as they have been for a decade. This was demonstrated with shocking clarity at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting when one of the Board members described students who spoke as “[very good actors](#).” By invoking the extremist conspiracy theory of “crisis actors,” this Board member explicitly communicated to other members and to the public watching the livestream that he has no intent to take student concerns—about the quality of their education, the safety of their school buildings and even the availability of nutritional lunches—seriously. This is insulting and is a derogation of the duties of a public school board member.

We are once again asking for your leadership to protect democratic processes in ERCSD. We hope you will consider making this comment period available so you may hear from more directly impacted students and families.

Sincerely,

Johanna Miller  
Education Policy Center Director

Christian Singleton  
Spring Valley Youth Organizer