What she promised, what she delivered

A closer look at Barbara Deane-Williams’ tenure at RCSD

Justin Murphy  Rochester Democrat and Chronicle  USA TODAY NETWORK

When Barbara Deane-Williams was announced as the new Rochester City School District superintendent in July 2016, the district was relatively hopeful.

A new code of conduct was in place and top officials were in agreement on the importance of restorative justice and trauma-informed care. Structural deficiencies in special education and facilities planning, if not resolved, had at least been confidently diagnosed. The school board’s dispute with her predecessor, Bolgen Vac-<br>gas, was in the past.

That was two and a half years ago.

Deane-Williams is supposed to be finishing the third year of her contract, which expires in June. Instead she will step down this month with the district, arguably, in greater disarray than ever, even as graduation rates and test scores have risen slightly.

The district is under the care of a state-appointed distinguished educator, whose initial evaluation portrayed a system full of rot.

The upcoming budget session promises to be painful and the board is as fractious as ever.

Treyva Rowe is dead.

What happened?

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