

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**May 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT**

**133 Marion Road**

**Media Room, Jr. High School**

**Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**District Members Present:** Heather Burke (in-person), Chairperson, Michelle Smith (via zoom), James Muse (via zoom), Margaret McSweeney (via zoom), Matthew Monteiro (in-person), Jason Chisholm (via zoom, arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Suzanne Tseki (in-person) and Joe Pires (in-person).

**District Members Absent:** Frances Kearns.

**Union Members Present:** Sharon Hartley (in-person), Chairperson, Anne Fernandes (in-person), Nichole Daniel (in-person), April Nye (in-person), Robin Rounseville (in-person), Christine Marcolini (via zoom), Karin Barrows (via zoom), Tiffini Reedy (in-person) and Carly Lavin (in-person).

**Union Members Absent:** None.

**Other Staff Members Present:** Michael S. Nelson (in-person), Superintendent of Schools, Diana Russo (via zoom), Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Administrative Team, staff members, parents, community members and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chairperson Burke and Chairperson Hartley.

**OPEN COMMENTS:** Chairperson Burke reviewed the open comments policy and instructed anyone wanting to make a comment to put their name and address in the chat option. Ms. Burke noted that no members of the public were present at the meeting. Ms. McSweeney inquired about how the public gets access to the agenda before the meeting. It was noted by Chairperson Burke that per Mass General Law the meeting agenda has to be posted 48 hours before.

Mr. Pires inquired about if a member of the public has a question or an item they would like to be put on the agenda, how would they go about doing that? Chairperson Burke explained that any member of the public could make a request to the Chairperson and/or the Superintendent to be added to the agenda. She also explained that members of the school committee can also reach out to the Chairperson or Supt if they have anything they would like discussed at a meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Hartley expressed that since the last time this group met the Supt. Evaluation Team met to talk about the evaluation process and we will be hearing more about that later tonight. Ms. Hartley also reported that herself, Ms. Burke and Mr. Muse worked with Supt. Nelson to negotiate a new contract so that he will have a long stay with our district and tonight we will hear more about that. Ms. Hartley also reported a student who graduated in the class of 1970, Dave Sullivan, and his class had their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion during the pandemic, therefore they are going to have a reunion this year they are calling it "50 plus two" and he called me to see if I could tell everyone about their work. While the pandemic was going on they wanted to make a donation to the school, so they donated a tree and had it fully landscaped and planted here at the school with the idea that when the pandemic finally allowed them to do so, they would come together and have a celebration, and have a dedication at the tree and invite everyone to attend, the date for that celebration is August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and everyone will be receiving invitations.

Chairperson Burke expressed the new Regional Agreement was tested at last night's Marion and Mattapoisett Annual Town meetings and it passed, she expressed that the new ORR Budget that was developed under the new Regional Agreement passed, she expressed that for the ORR School Committee that budget passed last night can be transformational for our schools and the fact that the budget funds the Director of Guidance and resurfaces the track via the capital stabilization fund which was used for the first time because of the new Regional Agreement, and she expressed that's very exciting. She expressed even more exciting is how that new Regional Agreement came to be, she expressed that as she was sitting in the meeting last night she was reflecting on the initial ways that the school committee decided to go about it and how we were focused on solving a long standing problem, which was identified by all stakeholders, and we really came together creatively to solve this problem for the betterment of our schools. She expressed that it involved working with a lot of different stakeholders, including the department of education, the three tri-towns, the department of revenue, as well as the public, town selectmen, and town administrators. She expressed that what was really energizing about this process was that in just about every step we came together and we listened to interests that other parties expressed, we listened to their points and their concerns, so even though we knew what we wanted to get out of the process, we were only able to make this transformational change for our schools by listening to all the stakeholders and bringing in all perspectives and interests and finding a way to not only getting what we wanted but also find ways for our partner to get what they wanted, and through that collaborative role we were able to have a very aggressive budget passed with no objections unanimously in Marion and Mattapoisett. Chairperson Burke thanked everyone that was part of that process.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Nelson agreed with Chairperson Burke and expressed that he thanked everyone for all their hard work on this very important initiative for our district and he expressed that he is already seeing the value in the work that was done.

#### **Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*"I just want to start by saying it's great to be in this room tonight, a lot of work was done in the hours before to get it back looking like this, because we have been using it differently for the past two years. It's great to have so many of us here in person, it's my first Joint School Committee meeting in person since I became Superintendent of Schools, having all of us here tonight is just another incredible step forward. A few brief comments regarding COVID-19, we continued to track all of our data points within our school and also and our school community to watch for trends regarding cases and we continue to share that information through our weekly dashboards and overall we have been very pleased with our data points. So much so that in recent days after giving advance notice to our stakeholders we did discontinue our distancing protocols within the schools, both in the classrooms, where we are now relying on teacher discretion on what's most meaningful for teaching experiences and the tables in the cafeteria are back and that was an exciting point for students, families and administrators. It was a nice time to do it as we enter some of the final months of the school year. The other piece is that we continue to offer the home testing program to our families, which I know many families take advantage, which is part of our layered approach to manage the current situation. Shifting to teaching and learning with Spring time also comes the heart of MCAS season, and I know our schools have been working through that assessment obligation as we finish the final months of the school year. Our educators are planning a strong finish but they are also looking ahead, we are holding many transition meetings, in a nutshell it's an extremely busy, busy time in all good ways for our students, families and educators."*

Dr. Pearson-Campbell also gave a report from the Office of Teaching & Learning and Mr. Davidson gave a report from the Office of Student Services.

#### **I. Consent Agenda**

##### **A. Approval of Minutes**

## **1. Regular Minutes:**

Motion to approve the January 20, 2022 minutes as amended

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. McSweeney

Union, Ms. Lavin

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: abstained)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: abstained due to technical difficulties)

Motion to approve the February 15, 2022 minutes as amended

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rounseville

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: abstained, Reedy: yes, Barrows: abstained due to technical difficulties)

## **XI. Executive Session**

Motion to go into executive session at 7:03 p.m. for reason number three and seven and to come out and return to the regular meeting.

District, Mr. Monteiro

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rounseville

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:25 p.m. only to adjourn

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL- District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

## **V. General**

### **A. Approval of Professional Development Plan 2022-2023 School Year**

**Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*"Dr. Pearson-Campbell is excited to present the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan to the Joint School Committee, as you are all aware the Joint School Committee has already voted and approved our 2022-2023 school calendar that allows for two full and four early release professional development days. Tonight, Dr. Pearson-Campbell will walk you through the process and present the topics and activities for professional development next year. Although we always want the*

*students in our classrooms and schools, it is also critically important to invest in our educators and staff with meaningful learning opportunities.”*

Dr. Pearson-Campbell and members of the Administrative Team presented the Professional-Development Plan. (please see Appendix A).

Motion to approve the Professional Development Plan as presented

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Mr. Pires

Union, Ms. Rounseville

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

### **B. Approval of School Committee Meetings for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Superintendent Nelson proposed the following dates as the school committee meetings for the 2022-2023 school year: September 29, 2022, January 19, 2023, March 30, 2023 and June 8, 2023. Mr. Nelson also explained that as always if an emergency meeting needed to be scheduled for any reason in addition to these he would call the committees together.

Motion to approve the school committee dates as presented

District, Mr. Monteiro

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rounseville

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: no, Muse: yes, Smith: no, McSweeney: no, Pires: no, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

### **C. FY23 Budget Update**

**Superintendent Nelson presented the following FY23 Budget Update:**

	FY2022	FY2023	Inc.	% Inc.
	Local	Prop. Budget		
Marion	\$6,456,815	\$6,561,086	\$104,271	1.615%
Mattapoissett	\$7,511,872	\$7,646,778	\$134,906	1.796%
Rochester	\$6,798,275	\$6,960,850	\$162,575	2.391%
ORR	\$19,895,966	\$20,845,272	\$949,306	4.771%
	FY2022	FY2023	Inc.	% Inc.
	ORR	Proposed		
	Assessment	Assessment		
Marion	\$5,103,442	\$5,388,463	\$285,021	5.585%
Mattapoissett	\$6,231,148	\$6,353,695	\$122,547	1.967%
Rochester	\$4,977,802	\$5,165,848	\$188,046	3.778%
	\$16,312,392	\$16,908,006	\$595,614	



Mr. Nelson reported that last night three of the four budgets were passed by the voters of Marion and Mattapoisett, specifically the Marion Sippican School budget was passed, the Mattapoisett Public Schools budget was passed and the ORR budget was passed in Marion and Mattapoisett, which per the Regional Agreement that budget is officially approved. Mr. Nelson reported that the schools' capital projects were also approved as presented. He reported that the next step is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which is the Rochester Town meeting where the Rochester Public Schools budget will be presented and he's confident it will pass along with the ORR Budget for the final approval. Mr. Nelson wanted to thank everyone who contributed to the budget process, including school committee members, administrators, town officials and ultimately the voters of our three towns.

#### **D. Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline**

Superintendent Nelson reported that next month the school committee will hear the progress that we made on Vision 2023 but you will also hear the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Nelson referred to the revised timeline for next steps. Mr. Nelson reported that he met with the Supt. Goals Sub-Committee recently and agreed on next steps and a revised timeline. Mr. Nelson highlighted that he did tweak the dates very slightly to accommodate a couple of scheduling conflicts. Mr. Nelson presented the following revised timeline.

By May 17<sup>th</sup> committee members are provided superintendent evaluation materials and explanation of process that each member will need to follow evidence/supporting materials are provided to committee members by Superintendent.

By June 3, 2022 All committee members submit evaluations to sub-committee

On June 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Superintendent, Sub-Committee/Chairs – Review materials and prepares final evaluation

On June 21, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Sub-Committee/Chairs review final evaluation with Superintendent.

On June 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. the School Committee will present the Supt's Evaluation at the Public Joint Meeting. Mr. Nelson reported that date is a new date, the original date was June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Hartley explained the evaluation process and reviewed the form with the school committee, she also outlined the importance of the Superintendent's Evaluation.

#### **E. Superintendent's Contract**

Chairperson Burke reported that in recent months Superintendent Nelson has reach out and asked to enter into negotiations for a new successor contract, Ms. Burke expressed that the School Committee felt it was beneficial to our districts to enter into those negotiations with Superintendent Nelson and myself, Chairperson Hartley and Mr. Muse did complete those negotiations and we are pleased tonight to a contract that would extend Mr. Nelson's employment at the district. Ms. Burke reported that everyone had a chance to review it and at this point we would welcome any comments. Ms. Burke expressed that this committee is very pleased with the work that's been done by Superintendent Nelson in the past two years. She expressed that the committee feels like he has displayed superior leadership, that he has also strengthen town relations and also been very transparent with finances and really moving forward the teaching and learning excellence of our schools. She expressed that she is confident this work will come through in his evaluation process as well as constructive feedback. At this point we would like to proceed with the successor contract.

Motion to approve the Superintendent's Contract as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Daniel

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: ye, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

Mr. Nelson expressed his gratitude to the school committee, he expressed that it's been a tough two years, but that they have been with him all along the way, he also thanked his leadership team and expressed that he couldn't have done it without them. He expressed that he looks forward to working and moving our focus even more to teaching and learning in the coming years. He also credited the teachers, support staff, custodians, nurses and everyone else, because they are the ones in the buildings day in and day out and they continue to do what they are asked to do in terms of serving the children within the Tri-Town, Mr. Nelson also wanted to thank the families of the Tri-Town who are fierce advocates in the school community and he thinks that is another strength of our schools. Lastly Mr. Nelson thanked his family who has sacrificed a lot to allow him to do this job that he truly loves and feels honored to serve as the Superintendent for these schools.

## **VI. New Business**

### **D. Policy Review**

#### Recommendation:

That the school committee review and approve the following policies:

#### **A. KHB- Advertising in Schools Policy**

Superintendent Nelson reported that KHB had its' first read at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and there was some concern, he explained that the Policy Sub-Committee had an opportunity to review it again and is now making its' final recommendation. Mr. Nelson pointed out that that as it states in the policy "advertisements will be restricted to common areas accessible to the public". Mr. Nelson also explained that the procedures also address some of the concerns of the committee members and it allows the superintendent or the designee to make sure that any advertisement is in alignment with the criteria outlined in the procedures.

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:**

Ms. Reedy referred to the sentence that states "Advertising revenue will be deposited into a gift account separate from other accounts", Ms. Reedy just wanted to make sure that this make is separate from the annual school budget. Mr. Nelson explained that any expenditures from this account must be approved by the school committee.

Ms. Burke expressed that she's been concerned about this policy and that she is very pleased with the way this policy looks, she expressed that it's a great example of listening to different concerns and interests and finding the common ground and solutions. She expressed that she's very appreciative of the hard work that went into this by the Policy Sub-Committee.

Motion to approve the KHB – Advertising in Schools Policy as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Reedy

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

**B. Section D- Fiscal Management Policies**– The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed this policy on January 13th and on May 4th. These policies had the following recommendation from MASC and were also reviewed and endorsed by our Assistant Superintendent of Finance and

Operations. The policy is before the Joint School Committee for final approval. Mr. Nelson suggested that these all be approved as one if there isn't any opposition.

MASC Guidance:

In undertaking this review, the following principles were prioritized:

1. Ensuring that policy language is aligned with the constitutional and legal principles of school funding: The funding of public schools in Massachusetts is created by Constitutional authority and guaranteed by Massachusetts General Law.
2. Confirming that policy remains focused on the legal authorities of the school committee: The interrelated responsibilities of the school committee in budget, policy, and goal setting all play a key role in policy section D.
3. Updating legal references: There have been several updates within legislation since the policy was last reviewed. This update incorporates those changes.
4. Clarifying process: There were a number of places in prior language that may have left process of committee work unclear. This update strives to make process easier to follow.
5. Incorporating best practices: Fiscal best practices from across the state have long been part of MASC's professional development for members. This update includes those best practices in policy language.

Motion to approve the Section D- Fiscal Management Policies as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Reedy

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

Mr. Nelson informed the school committee that at their next meeting we would be looking at the Non-Discrimination Policy and Procedures as well as the Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, Mr. Nelson also indicated that our Anti-Racism Resolution will need to be relabeled within our district policy. Mr. Nelson reported that our legal presentation has already had initial review of these policies and that the Policy Sub-Committee will meet one more time to finalize these policies.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:28 p.m.

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Mr. Monteiro

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

Submitted by

Diana Russo

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**May 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

**133 Marion Road**

**Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**Zoom link:**

**<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/95485906137?pwd=WnhmNmpTQ05OekMrak9CN1dGTmxxdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 954 8590 6137**

**Passcode: 985502**

*This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.*

**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

**OPEN COMMENTS**

**RECOGNITION**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**XI. Executive Session**

**I. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Regular Minutes: January 20, February 15, 2022**

**2. Executive Session Minutes: January 20, 2022**

**II. Old Business**

**III. Agenda Items Pending**

**IV. Special Topic Report**

**V. General**

**A. Approval Professional Development Plan 2022-2023 School Year**

**B. Approval of School Committee Meetings for the 2022-2023 School Year**

**C. FY23 Budget Update**

**D. Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline**

**E. Superintendent's Contract**

**VI. New Business**

**A. Curriculum**

**B. Business**

**C. Personnel**

**D. Policy Review**

**VII. School Committee**

**A. Reorganization (Union #55 Only)**

**VIII. Future Business**

**A. Timeline**

**B. Future Agenda Items**

**IX. Open Comments**

**X. Information**

**XI. Executive Session**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**TO:** Old Rochester Regional District School Committee and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55

**FROM:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

**DATE:** May 6, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Items

The following items are on the agenda of May 10, 2022

**XI. Executive Session**

Recommendation

That the School Committees go into executive session for reason number three (3) to discuss non union contracts and seven (7) to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

**I. Consent Agenda**

**A.1. Approval of Minutes- Regular Minutes**

Recommendation

That the School Committees review and approve the minutes of January 20, and February 15, 2022. Please refer to “JSC 05042022 January Minutes” and “JSC 05042022 February Minutes”.

**A.2. Approval of Minutes- Executive Minutes**

Recommendation

That the School Committees review and approve the minutes of January 20, 2022. These will be brought to the meeting.

**V. General**

**A. Approval of Professional Development Plan 2022-2023 School Year**

Recommendation

That the School Committees review for approval the Professional Development Plan 2022-2023 School Year. Please refer to “JSC 05102022 Professional Development Plan”.

**B. Approval of School Committee Meetings for the 2022-2023 School Year**

Recommendation

That the school committee review for approval the dates for the 2022-2023 school year. The following dates should be reviewed and considered for the 2022-2023 school year: September 29, 2022, January 19, 2023, March 30, 2023 and June 8, 2023.

**C. FY23 Budget Update**

Recommendation

That the school committee hear an update on the FY23 Budgets. Please refer to “JSC 05102022 Budget Update”.

**D. Superintendent’s Evaluation Timeline**

Recommendation

That the school committee hear an update from Superintendent Nelson.

**E. Superintendent’s Contract**

Recommendation

That the school committee discuss, review and approve the Superintendent’s contract.

## **VI. New Business**

### **D. Policy Review**

#### Recommendation:

That the school committee review and approve the following policies:

- A. KHB- Advertising in the Schools: (please refer to “JSC 05102022 KHB Advertising Policy”)**  
**The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed this policy on November 9<sup>th</sup>, January 13, 2022 and May 4, 2022, The Joint School Committee approved the first read on January 20, 2022.** The recommendation of the policy sub-committee is that the school committee approve this policy for final approval.
- B. Section D – Fiscal Management – (please refer to “JSC 05102022 Section D Track Changes)**  
**The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed these policies on January 13, and May 4, 2022.** The recommendation of the policy sub-committee is that the school committee approve these policies for final approval. The recommendation from MASC reads as follows: MASC’s staff undertook a full review of policy section D—fiscal policies. In undertaking this review, the following principles were prioritized:
1. Ensuring that policy language is aligned with the constitutional and legal principles of school funding: The funding of public schools in Massachusetts is created by Constitutional authority and guaranteed by Massachusetts General Law.
  2. Confirming that policy remains focused on the legal authorities of the school committee: The interrelated responsibilities of the school committee in budget, policy, and goal setting all play a key role in policy section D.
  3. Updating legal references: There have been several updates within legislation since the policy was last reviewed. This update incorporates those changes.
  4. Clarifying process: There were a number of places in prior language that may have left process of committee work unclear. This update strives to make process easier to follow.
  5. Incorporating best practices: Fiscal best practices from across the state have long been part of MASC’s professional development for members. This update includes those best practices in policy language.
  6. Clarifying regional policy distinctions: Previously, some fiscal policies had a separate (-1) designation, while in others, the needed changes were only in the footnotes. This creates a separate (-1) policy for regionals in any place where that is necessary.

## **VIII. Future Business**

### **A. Timeline**

The next meeting of the Joint School Committee will be held as follows:

#### **Joint School Committee**

June 9, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

- ❖ Superintendent’s End of Year Evaluation (June 2022)

If you have any questions regarding any of these recommendations please feel free to call me.

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**January 20, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM**

**Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**District Members Present:** Heather Burke, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Margaret McSweeney, Frances Kearns, Matthew Monteiro, Jason Chisholm, Suzanne Tseki.

**District Members Absent:** Joe Pires.

**Union Members Present:** Sharon Hartley, Chairperson, Anne Fernandes, Nichole Daniel, April Nye, Robin Rounseville, Christine Marcolini, Carole Clifford, Tiffini Reedy and Carly Lavin,

**Union Members Absent:** None.

**Other Staff Members Present:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Diana Russo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Administrative Team, staff members, parents, community members and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Chairperson Hartley, she expressed that Chairperson Burke would join us briefly, she is having technical issues.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Ms. Hartley welcomed everyone to the Joint School Committee's mid-year meeting and she also wanted to thank all of those who work in our schools and support our schools and continue the complex work that we have these days in the schools, we have shifted and we have learned a lot and it makes me so happy that whether I'm in a school or participating through zoom I continue to see the focus where it should be, which is the education of our students, their well-being and she's glad that we continue in that way.

Ms. Burke expressed that she has a particular lense as a parent of a senior in high school that other parents are also in the midst of and coming out of the college application process. She expressed that for those of you who have not gone through this process yet, I say *"strap in, it's a wild ride, it's a tremendous amount of work, but it is so important, because for students who chose to go on to get an associates or a four-year baccalaureate degree, it is sort of the next step in their educational journey"*. She expressed that from talking to her older son and many other families in the Tri-Town area that the Old Rochester School District does an excellent job at preparing students for college. She expressed that they tend to strive and be very academically prepared and in fact she hears numerous reports about students being nervous about going to college but it ends up being more manageable because they were so well prepared through the ORR School District. She just wanted to thank our taxpayers and citizens of the Tri-Towns for investing so well in the educational system that produces these students who are able to achieve at the next level. She expressed that they go forth and represent us well, as we see many schools develop pipelines, once they have a few of our students they want more of them. She expressed that it's important to realize that this is a culmination of not just the students journey, but every teacher's journey too, how has helped prepare and get the student ready for this next step. She expressed that she's certain is also true for others who chose others path as well. She expressed that it's nice to see that as our students go onto their next steps they can go forward with the confidence that they have the skills to make themselves successful at the next level.

Ms. Hartley also noted that the OPEN COMMENTS would be allowed at the end of the agenda at tonight's meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

#### **Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*With the holiday season past us – our schools have been navigating the latest COVID-19 surge. We certainly experienced a spike in cases as we transitioned from school vacation back to school in 2022. Our schools were able to maintain in-person learning despite challenges with case numbers that impacted the attendance of both students and our staff members. Just recently – we are starting to see the case numbers go back in the direction that we want to see. The most recent surge – was a reminder that the pandemic is still very much a reality for us and our community. In recent weeks, the mask mandate was extended through the end of February, the protocols for isolation and quarantined were updated, and now we are exploring a new testing option that would provide at home testing kits for students and families – while maintaining symptomatic testing as an option during the school day. It is important to recognize the amazing dedication of our faculty and all those who work within our schools who just don't miss a beat to ensure that teaching and learning continues. I also want to thank all those who support the work that happens within our school buildings – including all of you here tonight. Despite the challenges – I am constantly reminder of just how strong our school community is and how progressing forward is the only option we are committed to when it comes to educating our students."*

Dr. Pearson-Campbell reported on the following: The Office of Teaching and Learning led an IXL webinar for parents and guardians on December 13, 2021. During the webinar important information such as students' username and password information was provided along with information on how parents and guardians can assist students with the use of ixl.com. Parents and guardians learned how to create reports that monitor student progress and also use ixl.com on multi-media platforms. Provided below is the PowerPoint that was presented and is now on each of the school's websites. The IXL webinar will assist in building learning capacity for families and guardians.

On Tuesday, January 18th a full day of professional development for educators took place. We continued to focus on the following 3 key areas: Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. Keynote speaker, Loretta LaRoche, started off the morning speaking to all educators from 8:45 - 9:45 am via Zoom. Loretta LaRoche is an international stress management expert who helped pioneer the use of humor as a coping mechanism. She has authored eight best-selling books and has been the star of seven PBS TV shows aired on over eighty stations nationwide. She was an adjunct faculty member at the Mind/Body Medical Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School for fifteen years. Her signature humor is her ability to observe the absurdities that are so much a part of the human condition and the culture which often leads to stress and to help find the AHA in the HA HA! Also, www.ixl.com representatives visited each school; educators were able to ask questions regarding accelerated learning with IXL. In addition, Ms. Diane Lizotte offered AIMSWEB support for progress monitoring for any educators wishing to ask questions. Educators had an opportunity to examine and create student centered plans for Phase 3 of the Accelerated Roadmap. We are committed to the 3 key areas of the Accelerated Learning Roadmap: sense of belonging, grade level material and progress monitoring.

Mr. Davidson reported that the Old Rochester Regional School District partnered with Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative and created a new partnership offering – free, on-line workshops for the Tri-town and SMEC families focusing on Social/Emotional Learning, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills and Global Citizenship



## **School Committee Feedback:**

### **I. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Approval of Minutes**

##### **1. Regular Minutes: September 23, 2021**

Motion to approve the September 23, minutes as amended

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Nye

District, Ms. Kearns

Union, Ms. Fernandes

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: abstained, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: abstained)

### **V. General**

#### **A. 2022-2023 School Calendar**

##### **Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*"Tonight I am presenting the 2022-2023 school calendar to the Joint School Committee for review and action. It is my request that after discussion – the Joint School Committee take action to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar. By doing so, the District can move forward with future planning –including professional development planning and such. Leading up to this meeting, I have presented the draft calendar to the elementary school districts and solicited feedback from the associations, school councils, and administration. I have provided all collected feedback in a tracking form to the Joint School Committee for their review and consideration."*

At this time, I will briefly review the draft calendar:

##### **Starting with August...**

First day is the 30<sup>th</sup>

##### **September**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> would be off for Labor Day Weekend

Our first early release PD day would fall on the 21<sup>st</sup>

##### **October**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> we would observe Columbus/Indigenous People Day

Early releases on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for parent conferences at the elementary schools

##### **November**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> we would have our first full PD day and then on the 11<sup>th</sup> recognize veteran's day

Thanksgiving break will run the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>

##### **December**

School vacation would start on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with an early release day and run through the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January

##### **January**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> we will recognize Martin Luther King Day and on the 17<sup>th</sup> hold our second and final full PD day

##### **February**

Will have an early release day on the 8<sup>th</sup> for PD purposes

School vacation will run from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>

##### **March**

The 8<sup>th</sup> will be an early release PD day

The 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> will be early dismissal days for parent conferences

##### **April**

April 7<sup>th</sup> – no school

April 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> will be school vacation

### **May**

We will recognize Memorial Day on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **June**

Our last half PD day will be on the 7<sup>th</sup>

June 16<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of school if there is no need to cancel

Mr. Nelson reported to the school committee the following feedback from the different stakeholders.

Marion School Committee suggested a possible earlier start date, Rochester School Committee suggested moving a Professional Development day in January possibly to another week in January to allow for two four-day weeks for students, the Mattapoisett School Committee mentioned having school on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and not having school on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and also having school on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the ORR School Committee is reviewing it for the first time today. The Rochester staff talked about the possibility of moving the November professional development day to November 1<sup>st</sup> which would follow Halloween and possibly bringing back a ½ day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Additional feedback called for the two professional development days to be held before the start of the school year for planning purposes. Mattapoisett staff members reported a split on the April 7<sup>th</sup> day off, however they all agreed that Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> should be a “no school day” for everyone. The Marion School Council also felt that there should be school on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Rochester School Council talked about bringing back a ½ on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Jr. High School Council had the following suggestions; making Labor Day a 3-day weekend for staff a 4-day weekend for students, by moving a professional development day to September 2<sup>nd</sup>; a ½ day on November 23<sup>rd</sup> before Thanksgiving; a ½ day on December 23<sup>rd</sup>; they also talked about 4 half PD days instead of two full days and also suggested one school vacation in March instead of one in February and one in April. The High School Council talked about a ½ day on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and lastly the Mattapoisett School Council suggested moving the professional development day in January to January 13<sup>th</sup>.

At this time – I would request that the Joint School Committee discuss the calendar and ideally take action to approve the calendar.

### **School Committee Feedback:**

Mr. Monteiro indicated that he was in support of having school on April 7<sup>th</sup> and also having ½ days on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Marcolini expressed that she wanted to point out that she really likes the calendar the way that it is, she expressed that was her feedback at the Marion School Committee meeting as well, she expressed that it was very well thought out, however with that being said, she did think about all the comments/suggestions that were made from the other committees and stakeholders and expressed that a ½ day on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and a ½ day on December 23<sup>rd</sup> definitely has some merit, especially if it brings the end of the school year back a little bit. She expressed that as for Good Friday, Ms. Burke, herself and some other members of the committee have gone down this path before with much discussion and much public comment and at the end of the day, the last time we looked at this we found that it really wouldn't really be a great day for students or staff, because we would be missing quite a bit of both, and that's why we have continued to have Good Friday as a day off for both students and staff. She expressed that she wanted to share this for the new committee members, that this is not the first time this is being brought up, but it's not as easy as just saying “it's a school day”. She expressed there's a lot of attendance factors that prohibit us from having a day of school in years past.

Ms. Burke expressed that it might be important to hear from Principals about what attendance looks like on a ½ day before a school holiday or vacation. Mr. Nelson asked that Principal Devoll and Principal Bowman take the lead on answering this question and he would welcome any other principal to add to the conversation as well.

Mr. Devoll reported that whenever the last day before a vacation is, always carries with it less of an academic focus. He expressed that when you're looking at a ½ day versus a full day, there is no difference leading into a vacation at the high school level, he expressed that it's the week leading into the holiday, so for example for Thanksgiving, the entire week is a poorly attended week, and the same happens in December, as families seek the less expensive travel options. Mr. Devoll also expressed that a day in September, October, November, December, January, February or March far out weights a day in mid to late June, therefore whatever we can do to get our students in school during those months would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Bowman expressed that for many, many years the day before Thanksgiving was a ½ day and in the last 8 years we have had a full day off before Thanksgiving, she expressed that the parents who are traveling appreciate it and she expressed that she agrees with Mr. Devoll that is a delicate week as far as attendance due to family travel. She expressed that as far as December, when you live in the world of early childhood, December 23<sup>rd</sup> is a very challenging day to be in school, she reported that it has happened before and it's been a challenge, she expressed that she appreciates the calendar the way it's written now, she expressed that she would be less than honest if she told everyone that the week of Thanksgiving was an academically rigorous week, she expressed that the teachers do different types of activity with students but she would really prefer to have the 23<sup>rd</sup> as an off for students.

Ms. Reedy expressed that she echoes Mr. Devoll's sentiment about late June, she expressed that come June 1<sup>st</sup> she feels that students "are done" she doesn't feel like much learning happens in the month of June, she expressed that any education that we can get in before June would be beneficial to our students, regardless if it's the day before Thanksgiving or December 23<sup>rd</sup>, she expressed that those hours spent in the classroom are much more beneficial. She expressed that when you factor in snow days/emergency days it just prolongs the June calendar, therefore looking at the days off is crucial, she expressed that personally for her April 7<sup>th</sup> is not a federal holiday, it's actually a religious holiday and it's not celebrated by a lot of our families and community members, and if we are going to start acknowledging religious holidays, it is unfair to not acknowledge all religious holidays and not just Good Friday.

Ms. Rounseville thanked Supt. Nelson for providing the School Committee with all the feedback from all the stakeholders, she expressed that the school calendar is the one thing that affects everyone in every aspect, school, staff, parents, families as well as our school committee. She expressed that she does agree that we have had multiple discussions about Good Friday, however I do feel that some of us do still feel that it should not be a day off of school, for some of the reasons that Mr. Monteiro and Ms. Reedy have stated. Ms. Rounseville suggested maybe making April 7<sup>th</sup> a ½ day and she would like to hear what people think about that, and suggested that might be a compromise.

Ms. Daniel expressed that she knows that we've had Good Friday off for quite a few years now, however when we did have school on Good Friday, did administration find that we had enough staff to run the schools efficiently? She expressed that although not everyone associates with this holiday the majority of our population do, so the question would be *"do we have the staff to run our schools?"*

Ms. Burke expressed that it's been a while since we had school on Good Friday, therefore the data maybe be untimely.

Mrs. Bowman expressed that not looking back at previous year but instead looking at the year that we are currently in, she would be very concerned about the staff absences on Good Friday. Staff would need to make their own choice that day if we had school, they might decide to take a personal day, which is their prerogative, but that she does have a concern for substitute coverage. She also expressed that even the substitutes don't always want to work on that day.

Mr. Devoll expressed that he vividly remembers the last time we had school on Good Friday, he remembers two teachers out "citing" that they were out due to religious reasons, he expressed that for a staff of 100, it's nothing we can't handle, he expressed that on a typical day we see anywhere from 5 to 7 staff members out. He also remembers a good number of students taking a ½ day to participate in family activities.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that it is so helpful to have the feedback from the various committees. She expressed that on a personal note this is the first year she has a child in school and looked at the calendar and found it challenging, so I'm looking at it through that lense as well. She expressed she is all for having school on Good Friday, she expressed it's a religious holiday, it's not a federal holiday, there shouldn't be that much discussion about it, and those who need to take that day off for religious reasons, should be able to. She expressed that she loves the idea of moving the ½ day in September to the Friday before Labor Day (9/2), and she expressed she's also in favor of moving the PD day in January to Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> which is a Friday, she expressed that for parents it's a lot easier to be flexible on a Friday than a Tuesday after a Monday holiday. She expressed that she's very neutral on the ½ or a day off on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. She also wanted to ask about ½ PD days and why they are all held on Wednesdays. Mr. Nelson expressed that typically PD days in most districts are held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays to maintain some momentum and strong attendance.

Ms. Burke encourage fellow school committee members to talk to friends and family who may live in other districts because you will find that in some districts they have ½ days every week, she expressed that sometimes it's Monday morning, sometimes it's Wednesday afternoon, she expressed that we are very fortunate to have such a balanced calendar and how much our kids are in school and how we try to maximize the teaching time.

Ms. Fernandes expressed that Good Friday is a cultural and it is faith based day of observation for many of us, for both students, parents and staff. She expressed that she agrees with Mrs. Bowman about the hardship of finding substitutes on that day. She expressed that when she was teaching there was a time that there was school on Good Friday and teachers were given the option to take a personal day which is fine, however when there are one or two teachers and possibly a paraprofessional out in one grade level it becomes very difficult for the children, the special education population, the general education population, it just becomes difficult in general, therefore I wish we would leave the 7<sup>th</sup> in place as a day off.

Ms. Clifford expressed that she believes the data for Good Friday might be a little different if the day is before the April vacation instead of by itself. She expressed she believes if the Friday is right before or April vacation many families take advantage of that day and start their April vacation early.

Chairperson Burke expressed that she doesn't hear a lot of resistance about November 23<sup>rd</sup> being a half day. Chairperson Hartley expressed that she actually had a comment about that in general.

Ms. Hartley expressed that our job as school committee members and school leader is that education is the very best it can be for our students throughout the school calendar, she expressed that one of the reasons why they decided long ago to make the Tuesday before Thanksgiving a full day was a result of a lot of conversations about ½ days in schools, she expressed that as a parent and grandparent ½ days always lead for a conundrum for parents and what do we do on those days. She expressed that there are two kind of ½ days, ½ days that are professional development days, we need to make sure that we have that available to our staff and it makes a difference in our school district, however the ½ days before holidays become an interesting conversation point, for school committee and school leaders who need to look at what kind of an educational day is it, she expressed that when you take into consideration the amount of financial resources, i.e. busing to and from school, plus planning time for teachers, it becomes a very difficult for those days to become good educational days. She expressed that when we can replace a ½ day with a full day we are better off, she expressed that there might be two of those opportunities in this calendar and those are important pieces for us to think about. She expressed that we need to make a decision to provide the best education for our children.

Ms. Lavin expressed that she is in support of what Ms. Hartley said about the quality of the time in school. She expressed that she would actually support a full day of school on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, before Thanksgiving, to the families that are not going to be here, that will be their choice. She expressed that she would love for the school committee to consider December 23<sup>rd</sup> as well. She expressed that as a parent of young children and she understands the excitement, however the excitement is there starting on November 25<sup>th</sup>. She expressed that she also thought the idea of moving the ½ PD day from September 21<sup>st</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup> was a good idea, to give students a full day on September 21<sup>st</sup>. She expressed that she likes that break at the beginning of September for the students, however having a ½ day of PD for the staff and having it off for the students would be a good idea. She expressed that she is also in favor of moving the January PD day off of the Tuesday.

Ms. Burke reported that she is going to amend her recent comments and possibly look at the January date, therefore moving the professional development date from the Tuesday to Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, she expressed that she has not heard any objections to that thus far, there was no objections, and the Superintendent also supported that change.

Ms. Hartley expressed that it's important to get the school calendar approved and suggested that maybe this year that should be the only change made and next year we should start the conversation earlier in the year, maybe as early as the first meeting of the school year. Ms. Hartley expressed that it's important to get the calendar approved and in the hands of the administrative team, she asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the School Calendar with one amendment to move the January PD date to January 13<sup>th</sup>) as amended

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Nye

District, Ms. James

Union, Ms. Fernandes

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: no, Muse: yes, Smith: no, McSweeney: no, Kearns: no, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: no, Nye: yes, Lavin: no, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: no, Clifford: no)

MOTION ONLY PASSED ON UNION SIDE

## DISCUSSION BEFORE THE ROLL CALL:

Ms. McSweeny expressed that she does not agree with not having school on Good Friday.

Ms. Kearns also agreed, especially when it doesn't about the April vacation.

Mr. Monteiro was wondering if they could hear from principals or teachers about moving the November PD day to November 1<sup>st</sup> the day after Halloween, she expressed that make sense to give the kids the day off after Halloween. Mr. Nelson asked a Principal to speak to that point. Mr. Medeiros expressed that his staff did make that suggestion, he expressed that some neighboring towns also have the same practice and his staff thought it would be a good time for our school district to also make that transition. Mr. Nelson expressed that there wasn't a big push for that particular move, only one group brought that up.

Ms. Smith expressed that she agrees with Mr. Devoll and Ms. Reedy, at the end in June students are done, it's hot, therefore if we can find anyway to put a day back in June it's worth it.

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After the roll call Mr. Nelson expressed that the chairpersons could entertain new motions that anyone brings forward and go through the same process to see if you can reach consensus.

Ms. Hartley asked that the people who voted no to state what the issue was and what would make them change their vote.

Ms. Lavin expressed that she would like to see at least one more day before the December break and also November 23<sup>rd</sup> as a school day.

Ms. Marcolini expressed that maybe having a ½ day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and a ½ day on Good Friday, it would get us out a little earlier in June and it might be a compromise.

Ms. Clifford expressed that the reason she voted no was because she felt that more consideration should be given to the November and December dates for at least ½ days before the Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

Ms. Reedy expressed that nonfederal holidays should be full school days and that would sway her vote.

Mr. Monteiro expressed that his ideal calendar would have Good Friday as a full day of school, December 23<sup>rd</sup> as a ½ day, November 23<sup>rd</sup> as a ½ day and December 22<sup>nd</sup> be a full day. He expressed that obviously he knows he can't get all of that but that would be his ideal calendar.

Ms. Kearns expressed that April 7<sup>th</sup> she would rather see as a full day of school since it is not a federal holiday.

Ms. Marcolini expressed that she knows that someone brought up a full day before Thanksgiving and she expressed that she is adamantly against a full day before Thanksgiving, she expressed that's time that our staff needs, that our families need, she doesn't feel like that would be well received by our families and our staff. Ms. Nye also agreed with that sentiment.

Ms. Burke expressed that she's trying to find points of consensus to moving the conversation forward she suggested adding to the next motion adding November 23<sup>rd</sup> as a ½ day.

Ms. Tseki expressed that she believes that adding December 22<sup>nd</sup> as a full day and December 23<sup>rd</sup> as a ½ day would also be a good idea, but keep the full day before Thanksgiving off. She also expressed that while April 7<sup>th</sup> might not be a federal holiday it is culturally celebrated in the Tri-Town area and she expressed that she remembers that there were a lot of people out the last time we had school on that day.

Ms. Lavin expressed she's hearing people talk about federal holidays and when they are observed and practiced but yet the December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> are neither, we need to think about the amount of time that our students need to be in the classroom.

Motion to approve the School Calendar with the following amendments: move the January PD date to January 13<sup>th</sup>), add December 22<sup>nd</sup> as a full day and December 23<sup>rd</sup> as a ½ day

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Clifford

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Marcolini

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeny: no, Kearns: no, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: no, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: no, Clifford: yes)

Ms. Hartley expressed that was hard work everyone, thank you for your efforts.

Ms. Rounseville expressed that every year we get bogged down with this task, she suggested starting this process earlier, she expressed that we get to this point and we feel very much under pressure to approve a calendar so we can get it out to families and staff. She expressed that this year it was very helpful having the feedback, but she still thinks that next year we should start the process earlier.

Ms. Burke agreed and also expressed that it's important to get the public participation and expressed that only happens if it comes up in multiple meetings, she expressed that it's incumbent on the committee to make sure it's on the agenda earlier in the year.

Ms. Nye wanted to thank everyone for their ideas, she expressed that opens up the conversation for all of us to look at things differently and hear one another. She expressed she looks forward to next year and looking at it earlier.

Ms. Hartley agreed with Ms. Nye and expressed that we really have great minds on our committees.

Mr. Nelson thanked the committee for their collaboration and for approving the school calendar, he expressed that last year the calendar was only approved in March and this year we thought it was important to do this earlier in the year, however he expressed that he has no issue bringing this up earlier next year so that we can get ahead, he expressed that from an administrative point of view, the sooner the calendar is adopted the sooner we can start planning other pieces of the work in the schools. Mr. Nelson thanked the committees again for their hard work.

## **B. Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline**

### **Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*"This update serves as a review of the superintendent's evaluation timeline. As a reminder, I currently have two-year evaluation goals and this is year two. At the end of last year – the Joint School Committee held a mid-point progress review regarding my evaluation in July. By the end of this school year the Joint School Committee will see out the completion of the current evaluation*

*timeline by conducting a summative review. To facilitate this process – I will continue to work with the Superintendent’s Goals Sub-Committee to ensure as we work all work through this process. No action is required by the Joint School Committee tonight – this update is simply a reminder and brief conversation regarding the superintendent’s evaluation timeline and upcoming actions needed.*

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Smith asked if Mr. Nelson’s contract was aligned with his evaluation as far as timeline. Mr. Nelson expressed that they are actually two separate processes and that he has a three-year contract. Mr. Nelson expressed that goals are typically either one year or two-year goals, he expressed that at ORR they have tried to tie the superintendent with the strategic plan and the school improvement plans, so that we don’t have different initiatives going in different directions.

Ms. Hartley thanked the superintendent for pointing out the process to the school committee, she expressed that having been a person that has been part of the writing part of the evaluation summary I would encourage everyone to take a look at the goals and take notes of how things are going throughout the year and she would encourage everyone to give great comments, she expressed that the comments effects the quality of the evaluation from all the school committee members, she expressed that “*many voices will make a robust and terrific evaluation in the end*”.

**C. Budget Update**

**Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:**

*“As most – if not all school committee members know - we have held numerous budget sub-committee meetings in the past several weeks. This work is one of the core responsibilities of the school committees and extremely important work for our schools. At this point, we have made progress with our four draft budgets. I will ask Mr. Barber to speak briefly to the current status.”*

**Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Barber made the following statement:**

*“The Old Rochester Regional and Elementary School Districts have all been actively involved with their budgetary subcommittees in the preparation of the Year 2023 Operating Budgets. In order to maximize the time of our school committee members, our District leadership team have held many planning meetings to a head of time. This allowed the Principal(s) and Administrator(s) to speak on behalf of the schools and various departments for the betterment of the District(s). The District budget subcommittees have received goal orientated initial budget proposals in order to meet our continued high level of academics and to ensure the needs of our students.*

*The Elementary School Districts of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester have had three (3), two (2) and two (2) budget subcommittee meetings, respectively in order to recognize all of the proposed recommendations and zero based costs relating to their working Superintendent’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budgets.*

*The Old Rochester Regional School District has held two (2) subcommittee meetings, as referenced above, presenting anticipated needs for the upcoming school year. We are still working diligently to properly recognize the potential regional cost obligations of ORRSD that not absorbed in the Elementary Schools, as well as the fiscal state funding sources, in order to bring the town assessments to the most efficient recommendation possible.*

*We intend to schedule further budget subcommittee meetings as needed and to begin presenting to our School Committees recommended budgets for next school year.”*



## **VI. New Business**

### **D. Policy Review**

#### Recommendation:

That the school committee review and approve the following policies:

#### **A. BEDH – Public Comment Policy – The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed this policy on November 9<sup>th</sup> and January 13, 2022.**

The recommendation from MASC reads as follows:

This policy has been updated to clarify the purpose and guidelines relative to public comment at school committee meetings. Revised language notes that public comment is not a discussion, debate or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee but rather an opportunity for individuals to express opinions on issues with the School Committee's scope of responsibility. Revised language emphasizes that all speakers are expected to present their remarks in a respectful manner and the Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech that is not constitutionally protected. The policy also advises that it is a good idea for school committee when dealing with constitutional issues to seek further advice from district counsel. The policy is before the Joint School Committee for final approval.

Motion to approve the BEDH Public Comment Policy with the grammatical correction from Mr. Monteiro

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Nye

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Lavin

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes,

McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes,

Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: yes)

#### **B. KHB- Advertising in Schools Policy – The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed this policy on November 9<sup>th</sup> and January 13, 2022.**

This policy was recommended for review by the ORR School Committee at their meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting there was a presentation by the Booster Athletic Club to offer Corporate Solicitation. At the meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Policy Sub Committee reviewed policies from other districts and also had a discussion with Paige Tobin, the schools legal counsel. The recommendation of the policy sub-committee was for administration to put together a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the policy to allow advertising in the schools. The administration drafted the 1<sup>st</sup> draft and it was reviewed at the most recent meeting of the policy sub-committee on January 13<sup>th</sup>. It is the recommendation of the Policy Sub-Committee that this committee review this for its' first read.

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:**

Mr. Monteiro expressed that the guidelines need to be clearly stated that this is just for advertising and not anything else, he also expressed that he was happy to see that the policy included language about advertising not being allowed in curriculum.

Ms. Burke expressed that this information may should probably not be in the policy but might be in the materials that is given to the advertisers, she expressed that information about liability around responsibility if the sign gets vandalized, blown away, etc., she expressed that we don't want this to become something we have staff spend a lot of time managing.

Mr. Chisholm expressed that the posting of the signage should also be the responsibility of the entity as well.

Mr. Muse expressed that those types of things would be reviewed once the proposal was approved, he expressed at this point we are just approving the policy. He expressed that for a lack of a better description, we are passing the law and the administration will develop the regulation that will go along with it. Mr. Muse also expressed that although this is being put forth due to a request from the Booster Club, this policy will open up advertising to anyone who meets the criteria and wants to advertise at the schools, not just the Booster Club.

Ms. Burke asked if this policy was independent of the Booster Club. Mr. Nelson expressed that this policy would allow us to approve the Booster Club's request and follow any procedures as outlined in the policy, if it is approved.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that she's been involved in this on many levels and expressed that it's a slippery slope, she expressed that she knows we need to have it and there's good reasons for it, but there's another part of her that feels that our children will walk into the school and see advertising everywhere, because there's nothing that says that a certain amount is allowed, she expressed that she's concerned about that.

Mr. Monteiro asked if we could consider limit advertising at the elementary schools and also not have advertising in the classrooms and hallways at the Jr. High and High School. He expressed that it would still accomplish the initial goal of what we are trying to accomplish for the Booster Club.

Ms. Nye expressed that she agrees with Ms. McSweeney and a lot of her concerns, however in the policy it does state that there would not be any advertising in the classrooms.

Ms. Smith asked about the Boosterthon, and where that would fall into. Mr. Nelson expressed that the Boosterthon is a fundraiser approved by the Marion School Committee that is run at Sippican School therefore it does not fall under advertising.

Ms. Marcolini suggested that maybe we narrow down the parameters to be stricter, maybe just on our ball fields, tennis courts, gyms, and that might make people feel more comfortable with this policy. She also suggested that maybe it does make sense to have different rules for elementary and Jr. High School and High School.

Ms. Burke expressed that this came up when she was on the policy sub-committee as well and that her view is that it would be wonderful to have the extra revenue, but that there's an opportunity cost as well, and the cost is the time of our administrators, and it puts us in a different business, we are in the business of education, she expressed that she feels like we don't have the administrative staff to spend a lot of time having to sort through and manage a media placement plan. She expressed *"this isn't our core business and we don't have the personnel to sway from our core business"*.

Ms. Tseki agreed with Ms. Burke and expressed that we should not have the advertising and we should find other revenue sources.

Mr. Muse expressed that we have to be careful and there's a difference between advertising and fundraisers, he does also agree with the opinion that this will take a lot of resources and while it will bring in some revenue he doesn't believe it's worth it.

Ms. Reedy expressed that she would echo what Mr. Muse and others are saying, she expressed that children especially now in the middle of a pandemic have so much on their plate, she

expressed that going into a school they shouldn't be exposed to any advertising from any outside agencies, she expressed that the walls of our schools should be filled with positive affirmation rather than local business advertisements.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she very much hears the concerns of her colleagues regarding the level of advertising and the exposure to the children in the schools, however I'm thinking about the community organizations using our football fields and having robust discussions about the conditions of the fields and talking about working to get funds to repair those fields and as an organization we need to have a conversation about how to close that gap, she expressed that she hears the concerns of her colleagues and also feels the same way but is torn because she feels like the field condition of the football needs to be addressed so it can continue to be a benefit to our community.

Ms. Lavin expressed that she echoes what Ms. Kearns just said, she expressed that having sat on the Policy Sub-Committee, she expressed that she appreciates everyone's comments and looks forward to working with the Policy Sub-Committee for round two.

Mr. Monteiro suggested allowing only organizations that use our fields to advertise at the school and maybe include language that speaks to that.

Mr. Chisholm expressed that he was just going to suggested something similar, he expressed that when the request first came to the ORR School Committee from the Booster Club, he expressed he thought they just wanted to figure out a way to facilitate that request. He expressed to Mr. Monteiro's point maybe only allow those groups affiliated with our schools and try to bring awareness to their programs and support our athletes and students.

Mr. Devoll expressed that based on the limited amount that the athletic department is funded by the school district that any opportunity to bring in revenue to support our student athletes should be pursued. He expressed that it is not uncommon to go into a gymnasium and see that coca cola sponsored their score board, or to go outside to the baseball field and see a tastefully done a list of community downers that support athletics in that community. He expressed we need revenue streams for athletics because there aren't any through the general budget.

Ms. Tseki thanked Mr. Devoll for his perspective and expressed that it does get a little different when it starts getting inside the school, particularly in the hallways.

**C. DJE – Procurement Requirements – The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed this policy on January 13, 2022.** This policy is one of twenty-five in Section D – Fiscal Policies that was reviewed and revised by MASc. The policy sub-committee is in the process of reviewing these policies, however this particular policy needed to be reviewed right away to fulfill our audit findings from last year. This policy was also reviewed and endorsed by our Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. The policy is before the Joint School Committee for final approval.

In undertaking this review, the following principles were prioritized:

1. Ensuring that policy language is aligned with the constitutional and legal principles of school funding: The funding of public schools in Massachusetts is created by Constitutional authority and guaranteed by Massachusetts General Law.
2. Confirming that policy remains focused on the legal authorities of the school committee: The interrelated responsibilities of the school committee in budget, policy, and goal setting all play a key role in policy section D.

3. Updating legal references: There have been several updates within legislation since the policy was last reviewed. This update incorporates those changes.
4. Clarifying process: There were a number of places in prior language that may have left process of committee work unclear. This update strives to make process easier to follow.
5. Incorporating best practices: Fiscal best practices from across the state have long been part of MASC's professional development for members. This update includes those best practices in policy language.

Mr. Barber reviewed the changes with the School Committees.

Motion to approve the DJE Procurement Requirements as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. McSweeney

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: yes)

**D. Revised Policies w/ Gender Neutral Terms: The Policy Sub-Committee reviewed these policies on January 13, 2022.** At a meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> members of the Policy Sub-Committee thought it was important to review our policy manual to include neutral gender terms. Below are the policies that had those such terms and that now have been revised. These policies are before the Joint School Committee for final approval.

- AC - NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
- ADDA - C.O.R.I. REQUIREMENTS
- ADDA-E-2 - C.O.R.I. REQUIREMENTS
- BBAA - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER AUTHORITY
- BBBA/BBBB - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS/OATH OF OFFICE
- BBBC - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER RESIGNATION
- BCA - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS
- BCB - SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- CHA - DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES
- CI - TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
- EC - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT
- ECAC - VANDALISM
- GCBC - PROFESSIONAL STAFF SUPPLEMENTARY PAY PLANS
- GCE - PROFESSIONAL STAFF RECRUITING/POSTING OF VACANCIES
- GCJ - PROFESSIONAL TEACHER STATUS
- GCQF - SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS
- HF - SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEGOTIATING AGENTS
- HG - SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS
- IHBAA - OBSERVATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- IHBFB - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION
- IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING
- JFAA - NON-RESIDENT STUDENT POLICY
- JFABD - HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES

- JFABE - EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
- JFABF - EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
- JICFB - BULLYING PREVENTION
- JLCA - PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS
- JLCD - ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS
- JLCEB-R - PROTOCOL AND GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

Mr. Nelson reviewed the changes with the School Committees.

Motion to approve the changes to the gender neutral terms as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Nye

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Clifford

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: no, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: yes)

## **OPEN COMMENTS: NONE**

### **XI. Executive Session**

Motion to go into executive session at 8:46 p.m. for reason number seven and only to come out to adjourn.

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Rounseville

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Clifford

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: yes)

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:13 p.m. only to adjourn

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Clifford

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Nye

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:14 p.m.

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Kearns

Union, Ms. Rounseville

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Clifford: yes)



**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**February 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

**MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM**

**Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**EMERGENCY MEETING**

**<https://vimeo.com/678412958>**

**District Members Present:** Heather Burke, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Margaret McSweeney, Frances Kearns, Matthew Monteiro, Joe Pires, Jason Chisholm, Suzanne Tseki.

**District Members Absent:** None.

**Union Members Present:** Sharon Hartley, Chairperson, Anne Fernandes, Nichole Daniel, April Nye, Robin Rounseville, Christine Marcolini, Karin Barrows, Tiffini Reedy and Carly Lavin,

**Union Members Absent:** None.

**Other Staff Members Present:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Diana Russo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Administrative Team, staff members, parents, community members and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairperson Burke of the ORR School Committee and Chairperson Hartley of the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

**Chairperson Burke made the following statement:**

*"As Chairs, Ms. Hartley and I would like to open with a few words for the committee. Let's be clear about what our mission is here tonight, we are here to weigh risk, we need to decide what kind of risk and how much risk we feel is appropriate for our school committee, because every action, every decision even doing nothing has inherited risk. So before we get into this discussion, we want to be sure that everyone understands there is unlikely to be any perfect solution. We will determine the next step forward in these difficult times to be best of our abilities, that is all we can do and nothing here is absolutely final, the situation will continue to evolve and we may have to revisit our decisions. Furthermore, we are here to discuss one issue, the policy around masks in ORR Schools, any decision or non-decision here will not return these to "normal" whatever that word even means, it will not make COVID go away and there will still be layers of mitigation measures in our schools. No matter what the committee decides tonight, forms of anxiety will persist, disappointments will happen, learning will be hard, life will be taxing and inconveniences will abound. This is the hard work of everyday life, there are no magic wands. What will happen tonight, we hope is that we work to ensure and continue to be an incredible committee and community that rallies around our schools, that we will remember all of the lessons we teach children on kindness and make sure to model that behavior ourselves. Risk feels risky so it tends to elicit an emotional response, but tonight we want to remember that we all share a common goal, to find the best way forward for our schools. All of us have demonstrated that we serve on volunteers on this committee in order to strive toward that common goal, we ask everyone to respect each other here tonight as we do at our other meetings and recognize that we are trying to work through a complex situation.*

*To the public we ask the same, the members of this committee and the administration have selflessly put countless hours working to make our schools a nurturing and vigorous academic environment in order to help Tri-Town children discover their best self. This committee deserves your respect, no matter how much you agree or disagree with decisions it makes and we expect you to give to them.*



*As always, we want to receive public input, we have a policy on public comment which Ms. Hartley is going to cover now.*

Chairperson Hartley read the BEDH Policy - PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS in full.

*All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*The School Committee desires citizens of the District to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.*

*Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.*

*To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:*

- 1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment. The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner. (Ms. Hartley indicated that the Chairs of the committee extended this 30 minutes for this meeting only)*
- 2. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chairperson may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.*
- 3. Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of the School Committee authority.*
- 4. The chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.*
- 5. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the School Committee.*
- 6. Sign up instructions will be provided by Chairperson Burke in just a moment.*

Ms. Burke expressed that in addition to the policy the Chairs would like to request that to make the most of this time that we have for public comment please do not repeat the same messages as speakers before you; if we as Chairs deem that new comments are not being made we will end public comment; all comments need to be respectfully made and the chairs may rescind the right of the speaker if their language is inappropriate. As we are an educational entity, if you site facts, please



site your sources either in your comment or in the chat and if you are quoting people please share their full names, positions and affiliations.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Nelson expressed that he will reserve most of his comments for the general agenda, however he wanted to thank this committee for their guidance throughout the pandemic and also for their help in terms of navigating the process that we are implementing tonight, in terms of talking about the future of masking in our schools beyond February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nelson also wanted to thank the many, many parents, guardians and caregivers who took the time to either call me directly to have conversations, to email me and share their thoughts and also thank the over 2,000 people who took the time to respond to our survey that was issued to parents, guardians, caregivers and staff members. He expressed that we value everyone's input and it was great to hear so many voices that will help informed decision making tonight. Thank you Chairpersons Burke and Hartley for the opportunity to provide opening remarks.

### **OPEN COMMENTS SECTION:**

**The following citizens of the Tri-Town made open comments.**

**Alison Costa – Mattapoisett:** Ms. Costa was wondering if the survey results would be shared prior to the vote. Chairperson Burke apologized for not covering this before and expressed that during open comment session questions could not be answered, she expressed that any questions such as this should be directed to the superintendent's office. Ms. Burke did however say that the school committee would be having a comprehensive conversation on this topic and that committee members have received information about the survey.

**Richard Reilly – Mattapoisett:** Mr. Reilly expressed the following: When I was on in September I shared that we spent a lot of money as a cooperation to have our scientists come in and test our masks and we proved that it doesn't work, so to this point, I just want you to know should the vote go past this point on continuing the masks based on no science, we are forming this organization to come at this on a more official basis, we are going to file a claim, this mask has to end, I have a granddaughter whose having migraines, I have two grandsons who are having breathing problems, we brought in a specialist, we offered the scientific data, nobody accepted so it's time for it to come to an end. Thank you.

**Sara Bernier – Rochester:** Ms. Bernier expressed the following: Hi everyone, I live over in Rochester and I have one kiddo at RMS and two younger ones that will eventually be there, I reached out to all the committee members and I thank you for your service and I know that you can't make everybody happy, however my standpoint comes from a medical perspective, I work in the medical field, I've been dealing with COVID for the last two years, we are lucky we live in a state that has an exceptionally high vaccination rate, the numbers have been tremendously dropping and in my opinion no reasonable person would continue to mandate masks, as I said in my email to the board members, in my opinion what goes hand in hand with unmasking and allowing parents to make a decision for their children is also respecting those who continue to wear a mask, no judgement, teaching our children that, people can mask if they want to mask, and they should if they are in a protective population or live with relatives, my children live with elderly parents, but at this point luckily we are in a state that is in really good condition, the virus is never going to go away, this will be with us forever, they will have us booster every year, and we have to go onto the next stage which is to allow our children to interact normally and to get back to some sense of normal. The only other thing I was wondering about is the survey data and how that's used.

**John Miller – Marion:** Mr. Miller expressed the following: Good evening everyone, I have three children at Sippican School, all three were involved in SAIL, so knowing that they were not required to be masked, the point of extensive, external testing requirements, we have our own direct evidence



based on what happened at SAIL this summer as the infection rate varies between having everyone required to be masked versus not masked, so I would suggest that we go look at the information from SAIL, with the number of kids that were involved in that and say how effective are masks. Thank you.

**Amy Carlson – Rochester:** Ms. Carlson expressed the following: I have two of my daughters over at RMS, my information comes from an email that I just received today as a state employee, just changing our mask advisory throughout the commonwealth, which I think says a lot and I'm quoting from the Department of Public Health "please be advised, effective today the Department of Public Health has amended its' mask advisory as it applies to any indoor space. DPH now only advises that a fully vaccinated person should wear a mask or face covering when indoors if you have a weakened immune system or if you are at an increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlining medical condition or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at risk for increased disease or unvaccinated. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear masks indoors". I share that with everyone, given the fact that working for the state, that this is the position that the entire state has taken, and then just kind of going back and circling to Charlie Baker when he made his announcement about the plan to end the mask mandate as of February 28<sup>th</sup> and citing that the numbers were really low infection rate, I believe it was around 1% for students and 1.3% for teachers. So at that point if we are going to be following the science the entire way through since it's telling us that it's safe and comfortable for our children.

**Misty King – Rochester:** Ms. King expressed the following: Hello Good Evening, thank you everyone for your service and I'm sure this isn't an easy night for everyone. But I just wanted to bring to the attention of the school committee and the administration and residents here that the policy that was approved by the Joint School Committee on September 24, 2020, I won't read the entire policy, but there is one thing that stands out. "students in Grades 1 and below are exempt from this policy although they are encouraged to wear face coverings when possible". It also states that it is not necessary for a mask to be worn during gym class. So I'm not sure if students in grades in 1 and under have been wearing masks this whole time and if so and they been exempt, how come? And also the legal reference for this policy is based on the governor's order number 31, which has long expired, so I don't know if there was another update that was used or an amendment. To those who have students in grades 1 and under maybe just take a peek at the policy and ask if they really need to wear it. Thank you.

**Tara Tracey – Marion:** Ms. Tracey expressed the following: Hi I'm a mom of two and also a registered nurse, I'm not going to continue to cite the studies that everyone has cited but the fact that our Governor and our State have dropped the mandate should be enough for this committee to understand that masks are not needed and that they harming and not helping our children. I think we know what we need to do and you have not heard one person here to try to vote otherwise I think you should hear the Town, hear the State and what your health officials are telling us.

**Alison Ward - Mattapoisett:** Ms. Ward expressed the following: Hi I'm a senior at the High School and I just want to say that I'm the youngest member of a multi-generational home, I live with my parents and also my mom's mom who is quite severely immunity compromised and so this whole pandemic has been slightly terrifying trying not to bring anything home to her. And from what I've seen up at the High School really no one seems to mind masks, they are just really the easiest thing that we've been able to do to prevent the spread of virus and as far as I know from talking to others including staff it's an easy thing to do to protect others because I would probably be fine if I got but if I brought it home it would be an issue, so just try to think about others and what they need more than what you need.



**Rhonda Baptiste – Rochester:** Ms. Baptiste expressed the following: I have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at RMS and although the numbers have decreased rapidly we are still looking at 13% positivity rate for Rochester which is quite high, so I'm looking forward to having kids safely remove their masks, however I think we need to wait just a little bit longer, because there are kids as Ally just so eloquently said who live with people who immunity compromised who this virus would be detrimental to and we all want it to be choice, but at the end of the day if everyone wears a mask everyone is just a little bit safer, and so if we just hang on a little bit more until the numbers get a little bit better, it would be safer for those who live in this community.

**Noelle Stork – Marion:** Ms. Stork expressed the following: Good Evening everyone and thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to speak, everything that I feel has pretty much been said but I just wanted to piggy back that we really do need to lift this mandate, we got an email today indicating the Jay McGrail is lifting the mandate for all the municipal buildings in Town, everyone around us is lifting the mandate and for some reason the schools are the only ones that are hesitate to do it, it's time to lift this mandate, if folks feel uncomfortable with that than they can continue to wear their masks.

**Karen Thomas – Rochester:** Ms. Thomas expressed the following: I'm a retired nurse and I really feel like I really wanted to add on when that last person spoke, along with a lot of people in Town removing the mandates, there are currently 42 schools in Massachusetts where no masking will be done for children, so it's time to let it go, as I said I'm a retire nurse, I know about masks, the masks do not work, the contamination, the cross contamination is out of control, you're really spreading it more, let the children be children please, it just makes me so sad to see.

**Vanessa Everett – Marion:** Ms. Everett expressed the following: Everybody has spoke beautifully this evening, I really appreciate everybody's comments and I respect everybody's views, but it is time to unmask. It's an express less world here and I'm also seeing the effects of what it's doing to my daughter and because the other 42 schools have lifted the mandate it's just time that we give students the choice to wear them.

**Rebecca Davenport - Rochester:** Ms. Davenport expressed the following: Hi everyone I have a son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade who attends RMS my husband is also a teacher in a different district, and I just wanted to use my voice for the opposite side. So in 2020 when this public emergency started there were public policies that were put in place with specific criteria in order to unmask, vaccination status was one of them and in order to de-mask in schools the vaccination had to be at 80%, right now the vaccination rates are at 40%, so I live in a fully vaccinated house including my son, so if we unmask how do I protect my son who has done everything we've needed to do in order to protect ourselves and everybody else, how do I protect him. So I'm hoping that the committee takes into consideration what the vaccination rates are at each school. And we talk about all the psychological effect of masks on children, but what about the psychological effects of children who experience loss due to COVID, so I just wanted to speak for the voice to continue masking for just a little bit longer until the COVID and flu season is over. We can't use data from the summer the virus doesn't behave the same.

**Greg Hardy – Rochester:** Mr. Hardy expressed the following: I have two kids at RMS, basically definitely time to get rid of the masks, you guys have been following the DESE guidelines since the start so now the DESE guidelines say to get rid of the masks, so it's time to get rid of them. I don't think the masks really worked and if the people are vaccinated what are you so worried about? They can still wear a mask and that's fine if kids want to wear them they can it's optional and the ones that don't want to wear them don't have to. It's time to follow the guidelines still. It's time.



**Kristen Bobriewicki – Rochester:** Ms. Bobriewicki expressed the following: I have two daughters at RMS, I have a second grader and a kindergartener and I'm here in particular to talk about my kindergartener because she has been masked ½ of her life and it's very unfortunate, I very much support us removing these masks so that our children can get back to some form of normality. I can tell you personally that there is no way these masks are working for my children because I see how they actually use them, especially my five-year-old, most of the time it ends up in her mouth, so I think she's spreading more germs with the mask than without the mask, that's my own opinion on that one and I absolutely support other parents if they want to keep a mask on their children.

**Kristin Canto – Marion:** Ms. Canto expressed the following: Hi I just want to echo what she just said, I have two kids at Sippican, my son is 7 years old and he had to do his graduation from preschool in a drive by in his car because COVID first came out at that point and from then he's been masked his whole school career. My daughter is 12 and she's autistic and she has a lot of social issues and the mask has made her take many step back because she can't see her peers faces, she can't see if people are smiling at her, she can't see how people are reacting to her, I am personally immune compromised and I respect everyone's opinion if they want to continue to mask to protect people in their household but I have seen what this has done to my children emotionally and psychologically and it is absolutely heartbreaking and these cloth masks they don't do anything, science is proving that and I think it should be lifted at this point.

**Courtney Soares – Marion:** Ms. Soares expressed the following: I have three children, two who attend Sippican, I'm also a registered nurse, I'm just here to use my voice, me and my family we support lifting the mask mandate, I think it's important that by lifting the mask mandate we are not taking away the option to use masks and that's going to be the way to protect those who are immunity compromised along with their families the option is still there, but we need to get back to some kind of normalcy.

Ms. Hartley thanked everyone for their comments.

## **V. General**

### **A. Review Recent DESE Guidance/Face Coverings**

*First, I would like to start with a summary of the recently released memorandum titled Update of DESE Mask Requirement issued by Commissioner Jeffrey Riley on February 9, 2022. Within this issued memorandum Commissioner Riley shared that after consulting with medical experts and state health officials – that he will not renew the state mask requirement that is currently in place after it expires on February 28, 2022 and that it should be considered lifted. It should be noted that per federal order – individuals must continue to mask on school buses and in school health offices. Furthermore, the memorandum strongly recommends that students and staff members continue to follow the DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios and recommend that unvaccinated individuals consider continued masking. The memorandum emphasizes that individuals should be fully supported with their masking choice. Commissioner Riley cites the Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students as the basis for his decision. In closing, DESE continues to endorse a layered approach to mitigate the spread of the virus in schools' settings. Regarding our schools' layered approach to mitigate the spread of the virus – we will continue to do the following:*

- implement and follow the most current DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios*

- utilize social distancing strategies in our classrooms, cafeterias and other spaces*
- operate our air purifiers and maintain our air quality and HVAC standards*
- make PPE available to individuals as needed and appropriate*

*-continue our participation in the statewide COVID-19 testing program (this means home testing for those who opted-in and symptomatic testing as needed)*  
*-we follow outside of school contact quarantining requirements, but no longer conduct in-school contact tracing*  
*-we encourage good hand hygiene practices, and*  
*-most importantly message and encourage individuals to stay home when sick and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms*

*Our schools' current vaccination rates are as follows (this means individuals who have received the one shot Johnson or Johnson vaccination or the two shot Moderna or Pfizer vaccination):*

***Center School***

*Staff – 85%*  
*Students – 37%*  
*Total Building – 46%*

***Old Hammondtown School***

*Staff – 95%*  
*Students -55%*  
*Total Building – 62%*

***Rochester Memorial School***

*Staff – 72%*  
*Students – 35%*  
*Total Building – 40%*

***Sippican School***

*Staff – 62%*  
*Students – 44%*  
*Total Building – 47%*

***Junior High School***

*Staff – 85%*  
*Students – 61%*  
*Total Building – 64%*

***High School***

*Staff (includes food services, custodial, central office) – 89%*  
*Students – 72%*  
*Total Building – 75%*

*Our system-wide vaccination rate is currently 57.8%. Next, I'd like to share with you our current number of COVID-19 positive cases as of the close of school today:*

*Center School – 0*  
*Old Hammondtown School - 0*  
*Rochester Memorial School – 1*  
*Sippican School – 0*  
*Junior High School – 2*  
*High School – 1*

*This means there are 4 active positive cases system-wide. As for other agency positions the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association – known commonly as the MIAA recently announced that they will align to the DESE mask requirement update, beginning on February 28, 2022. They will adhere to the host school and venue-specific restrictions for competitions and local schools are expected to communicate their protocols to their opponents. EEC – or the Department of Early Education and Care continues to follow an advisory on mask wearing – that aligns with the*



*recent DESE guidance. It is important to note that our preschool programs are DESE programs because they are housed and operated by our school districts and are not licensed by EEC. I've also consulted with our local health officials regarding masking in our schools moving forward. Although there is caution about shifting from the current model of universal masking –there was general support for aligning with the most recent guidance. All health officials recommended a continued use of layered mitigation strategies and to recognize that no decision is permanent and that if guidance or trends were to change – we should reassess the situation accordingly. Mr. Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services shared the results from the Mask/Face Covering Input Survey (please see attached)*

After listening to Mr. Nelson's comments and also hearing the survey presentation, the Old Rochester Regional School Committee and the Massachusetts Union #55 School Committee had a lengthy, robust, educated and respectful discussion regarding the recently release guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about the mask requirement in Massachusetts Schools effective February 28<sup>th</sup>. During the discussion all school committee members shared their opinions, some believed that students and staff should start to follow the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, others thought we should wait a couple of weeks until after February vacation to stop the mask requirement. The School Committee members took this task very seriously and after three votes, one from the Massachusetts Union #55 and two from the Old Rochester Regional School Committee, the Joint School Committee ultimately made the decision to follow the DESE Guidance effective February 28, 2022 and rescind policy EBCFA Face Coverings Policy for all staff and students for schools in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

### **1st Round of Votes**

Motion to rescind Policy EBCFA Face Coverings Policy and to follow the Guidance from DESE that came out on February 9<sup>th</sup>

Union, Ms. Nye

District, Ms. Tseki

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Mr. Pires

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: no, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki (1.10): yes, Chisholm (1.00): no, Monteiro (.95): no, Muse (1.00): no, Smith (1.00): no, McSweeney (.90): no, Kearns (1.10): no, Burke (.90): no, Pires (.95): yes)

**MOTION ONLY PASSED ON THE UNION SIDE**

The school committee members had further discussion about the motion to better understand the specifics of the motion and discussed further what this would mean for the school district. The same motion was made on the Old Rochester Regional School Committee side and a roll call was done.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Votes for the ORR Side**

Motion to rescind Policy EBCFA Face Coverings Policy and to follow the Guidance from DESE that came out on February 9<sup>th</sup>

District, Ms. Tseki

District, Ms. McSweeney

ROLL CALL-District Tseki (1.10): yes, Chisholm (1.00): yes, Monteiro (.95): yes, Muse (1.00): yes, Smith (1.00): no, McSweeney (.90): yes, Kearns (1.10): yes, Burke (.90): no, Pires (.95): yes)

**MOTION PASSED with a 7.00 points per the weigh voting system**

Chairperson Burke expressed that the current policy has been rescinded and at this point both committees are in unison.

Superintendent Nelson thanked both School Committees for their hard work and expressed that he would continue to keep them updated on guidance and would also continue to work with local health officials. Mr. Nelson also reported that per DESE guidelines masks would still be worn on school buses, in health offices and 5 days after children being quarantining.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:04 p.m.

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Nye


District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Daniel

ROLL CALL-District (Tseki: yes, Chisholm: yes, Monteiro: yes, Muse: yes, Smith: yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Nye: yes, Lavin: yes, Marcolini: yes, Reedy: yes, Barrows: yes)





# *Joint School Committee Meeting*

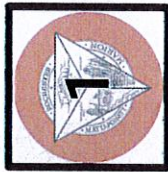
*Mask/Face Covering Input Survey Results*

**February 15, 2022**

**Old Rochester Regional School District  
MA Superintendency Union # 55**



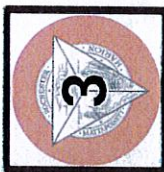
# Contents



Current Confirmed Cases

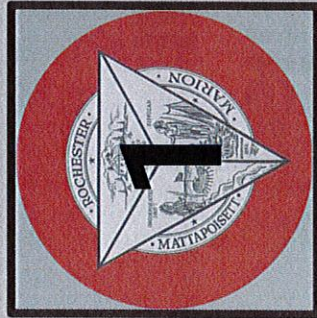


Mask/Face Covering Input  
Survey Results



Individual School Vaccination Rates





# Current Confirmed Cases:





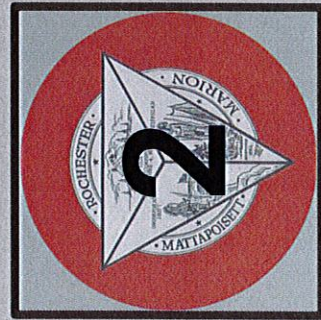
# Current Confirmed Positive Cases In Isolation



- Center School - 0
- Old Hammondtown School - 0
- Rochester Memorial School - 1
- Sippican Elementary School - 0
- Old Rochester Regional Junior High School - 2
- Old Rochester Regional High School - 1

Total - 4 Active Positive Cases System-Wide





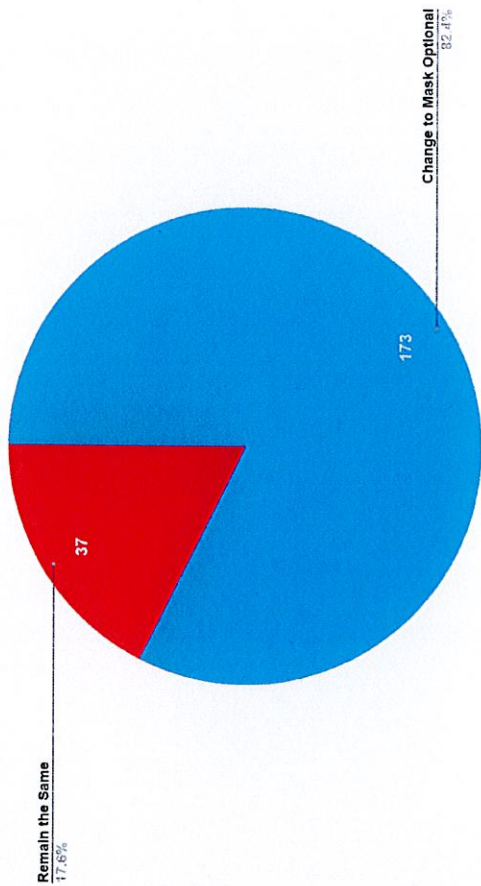
# Mask/Face Covering Input Survey Results:



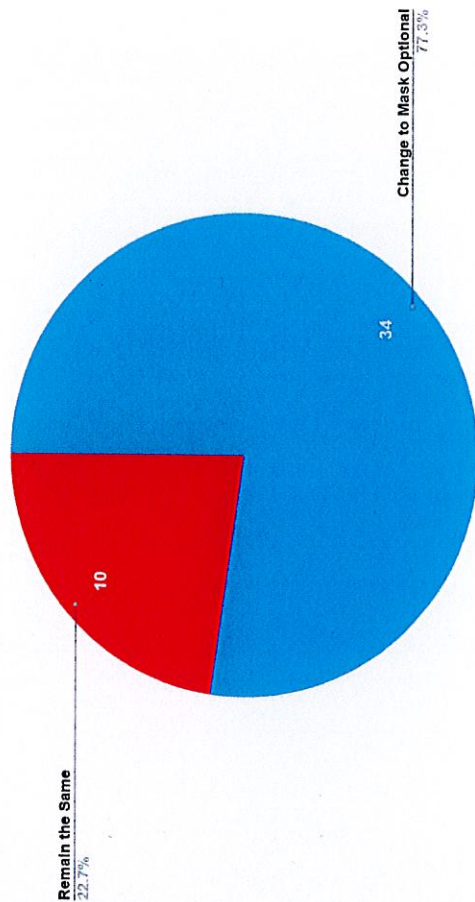


# Center School Survey Results

Center School Parent/Guardian Responses



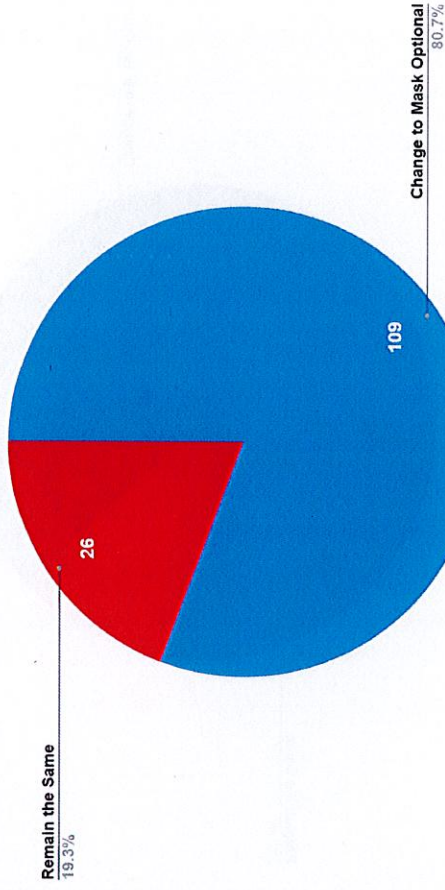
Center School Staff Responses



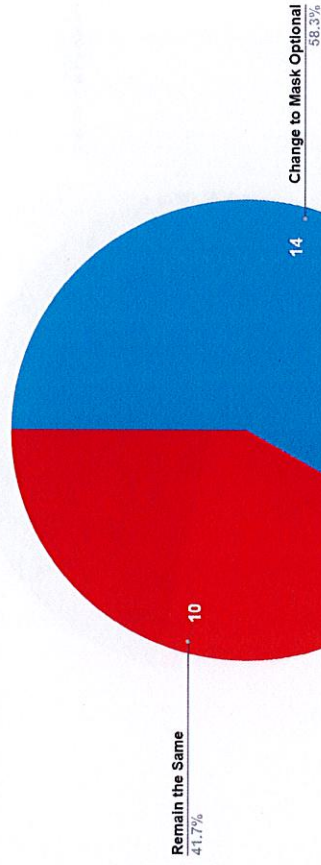




Old Hammondtown Parent/Guardian Responses



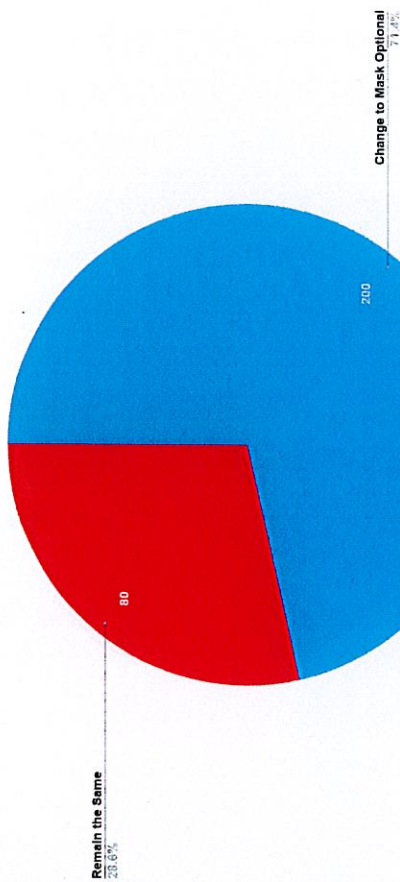
Old Hammondtown School Staff Responses



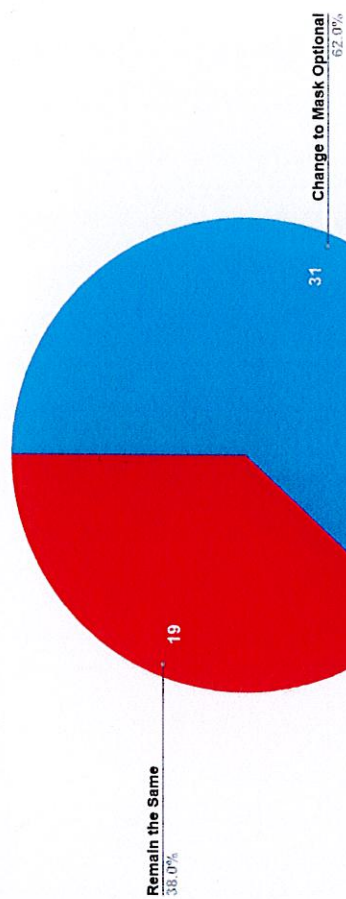




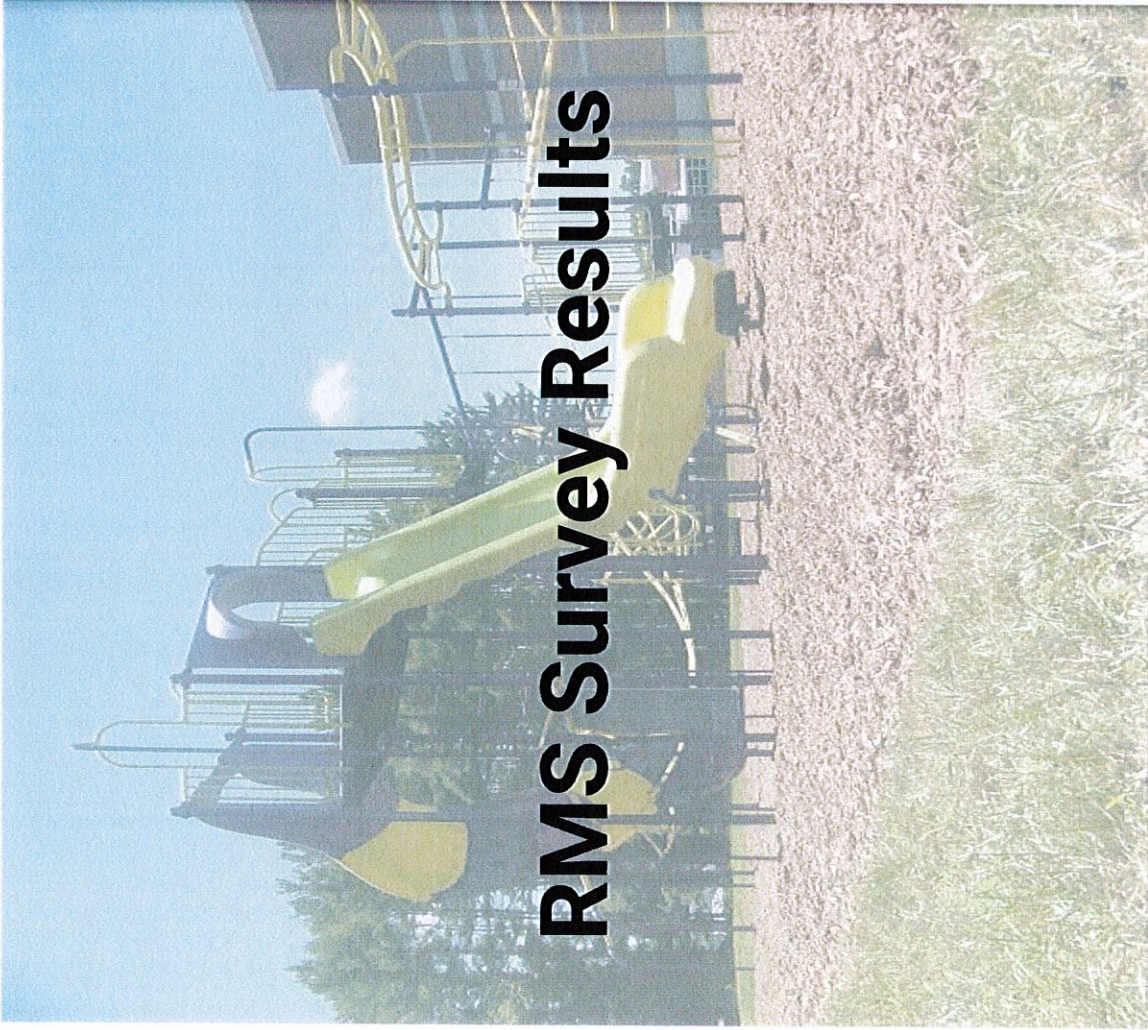
Sippican Elementary Parent/Guardian Responses



Sippican Elementary School Staff Responses

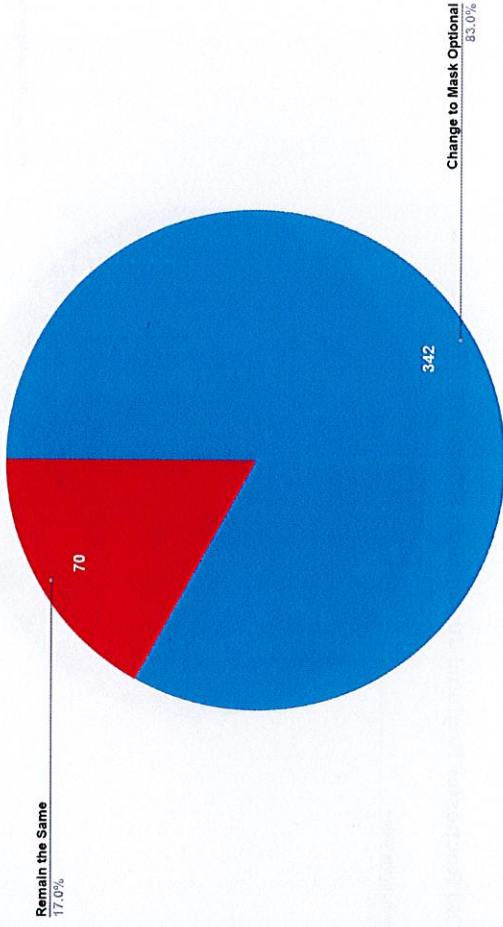




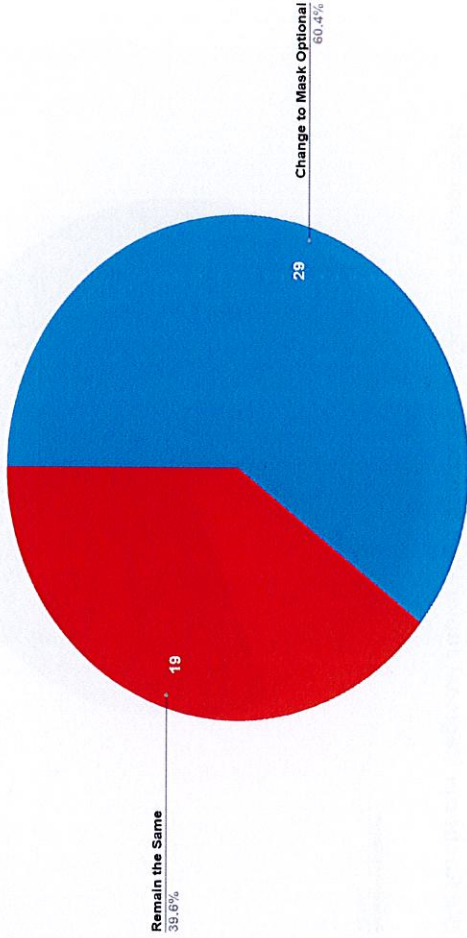


# RMS Survey Results

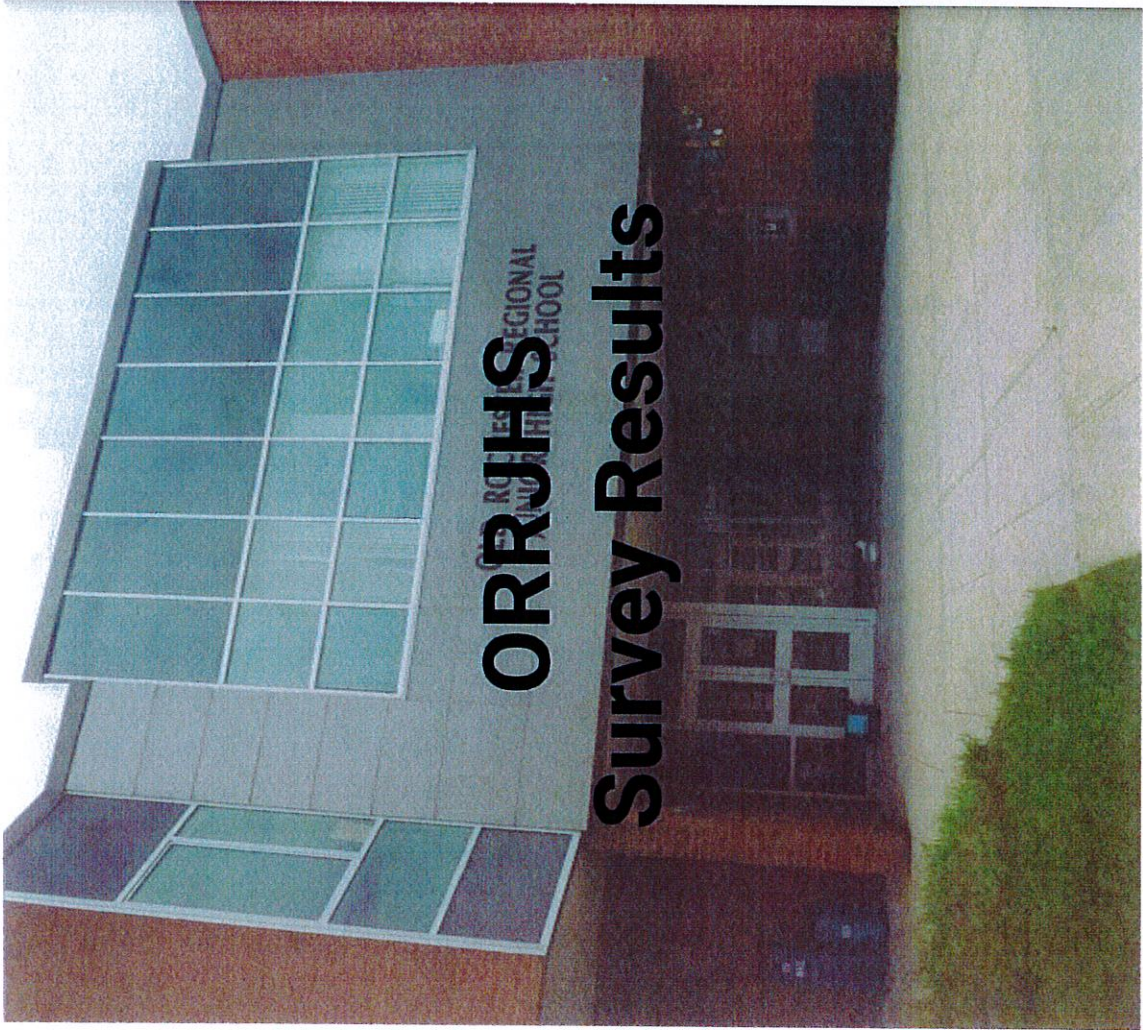
Rochester Memorial Parent/Guardian Responses



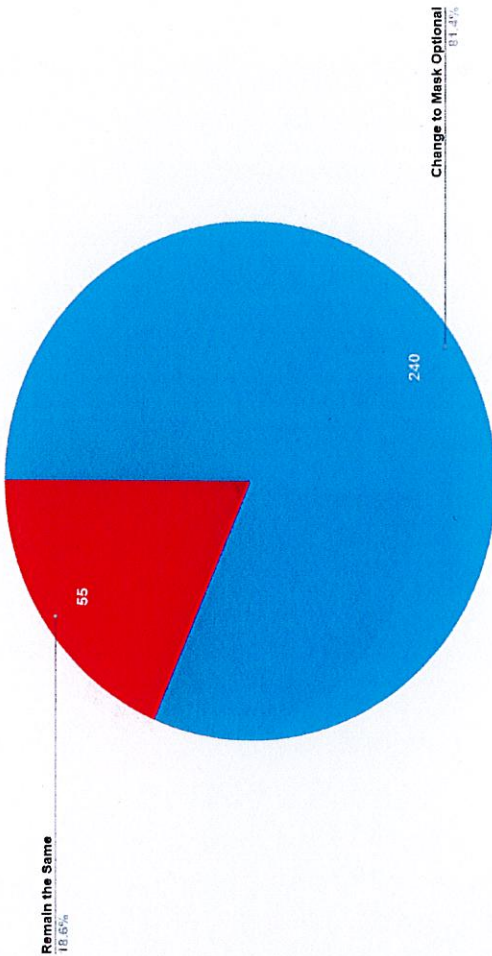
Rochester Memorial School Staff Responses



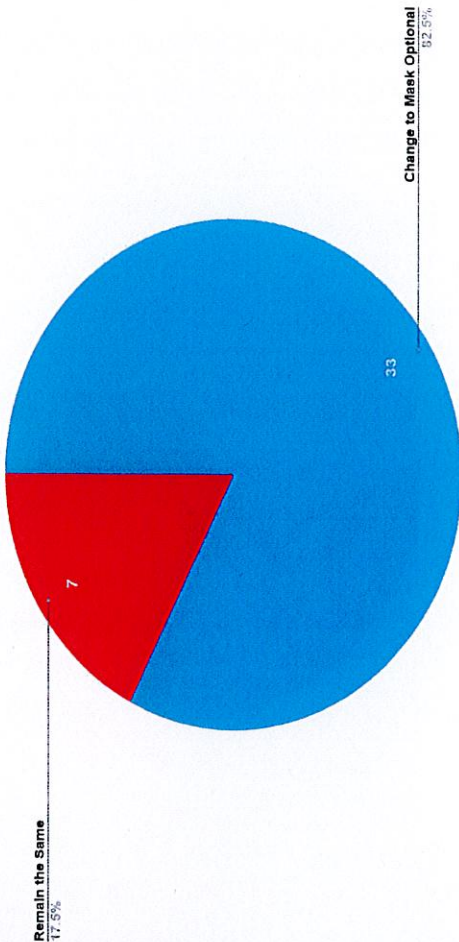




Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Parent/Guardian Responses



Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Staff Responses

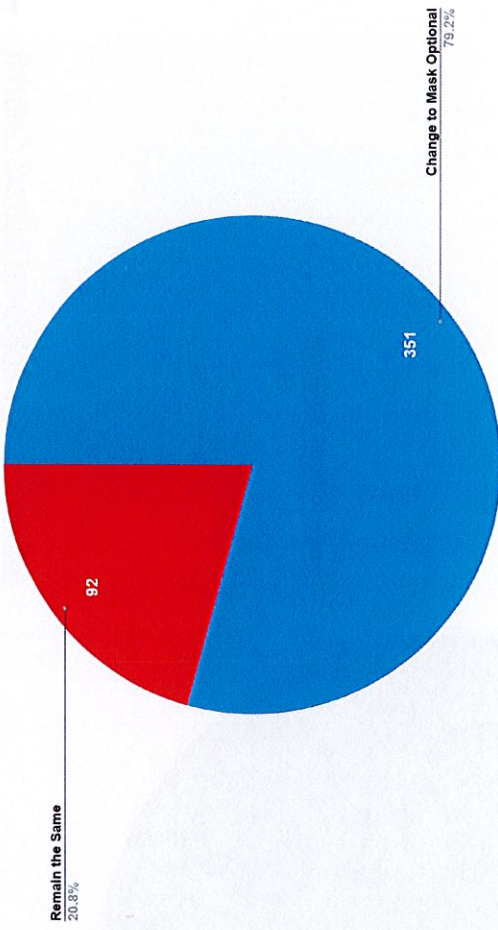




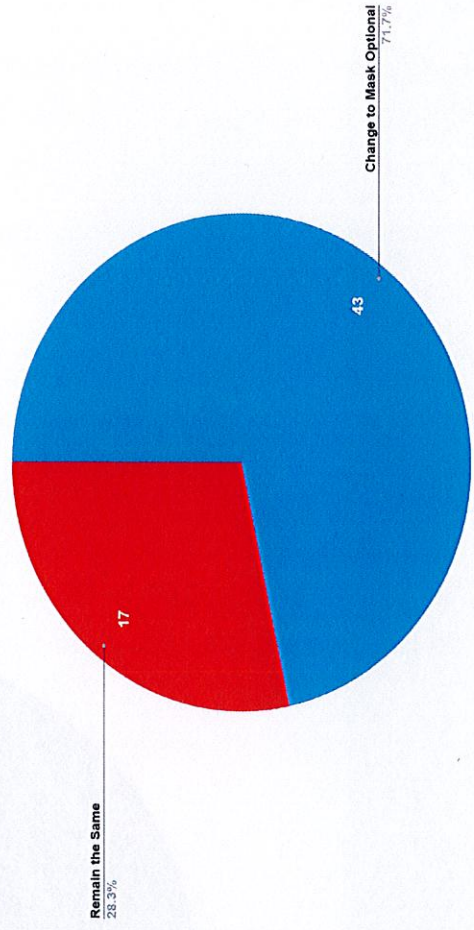


# ORRHS Survey Results

Old Rochester Regional High School Parent/Guardian Responses



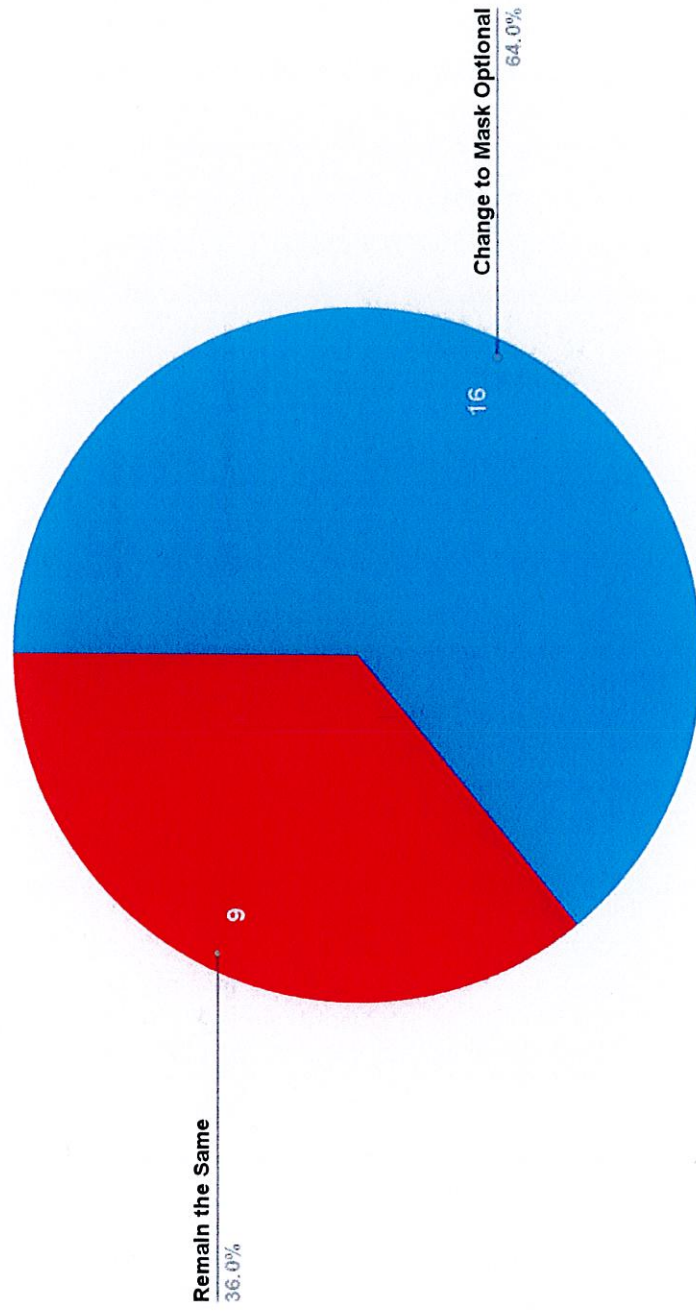
Old Rochester Regional High School Staff Responses





## District Staff Members (Multiple Buildings):

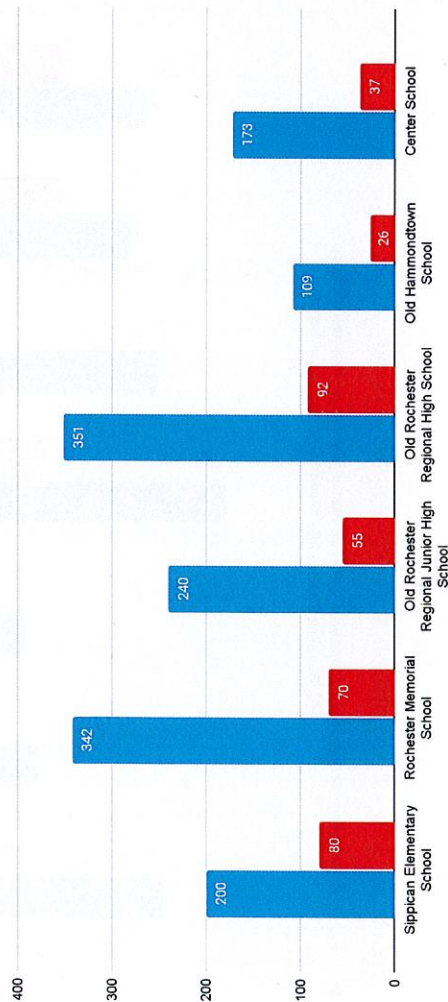
### District Staff



# Parent/Guardian Responses - 1775

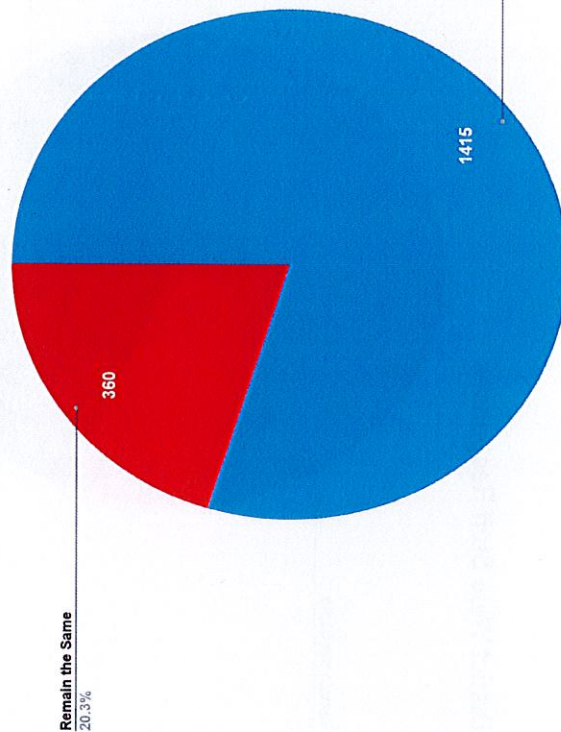
Parent/Guardian Responses - In my opinion, the masking policy should:

■ Change - to mask optional (except where mandated by state or federal regulations) per the latest guidance  
 ■ Remain the same - fully masked at all times when indoors



What school are you or child associated with?

District Wide Parent/Guardian Responses

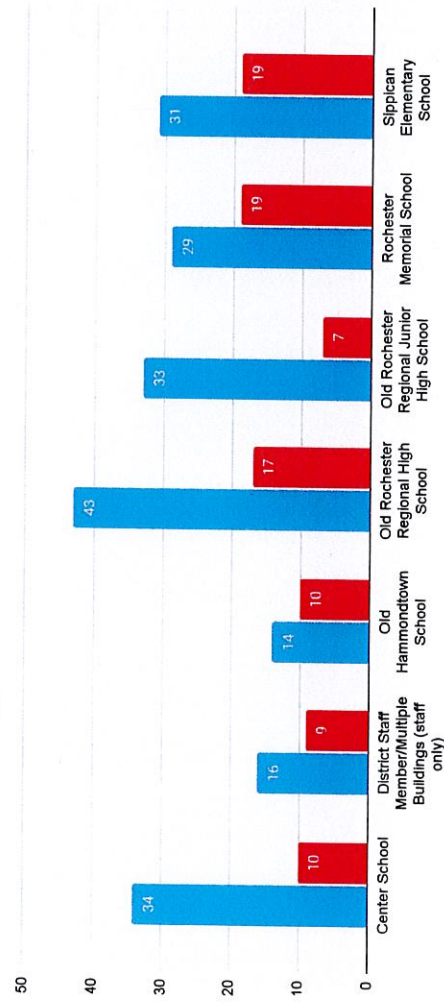




# Staff Responses 291

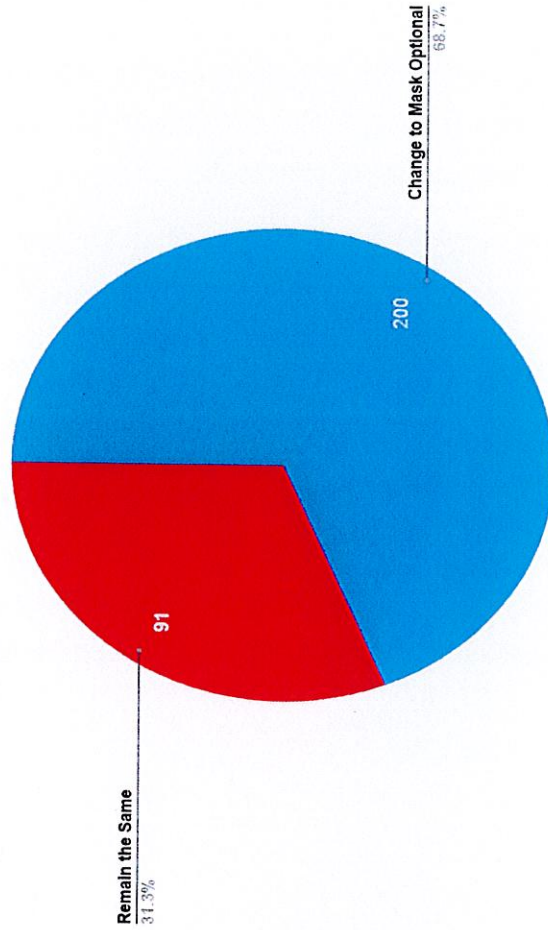
Staff Responses - In my opinion, the masking policy should:

- Change - to mask optional (except where mandated by state or federal regulations) per the latest guidance
- Remain the same - fully masked at all times when indoors



What school are you or child associated with?

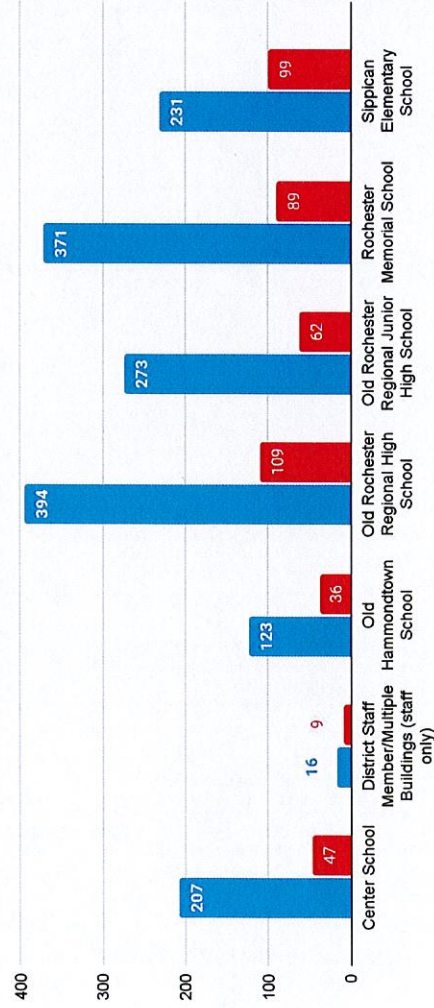
## District Wide Staff Responses



# District Wide Responses - 2066

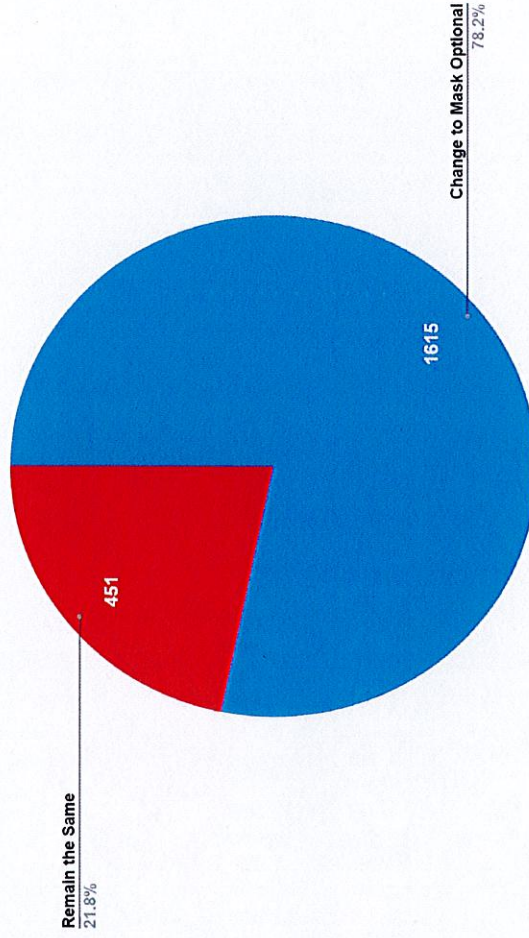
## Building Total Responses - In my opinion, the masking policy should:

- Change - to mask optional (except where mandated by state or federal regulations) per the latest guidance
- Remain the same - fully masked at all times when indoors

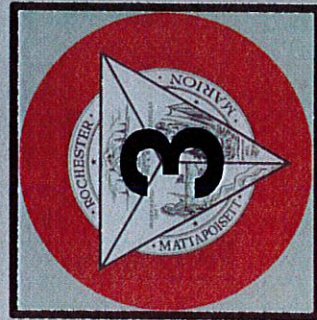


What school are you or child associated with?

## District Wide Responses








# Individual School Vaccination Rates



# Current Vaccination Rates by School

- **Center School**
  - Staff - 85%
  - Students - 37%
  - Whole Building - 46%
- **Old Hammondtown School**
  - Staff - 95%
  - Students - 55%
  - Whole Building - 62%
- **Rochester Memorial School**
  - Staff - 72%
  - Students - 35%
  - Whole Building - 40%
- **Sippican Elementary School**
  - Staff - 62%
  - Students - 44%
  - Whole Building - 47%
- **Old Rochester Regional Junior High School**
  - Staff - 85%
  - Students - 61%
  - Whole Building - 64%
- **Old Rochester Regional High School**
  - Staff (Includes Food services, Custodial Staff, Central Office) - 89%
  - Students - 72%
  - Whole Building - 75%





**Thank you to  
everyone who  
participated.**



The background is a collage of four photographs of school buildings. Top left: A large, light-colored school building with a central tower. Top right: A red brick school building with a tall chimney. Bottom left: A modern school building with large windows and a sign that reads 'OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'. Bottom right: A brick school building with a sign that reads 'OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL'.

*Preparing for the*  
**2022-2023**

*Professional Development Plan*  
*We are a community of adult learners!*

*Presented by:*  
*Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Ed.D*  
*Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning*

*May 10, 2022*

**Old Rochester Regional School District**  
**MA Superintendency Union #55**

## 2022-2023

# Districtwide Professional Development Plan Timeline

Connecting the [Acceleration Roadmap\(s\)](#), School Improvement Plans, [Vision 2023 Strategic Plan](#), & [Mass Literacy](#)



**May:** Provide the Joint School Committee with the topics and priorities from the recent staff, student, and parent/guardian/stakeholder survey.

- Survey results are located on ([Slide 16](#)) of this powerpoint.

**June:** After the Professional Development Plan is approved a **final draft** is prepared and sent to the school community.

**June and beyond:** The Leadership Council (TLC), Instructional Council, and the Office of Teaching and Learning connect with **district professional development providers** and **contracted providers** for professional development services to support district wide and building based initiatives.

As an Instructional Council we will **review all of the surveys and responses** in order to create a cohesive professional development plan for adult learners.  
Our mission is to inspire all students to think, to learn, and to care.

## Professional Development Offerings for the **2021-2022** Academic Year

Provided here is the [September 22, 2021 PD Letter](#). The district offered professional development in the 3 priority focus areas: Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning and Social Emotional Learning. In addition educators received professional development on [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com), Atlas curriculum mapping, and grade level expectations.

Provided here is the [November 12, 2022 PD Schedule](#). The full professional development day focused on Project Based Learning, Responsive Classroom, Literacy, and Grade Level Meetings that concentrated on standards and instructional tools to support student achievement. Educators had an opportunity to work together to examine data to monitor student progress and create student centered plans.

Provided here is the [January 18, 2022 PD Table](#). Once again the day focused on Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning and Social Emotional Learning. We are also committed to the three key priorities of the Acceleration Roadmap, which are: fostering a sense of belonging, ensuring strong grade-appropriate instruction and continuously monitoring students' understanding.

Provided here is the [February 9, 2022 PD Schedule](#). The focus continued on Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. Educators were offered building-based opportunities for vertical alignment.

Provided here is the [March 9, 2022 PD Schedule](#) full professional development day schedule for your reference. The focus was Global Citizenship and Equitable Practices. Educators had the opportunity to participate in a training focused on examining assessments and units to support diverse learners facilitated by Atlas, our curriculum mapping platform.



# Professional Staff PD Survey Results

School	Total Responses (201)
Old Rochester Regional High School	36
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School	34
Center School & Old Hammondtown School	40
Rochester Memorial School	44
Sippican Elementary School	47

# Results of District Wide *Educator* Topics/Priorities

What type of professional development workshops that support <i>21st Century Learning</i> are important to you?	Project-Based Learning	21st Century Learning	Educator Led Professional Development
Which <i>curriculum-centered</i> professional development opportunity is a priority to you?	Math Strategies	Reading Strategies (Early Literacy Skills)	Horizontal Team Meeting Vertical Team Meeting
Which <i>Social Emotional Learning/Global Citizenship</i> professional development is a priority for you?	<u><a href="#">Multi-Tiered System of Support ( MTSS)</a></u> Click on the title	<u><a href="#">Inclusive Classroom</a></u> (Creating Equitable Classroom embedding DEI) Click on the title	Educator Self Care



# Parent/Guardian/Stakeholder Survey Results

School	Total Responses (424*)
Old Rochester Regional High School	127
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School	164
Center School & Old Hammondtown Elementary School	131
Rochester Memorial School	94
Sippican Elementary School	64

\* Total responses do not match individual school numbers; some parents/guardians have children in multiple schools.

## Results of District Wide *Parent/Guardian/Stakeholder* Topics/Priorities

Which *technology integration* activities would you like the district professional development plan to prioritize?

Students will learn how to collaborate with other students.

Which topics would you like the district professional plan to focus on regarding *social emotional learning/global citizenship*?

- Positive Behavior Management
- Real World Applications
  - banking
  - career exploration
  - life skills

In which *content area(s)* would you like to see professional development offered to your child's teacher?

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Writing
- Reading
- Integration of Organizational Skills





# Student Survey Results

School	Total Responses (903)
Old Rochester Regional High School	432
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School	287
Center School & Old Hammondtown School	63
Rochester Memorial School	88
Sippican School	33

# Results of District Wide *Student* Topics/Priorities

I am interested in learning how to study more effectively for a quiz or test.

I am interested in learning how to better plan my time.

Students are looking for real world applications.  
(basic life skills: exposure to careers, cooking, budgeting, banking)

Learning about culture.



# Next Steps: Preparing for the 22-23 PD Offerings Sample Full Day Professional Development Offering Form



- We have started to connect with outside providers to provide professional development supporting district and building initiatives
  - Contract Negotiations with Professional Development providers
- Begin to collect offerings:
  - Full Day Professional Development Form
  - [Half Day Professional Development Form](#)
- Instructional Council will begin to review the professional development for adult learners
- Building Principals will review the final professional plan with staff

# Leadership Council

Here are some of the opportunities that we have started to plan for the **22/23** academic school year.

## Districtwide Ongoing Professional Development

New Teacher Induction Program  
Mentoring beyond the first year  
Guest Speaker Liz Kleinrock  
Safety Training  
Responsive Classroom  
Job Related Professional Development

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

Community Talk Series  
The Education Cooperative  
Teacher 21  
CPI Training  
IEP Writing

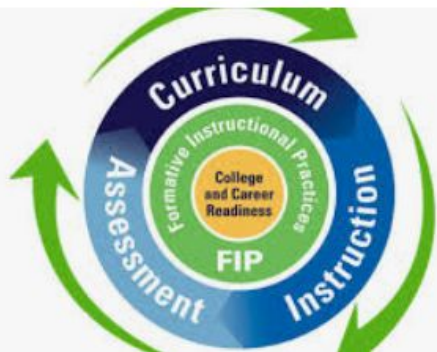
**Center School & Old Hammondtown School**  
Literacy Training

**Rochester Memorial School**  
[HILL For Literacy](#)

**Old Rochester Junior High & High School**  
Department Coordinators Curriculum Meetings  
Responsive Classroom for Junior High School  
S.T.E.A.M Initiatives

**Sippican School**  
Lesley College Literacy Series





# Vertical Level Curriculum Work (Building Based)

Appendix [Slides 19 - 23](#) are also examples of offerings from the 2021-2022 school year.

## Example

### **Center School: Vertical Teaming and Planning following the DESE Acceleration Road Map**

**Participants:** Center School K/1 Teams; Gr. 2/3 Teams

**Date/Times:** 02/09/22 1:00-3:00

**Location:** Gr. 1, Gr. 3 Classrooms

**Agenda:** Examine relevant data to gauge the trajectory of their respective grade level standards in order to identify strengths and areas of weakness of essential concepts and skills; Outline common assessments for the remainder of the school year as well as progress monitoring tools needed to inform student progress; Focus on ELA and MATH curriculum planning based on current level of performance.

**Completed Product:** Teams will create a list of standards in both ELA and MATH that will be focus areas for each grade level as well as an instructional plan that addresses how teams will expose students to these standards

## Example

### **7-12 Mathematics Vertical Team Meeting**

**Participants:** 7-12 Math Teachers

**Date/Times:** 02/09/22 12:20-2:20

**Location:** Room 240

**Agenda:** Identify curriculum gaps and discuss future supports  
Assess skills and concepts necessary for the next courses  
Determine appropriate integration of IXL for grades 9-11

**Completed Product:** Documentation of course planning for the remainder of the year

**2022/2023 DRAFT Professional Development Plan**

Connecting the School Improvement Plans, [Acceleration Roadmap\(s\)](#), [Vision 2023 Strategic Plan](#), and [Mass Literacy](#)

September 21, 2022 Half PD Day	<b>Safety Training</b>
November 10, 2022 Full Day PD	<b>Social &amp; Emotional Learning &amp; Global Citizenship</b> (Keynote Presentation & Grade Level/Department Development) Student/Teacher Relationships & Empathy Project Based Learning
January 13, 2023 Full Day PD	<b>21st Century Learning</b> (Keynote Presentation & Grade Level/ Department Meeting) Student and Educator Technology Readiness Project Based Learning Implementation
February 8, 2023 Half Day PD	<b>Vertical Department Level Curriculum Work</b> (Building Based)
March 8, 2023 Half Day PD	<b>Cultural Proficiency &amp; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</b> (Building Based)
June 7, 2023 Half Day PD	<b>Transition Planning and/or Curriculum Work</b>

# By completing the *SMART PD* survey teachers will be able to receive PDP'S for the following categories:

Arts

Career/Vocational Technical Education

College & Career Readiness

Comprehensive Health

Curriculum & Instruction - General

Data & Assessment

English Language Arts

English Language Learners

Foreign Language

History/Social Studies

Instructional Technology/Digital Literacy

Leadership & Administration

Mathematics

Safe & Supportive Learning Environments

Science, Technology & Engineering

Special Education

Supervising Practitioner

Supporting Additional Learning Time

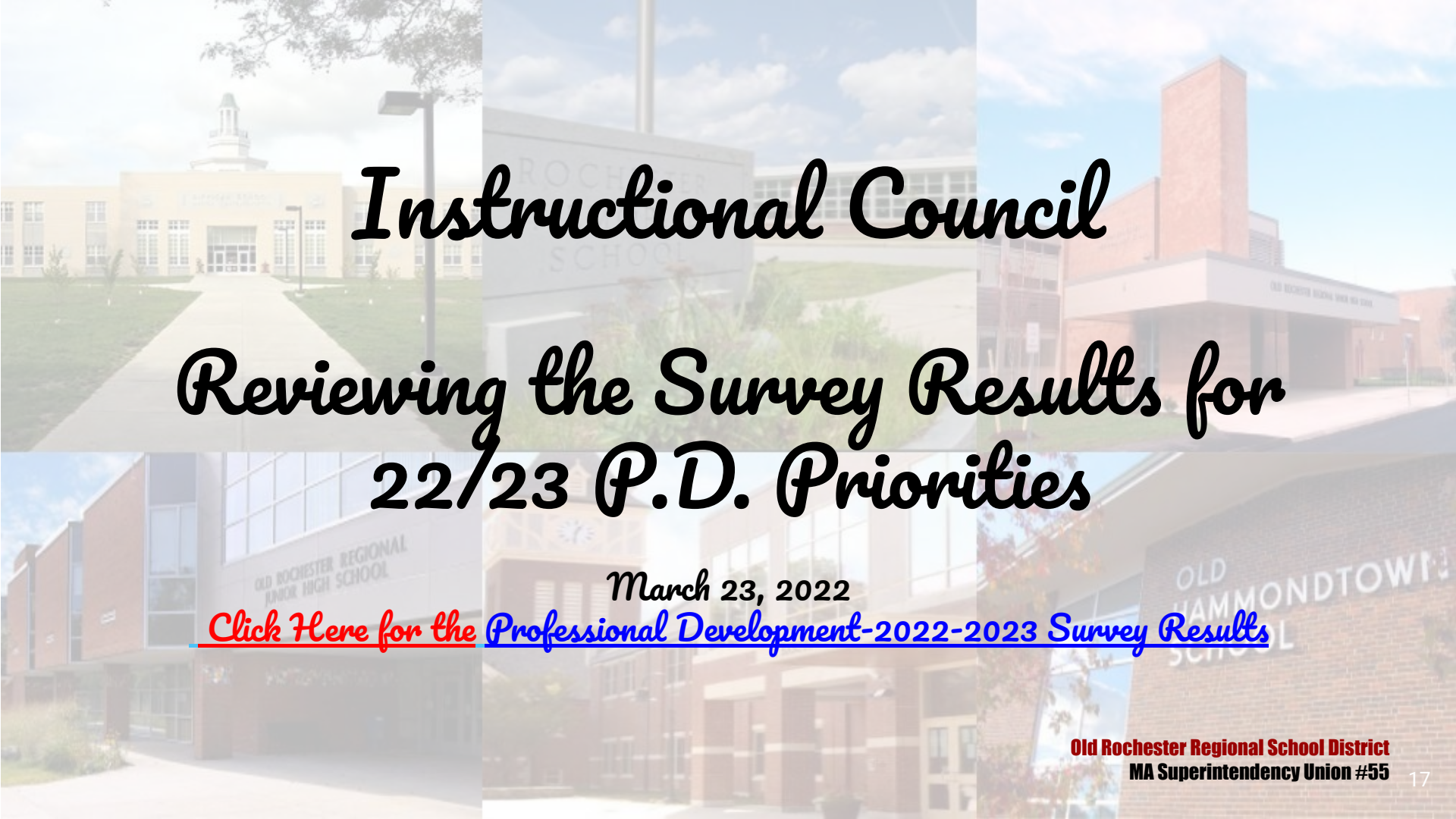
[Districtwide and Building Based Professional Development Offerings](#)

# Appendix



# Old Rochester Regional School District Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 Results for the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan

<a href="#"><u>Old Rochester Regional High School Survey Results</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Survey Results</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Center and Old Hammondtown Survey Results</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rochester Memorial Elementary School Survey Results</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sippican Elementary School Survey Results</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>ORRHS Staff Responses</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>ORRJHS Staff Responses</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Center/ Old Hammondtown Staff Responses</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rochester Staff Responses</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sippican Staff Responses</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Parent Responses 3/22</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Student Survey Responses</u></a>				
Return to <b>Slide 3</b>				

The background is a collage of four photographs of school buildings. Top left: A yellow school building with a central tower and a paved walkway leading to the entrance. Top right: A modern school building with a prominent red brick chimney. Bottom left: A brick school building with large windows and the text 'OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL' on the facade. Bottom right: A brick school building with the text 'OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL' on the facade.

# *Instructional Council*

## *Reviewing the Survey Results for 22/23 P.D. Priorities*

March 23, 2022

[Click Here for the Professional Development-2022-2023 Survey Results](#)



# Technology Integration Offerings

## Districtwide Offering:

The **IXL Foundational Skills** offering will focus on students entering grades K to 10. Educators will learn the essential skills to support the implementation of IXL in your classroom. Students' primary focus area will be math; additional content areas are language arts, science and social studies. We will have more opportunities for educators to build capacity in understanding the various components of IXL in the classroom. In addition, IXL has online learning resources for educators. The first hour will provide guidance and the last thirty minutes is a questions and answer session.

**SPARKing Connections in the School Library:** Come to the session ready to discuss/share examples of how our individual libraries have struggled and thrived over the past two years. Each participant will bring a technology idea to share that other library teachers may borrow.

View the keynote address from the All Cape Professional Development Day (Friday, October 8, 2021) presented by Shannon McClintock Miller entitled "SPARK Connections in Your Library, Community and the World." This address features ideas in technology use, project based learning, digital citizenship, connections with classrooms, and radical ways to stretch our programs.

Identify areas for refocusing our programs to align with the school improvement plan and the district's Vision 2023, with particular attention to global citizenship and what it means to be a future ready librarian.

**Product(s) upon completion:** Participants will leave with a solid plan for how to more closely align our library programs with the new school improvement plans and Vision 2023



# 21st Century Learning (Grade Level/Department Meeting) Project-Based Learning Implementation January 18, 2022 Full PD Day

## Example

### **Project-Based Writing: An Instructional Model for 21st Century ELA Classroom**

**Participants:** Districtwide  
**Date/Times:** January 18, 2022  
**Location:** Zoom

#### **Agenda:**

In this session, teachers will learn how to develop a full-scale or partial-scale project-based writing framework in a middle or high school ELA classroom, using collaboration, inquiry, and student-developed writing projects to support student choice and voice.

#### **Completed Product:**

- Educators will have activities to support project-based writing and project-based learning
- Creating Community
- Student Created Prompts that will start the day off with writing activities

## Example

### **Connecting 21st Century Learning to Grade Level Department Meeting**

**Participants:** Districtwide  
**Date/Times:** January 18, 2022  
**Location:** Your School

**Agenda:** As a grade level team, use this time to prepare for the remainder of the 21/22 academic year to support students. Create a plan that includes standards, assessments (MCAS Items) and resources. The plan will be submitted to your building principal at the end of today's session.

- Atlas Curriculum map
- Textbooks
- AIMSWEB student data
- [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)
- This will allow educators to identify MCAS style questions especially for grade 3-10. Students will benefit from being exposed to MCAS style questions along with strategies on taking assessments.

**Old Rochester Regional School District**  
MA Superintendency Union # 55



## March 9, 2022 Half PD Day

### Example

#### **District Wide: Atlas Cultural Proficiency Webinar**

**Participants:** Districtwide

**Date/Times:** 3/09/22 1:00- 2:00

**Agenda:** Review current units with a lens of cultural relevance; Update content and skills in the units to support culturally relevant learning for diverse learners.

**Completed Project:** Plan to review units

### Example

#### **HS Science: Culturally Relevant Units in the Science Curriculum**

**Participants:** HS Science Educators

**Date/Times:** 3/9/22 12:20-2:20

**Location:** HS Room 300

**Agenda:** Teachers will review ways to incorporate cultural diversity into science lessons, review current curriculum, and begin creating culturally relevant activities that support current curriculum.

**Completed Products:** A variety of culturally relevant science lessons and activities for different science disciplines.





# Global Citizenship

March 9, 2022 & February 9, 2022

## March 9, 2022

### **RMS Culturally Responsive Look Fors/Teaching**

Times: 2:00-3:00

**Agenda:** Staff will read the Overview of Culturally Responsive Teaching and then self-assess their individual or team-teaching practices using the Culturally Proficient Look For guides for all seven focus elements.

**Completed Product:** Self-assess individual or team-teaching practices when analyzing the CP Look Fors; Identify which focus elements are areas of proficiency or strength; Identify which elements are areas in need of development or improvement; Planned/Map for the next 12 weeks.

## February 9, 2022

### **Sippican School: Cultural Proficiency: Planning One Book One School and IRA's for Equity and Inclusion**

Time: 12:30- 3:00

#### **Agenda**

- Staff members will familiarize themselves with Change Sings and The Undeclared
- Staff members will collaborate to prepare discussions related to equity and inclusion with resources provided
- Staff members will plan creative expressions projects for students based on these: Influencers and Game changers Past and Present

**Completed Project:** Lesson plans and art projects



# Examples Transition Planning and/or Curriculum Work Offerings

June 7, 2021 Half PD Day

**June 7, 2021**

## **RMS: Vertical Placement Meetings**

**Participants:** All Grade Level Teachers and Support Staff

**Date/Times:** 06/07/21 1:00-3:00pm

**Location:** Grade Level Wings

1. Staff will meet to discuss incoming student caseloads with their respective grade level colleagues.
2. Staff will meet to discuss sending student caseloads with their respective grade level colleagues.
3. Staff will work on welcome letters for their incoming students and families.

**Product Upon Completion:** Completed classroom rosters for the 2021-2022 school year.

**June 7, 2021**

## **High School: Pivoting Out of the Pandemic**

**Participants:** High School Staff

**Date/Times:** 06/07/21 12:15-2:20

**Location:** Zoom

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Teachers will finalize term 4 assessment
2. Staff will prepare workspace for a full return
3. Staff will provide feedback to administration on handbook/policy revisions

### **Product(s) upon completion:**

1. Quarterly Assessments
2. Classroom setup
3. Student Handbook Revisions

[illegible]

Old Rochester Regional & MA Sup. Union #55

Districts	Fiscal Year 2023			
	Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget	Proposed Budget	Increase From Prior Fiscal Year	% Increase
Marion	\$ 6,456,815	\$ 6,561,086	\$ 104,271	1.615%
Mattapoisett	\$ 7,511,872	\$ 7,646,778	\$ 134,906	1.796%
Rochester	\$ 6,798,275	\$ 6,960,850	\$ 162,575	2.391%
Old Rochester Regional	\$ 19,895,966	\$ 20,845,272	\$ 949,306	4.771%

Town	Fiscal Year 2023			
	Fiscal Year 2022 ORR Assessment	Proposed ORR Assessment	Increase From Prior Fiscal Year	% Increase
Marion	\$ 5,103,442	\$ 5,388,463	\$ 285,021	5.585%
Mattapoisett	\$ 6,231,148	\$ 6,353,695	\$ 122,547	1.967%
Rochester	\$ 4,977,802	\$ 5,165,848	\$ 188,046	3.778%
	<u>\$ 16,312,392</u>	<u>\$ 16,908,006</u>	<u>\$ 595,614</u>	

**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION NO. #55  
Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, Massachusetts**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S END OF YEAR EVALUATION  
TIMELINE 2020-2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
November 19, 2020- Public Meeting	Superintendent Evaluation process for FY21 & FY22 is shared with full committee for review and approval
June 17, 2021 – Public Meeting	Superintendent will do a mid-cycle review
September 2021 – Public Meeting	Review Superintendent’s Goals Timeline
By May 17, 2022	Committee members are provided superintendent evaluation materials and explanation of process that each member will need to follow  Evidence/supporting materials are provided to Committee members by Superintendent.
By June 3, 2022	All committee members submit evaluations to sub committee
June 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.	Superintendent, Sub-Committee/Chairs – Review materials and prepares final evaluation
June 21, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.	Sub-Committee/Chairs review final evaluation with Superintendent.
June 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – NEW MEETING DATE FOR JOINT Public Meeting	Superintendent’s Evaluation



## **File: KHB - ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS**

The School Committee recognizes that advertising represents an alternate source of revenue that the schools, school district, and sanctioned school-support organizations might wish to access. The School Committee requires that any advertising revenue or compensation benefit the school district and be carried out in a responsible manner.

School property is a non-public forum. The intent of advertising is to raise funds, not to promote public discourse or a point of view.

Approval of advertisements does not constitute endorsement by the School Committee or the Old Rochester Regional School District/Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 of an advertiser's products, programs, or services.

Advertisements will be restricted to common areas accessible to the public.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the School Committee, will set advertising rates and approve advertising proposals for school and school district advertising. Advertising revenue will be deposited into a gift account separate from other accounts. The School Committee will designate how the funds may be expended.

The School Committee will allow advertising in school buildings and on school property under the following two conditions:

1. The Superintendent or their designee will approve all advertising content, display and distribution.
2. An advertiser and their advertisements are in compliance with the district's mission, policies, and non-discrimination practices as well as state and federal laws.

Legal References:

M.G.L. 272:92A

Cross References:

AC – Non-Discrimination Policy

CROSS REF.: [JP](#), Student Gifts and Solicitations

[KHA](#), Public Solicitations in the Schools

Approved 1<sup>st</sup> read January 20, 2022, Joint School Committee Meeting

## **KHB-R - ADVERTISING IN SCHOOLS PROCEDURES**

The School Committee has a policy KHB which allows advertising in schools and on school properties on a limited basis. Such advertising must meet the criteria outlined below.

- a. Advertising is permitted in connection with courses of study which have specific lessons related to advertising. It will be up to each school to decide whether the lessons related to advertising are appropriate.
- b. Advertising is permitted in such supplementary classroom and library materials as newspapers, magazines, television, the Internet, and similar media where they are used in a class such as current events, or where they serve as an appropriate research tool.
- c. Paid advertising is permitted in yearbooks, school newspapers, theatrical productions, and event programs as long as such advertising meets the criteria listed below.
- d. Paid advertising is permitted on athletic fields, scoreboards, tennis courts, auditoriums and gyms as long as such advertising meets the criteria listed below.

Advertising must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Consistency with District and School Academic Standards and Goals.** All corporate support or activity shall be consistent with State, District, and school academic standards and goals. Commercial involvement must also be structured to meet identified educational needs, not commercial motives.
- 2. Advertising shall not be used as part of the curriculum.** Advertising shall not be included as part of the curriculum, in classrooms or other specific academic settings, unless it is a specific lesson about advertising or in supplemental curricular materials such as magazines, newspapers or the internet.
- 3. Consistency with District Policies and Age-Appropriateness.** All corporate support or activity must be consistent with District policies, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, limited English proficient, handicap, or homeless, and must be age-appropriate for the students involved.
- 4. Certain Corporate Support or Activity Prohibited.** No corporate support or activity will be permitted in the District or in the schools that:
  - a. Promotes the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms.
  - b. Promotes hostility, violence or disorder
  - c. Attacks or demeans any ethnic, racial, or religious group.
  - d. Is libelous.
  - e. Promotes any specific religion.
  - f. Promotes or opposes any particular political view, candidate or ballot question.
  - g. Inhibits the functioning of any school.
- 5. Advertising Materials and Placement.** To ensure uniformity, the Superintendent or their designee, will be responsible for producing and placing all advertising material.

The Superintendent will report at least once a year to the School Committee on all advertising in the schools.





**SECTION D - FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

**DA FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS**

**DB ANNUAL BUDGET**

**DB-1 ANNUAL BUDGET**

**DB-1-R BUDGET - APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES**

**DBC BUDGET DEADLINES AND SCHEDULES**

**DBD BUDGET PLANNING**

**DBG BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES**

**DBG-1 BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES**

**DBJ BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY**

**DBJ-1 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY**

**~~DD FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS~~**

**DD GRANTS, PROPOSALS, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**DEC FEDERAL FUNDS SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT POLICY**

**DGA AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

**DGA-1 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

**DH BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS**

**DH-1 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS**

**DI FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

**DIE AUDITS**

**DIE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS**

**DJ PURCHASING**

**DJA PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

**DJE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS (ALREADY APPROVED 1/20/2022)**

**DK PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

**DK-1 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

**DKC EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS**

## File: DA - FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

As the trustee of local, state, and federal funds allocated for use in public education, the Committee will use these funds wisely in pursuit of the district's goals.

The quantity and quality of the district's educational learning programs are directly dependent on the effective, efficient management of allocated funds. It follows that a Achievement of the ~~school~~ district's purposes can best be achieved through excellent fiscal management.

As trustee of local, state, and federal funds allocated for use in public education, the Committee will fulfill its responsibility to see that these funds are used wisely for achievement of the purposes to which they are allocated.

Because of resource limitations, there is sometimes a temptation to operate so that fiscal concerns overshadow the educational program. Recognizing this, it is essential that the school district take specific action to make sure education remains central and that fiscal matters are ancillary and contribute to the educational program. It is imperative that the educational program be held of paramount importance. Decisions made due to resource limitations must center on the educational goals of the district.

This prioritization concept will be incorporated into all aspects of district management and Committee decision making.

Committee operations and into all aspects of school district management and operation.

In the school Regarding the district's fiscal management, it is the Committee's intent:

1. To engage in thorough advance planning, with staff and community involvement, in order to develop budgets and to guide expenditures. To allocate public funding, centering so as to equity while achieving the greatest educational returns and the greatest contributions to the educational program in relation to dollars expended.
2. To engage in thorough advance planning, with staff and community involvement, in order to develop budgets
- 2-3. To advocate for establish levels of funding that will provide high quality education for the all students.
- 3-4. To support the use of the best available techniques for budget development and management.
- 4-5. To provide timely and appropriate information to all staff with fiscal management responsibilities, the community.
5. To establish maximum efficiency procedures for accounting, reporting, business, purchasing and delivery, payroll, payment of vendors and contractors, and all other areas of fiscal management.

SOURCE: MASC 2021



## **File: DB - ANNUAL BUDGET**

The annual budget is the financial expression of the ~~educational program of the school department~~ goals of the School Committee in meeting the needs of all students, and it reflects the goals and objectives of the School Committee to meet the needs of all students.

The budget then requires ~~is more than just a financial instrument and requires on the part of the Committee, the staff, and the community,~~ an orderly and cooperative effort by the Committee, the staff, and the community to achieve the goals of the district. ~~to ensure sound fiscal practices for achieving the educational goals and objectives of the school district.~~

Public school budgeting is regulated and controlled by legislation, state regulations, and local School Committee requirements policy. The operating budget for the school district will be prepared and presented-managed in line with state policy and will be developed and refined in accordance with these same requirements the above.

In developing a budget, care shall be taken to make all presentations and documents associated with the budget clear and accessible to the members of the School Committee, to the municipal officials, and to the general public.

The budget shall be in compliance with the foundation budget. It is acknowledged that the foundation budget reflects the minimum recommended spending for a District, and excludes transportation costs, debt service costs, and costs associated with the acquisition of fixed assets. The aforementioned items must, therefore, be budgeted in addition to the foundation budget, and funds to support those expenditures must be raised from the community, after the use of any offsetting revenues received from the state.

The Superintendent will serve as budget officer but ~~they~~ may delegate portions of this responsibility to members of their staff, as they deem appropriate. The three general areas of responsibility for the Superintendent as budget officer are ~~will be~~ budget preparation, budget presentation, and budget administration.

A budget is a spending plan, which is developed well in advance of the fiscal year. Circumstances may occur which necessitate changing spending priorities and redirecting funds within the budget accordingly. Revisions to the budget may be made from time to time by the Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Annual budgets for each school operated by the District shall be developed with input from the School Council and shall reflect the priorities established in the annual school improvement plan.

SOURCE: MASC ~~August 2016~~ 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:34; 71:37 and 71:38N

**NOTE: References to portions of a town or city charter may be appropriate here. The charter should be reviewed.**

The annual budget for regional school districts is prepared in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. 71:16B A reference to that chapter and section should be added, and the content of a policy in this category should be checked against that citation, as well as the regional agreement.

**File: DB-1 - ANNUAL BUDGET**

The annual budget is the financial expression of the goals to the School Committee in meeting the needs of all students.

The budget then requires an orderly and cooperative effort by the Committee, the staff, and the regional community to achieve the goals of the district.

The Regional School District Committee delegates the development of the District budget to the Finance Policy Sub-Committee which will, with the Superintendent, Business Manager, and the District Treasurer, develop annual budgets for the operating and maintenance of the District, and such capital budgets as shall be necessary for the pursuit of the goals of the District and the educational programs proposed and approved by the District Committee.

Public school budgeting is regulated and controlled by legislation, state regulation, regional agreement, and local Committee policy. The operating budget will be prepared and managed in line with the above. Said budget shall conform to the guidelines as set forth by the Legislature in the Massachusetts General Laws and directives and regulations as set forth by the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall be in compliance with the foundation budget. It is acknowledged that the foundation budget reflects the minimum recommended spending for a District, and excludes transportation costs, debt service costs, and costs associated with the acquisition of fixed assets. The aforementioned items must, therefore, be budgeted in addition to the foundation budget, and funds to support those expenditures must be raised from the member communities, after the use of any offsetting revenues received from the state.

In developing a budget, care shall be taken to make the documents associated with the budget clear and understandable to Finance Committees of member communities and to the general public.

~~A budget is a spending plan, which is developed well in advance of the fiscal year.~~

~~Circumstances may occur which necessitate changing spending priorities and redirecting funds within the budget accordingly. Revisions to the budget may be made from time to time by the Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.~~

~~The annual budget for each school operated by the District shall be developed with input from the School Council, and shall reflect the priorities established in the Annual School Improvement Plan.~~

At the discretion of the Finance Policy Subcommittee, an informal public information meeting may be held to solicit input from the general public. In accordance with the District Agreement, a public hearing shall be heard prior to the adoption of the Final Operating and Maintenance Budget by the District Committee. The Superintendent and members of the Finance Policy Sub Committee will make every effort to fully inform all member communities and their officials of the budget plans of the District.

The budget shall be in compliance with the foundation budget. It is acknowledged that the foundation budget reflects the minimum recommended spending for a District, and excludes transportation costs, debt service costs, and costs associated with the acquisition of fixed assets. The aforementioned items must, therefore, be budgeted in addition to the foundation budget, and funds to support those expenditures must be raised from the member communities, after the use of any offsetting revenues received from the state.

Assessments to member communities shall be made in compliance with the foundation budget, which may, in certain instances, differ from the apportionment under the District Agreement. When there is a conflict, state law shall prevail. In assessing for expenditures which are excluded

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from the foundation budget, the District Agreement shall determine the apportionment of assessments after the District Committee has applied all applicable state aid.

The District Agreement notwithstanding, there shall be no requirement for the annual operation and maintenance budget for the District to be adopted prior to the receipt of funding estimates from the state.

~~In developing a budget, care shall be taken to make the documents associated with the budget clear and understandable to Finance Committees of member communities and to the general public.~~

~~At the discretion of the Finance Policy Subcommittee, an informal public information meeting may be held to solicit input from the general public. In accordance with the District Agreement, a public hearing shall be held prior to the adoption of the Final Operating and Maintenance Budget by the District Committee. The Superintendent and members of the Finance Policy Subcommittee will make every effort to fully inform all member communities and their officials of the budget plans of the District.~~

~~Assessments to member communities shall be made in compliance with the foundation budget, which may, in certain instances, differ from the apportionment under the District Agreement. When there is a conflict, state law shall prevail. In assessing for expenditures which are excluded from the foundation budget, the District Agreement shall determine the apportionment of assessments after the District Committee has applied all applicable state aid.~~

The Superintendent will serve as budget officer but they may delegate portions of this responsibility to members of their staff, as they deem appropriate. The three general areas of responsibility for the Superintendent as budget officer are budget preparation, budget presentation, and budget administration.

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A budget is a spending plan, which is developed well in advance of the fiscal year.

Circumstances may occur which necessitate changing spending priorities and redirecting funds within the budget accordingly. Revisions to the budget may be made from time to time by the Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The annual budget for each school operated by the District shall be developed with input from the School Council, and shall reflect the priorities established in the Annual School Improvement Plan.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:16B; 71:34; 71:37 and 71:38N



**File: DB-1-R - BUDGET - APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES**

The Regional District School Committee shall annually determine the amounts necessary to be raised, after deducting the amount of aid such district is to receive pursuant to section sixteen D, to maintain and operate the District school or schools during the next fiscal year, and amounts required for payment of debt and interest incurred by the District which will be due in the said year, and shall apportion the amount so determined among the several municipalities in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The amounts so apportioned for each municipality shall be certified by the Regional School District treasurer to the treasurers of the several municipalities within thirty days from the date on which the annual budget is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the School Committee, but no later than April thirtieth.

The Regional School District treasurer shall include in the certification to each municipality a statement setting forth the amount which the District is to receive under said section sixteen D for the ensuing fiscal year and the proportionate share of such aid for such municipality.

In addition to amounts appropriated for long-term debt service, school lunches, adult education, student transportation, and tuition revenue, each municipality that belongs in the Regional School District shall annually appropriate for the support of the Regional School District, an amount equal to but, not less than the sum of the minimum required local contribution.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Regional School District agreement, each member municipality shall increase its contribution to the Regional District each year by the amount indicated in that district's share of the municipalities' minimum regional contribution in that fiscal year. The District shall appropriate the sum of the minimum regional contributions of its member districts as well as all state school aid received on behalf of member municipalities. The District may choose to spend additional amounts; such decision shall be made and such amounts charged to members according to the District's required agreement.

Except as required by General Law, each school district may determine how to allocate funds appropriated for the support of public schools without regard to the categories employed in calculating the foundation budget.

SOURCE: MASC [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:16B](#)

**File: DBC - BUDGET DEADLINES AND SCHEDULES**

Preparation of the annual budget will be scheduled in stages throughout the school year with attention to certain deadlines established by law and charter.

The calendar year for budget preparation will be determined by calculating backwards from the final adoption date.

Whatever dates are assigned, the final date for the submission of the budget to the Selectboard will be arranged cooperatively with the School Committee and finance committee. The Selectboard have authority to impose a date as early as December 31.

In reaching its decision on the budget amount that it will submit to the Selectboard, the School Committee will also observe the statutory requirement of holding a public hearing on the proposed budget not less than seven days after the notice for this hearing has been published in a local newspaper.

[Established by law and charter](#)

SOURCE: MASC [August 2016 2021](#)

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:38N](#)

Town Charter (See local reference)

**NOTE:** [The above references a town process. The above will need to be redrafted for city districts/systems.](#)

**Regional school districts should also refer to [71:16B](#) for pertinent information. A citation [of to](#) that section of law should also be added to the legal references.**

## **File: DBD - BUDGET PLANNING**

~~The first priority in the development of an annual budget will be the educational welfare of the children in our schools. However, the District will also attempt to balance the valid interest of the taxpayers.~~

~~Budget decisions reflect the attitude and philosophy of those charged with the responsibility for educational decision-making. Therefore, a~~ sound budget development process must be established to ensure that the annual operating budget accurately reflects ~~this the school district's~~ District's goals and objectives. ~~The budget is a financial planning tool that grounds itself in careful analysis of student achievement, enrollment, mandated services, and community values to allocate resources towards the goals set by the Committee. The first priority in the development of an annual budget will be the educational welfare of the children in our schools. However, the District will also attempt to balance the valid interest of the taxpayers. The Committee also holds in balance the valid interest of the taxpayers.~~

~~The budget document shall reflect all sources of revenue. It shall clearly explain how those funds will be used.~~

In the budget planning process for the school district, the ~~School Committee- Superintendent~~ will strive to:

1. Engage in thorough advance planning, with staff and community involvement, in order to develop budgets and guide expenditures in a manner that will achieve the greatest educational returns and contributions to the educational program in relation to dollars expended.
1. Establish levels of funding that will provide high quality education for all ~~our~~ students.
2. Use the best available techniques for budget development and management.

The Superintendent will have overall responsibility for budget preparation, including the construction of, and adherence to, a budget calendar ~~which will be shared publicly with the community. Such calendar will take into consideration the requirement that School Councils are to be consulted in developing school budgets.~~

SOURCE: MASC ~~August 2016~~ 2021

**NOTE:** Include in this category statements on the general plan for budget development and on staff/student/public participation in the process (but not the official hearings). If advisory committees take part, this might be included in the policy, with details on their functioning presented as an accompanying regulation. ~~Many school districts have special publications for staff on budget development offering procedures in detail. Such publications can be referred to (by adding a note at the end of this policy) as a source of additional information.~~

**File: DBG - BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES**

The district budget is adopted by the School Committee at the cost center level. Cost centers should represent appropriate levels of transparency for the Committee to oversee goal implementation while allowing for administrative day-to-day work. Cost centers will be agreed upon by the Committee and administration.

All revenue sources are subject to adoption by the School Committee. The budget is adopted by a simple majority.

Authority for adoption of the final school budget bottom line lies with the citizens who comprise, and who are entitled to vote at, the town meeting. The school budget is presented as part of the total town budget for action at the annual town meeting.

Established by law and charter

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:34

Town Charter, (See local reference)

Cross Reference: DBJ

**NOTE: Town and city charters should be checked for specific provisions relating to budget adoption procedures. Appropriate citations should be added as was done on the statement above. The above process is that of towns; changes will be necessary for cities.**

~~**Regional school districts should refer to and cite M.G.L. 71:16B at this category. A reference to a regional agreement may also be necessary at this code.**~~

**DBG-1**

**BUDGET ADOPTION PROCEDURES**

The regional district budget is adopted by the School Committee at the cost center level. Cost centers should represent appropriate levels of transparency for the Committee to oversee goal implementation while allowing for administrative day-to-day work. Cost centers will be agreed upon by the Committee and administration.

All revenue sources are subject to adoption by the School Committee.

The annual ~~Regional School District~~regional district budget as adopted by two-thirds vote of the Regional School District Committee shall require the approval of two-thirds of the local appropriating authorities of the member municipalities.

In the event the regional school budget is not approved by at least two-thirds of the member municipalities as required, the Regional School District Committee shall have thirty days to reconsider, amend, and resubmit a budget on the basis of the issues raised.

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. Ch. 71:16B

Cross reference: DBJ



#### **File: DBJ - BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY**

In keeping with the need for periodic reconciliation of the school department's budget, the School Committee will consider requests for transfers of funds [between cost centers](#) as they are recommended by the Superintendent.

The Committee wishes to be kept abreast of the need for these adjustments so that it may act promptly and expedite financial record keeping for the school district.

All requests for transfers ~~between the major accounts (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chart of Accounts defines these as the 4 digit accounts ending in 00)~~[between cost centers as approved during the annual budget deliberation](#) must be submitted to the School Committee for approval. ~~Transfers between line items within a major account must be reported to the School Committee~~ as part of the Director of Business and Finance's quarterly report at the business meetings of the School Committee.

All funds in the general account not expended by the close of the fiscal year will be returned to the municipality.

SOURCE: MASC [August 2016 2021](#)

[Legal ref: DOR 94-660](#)

[Cross reference: DBG; DI](#)

**NOTE: Certain provisions in a policy in this category maybe established by town or city charter. If so, appropriate citations should be added as legal references.**

~~Regional school districts are affected by the provisions M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16B 1/2 that provides for an excess and deficiency fund that may not exceed five percent of their operating budget.~~

#### **[DBJ-1](#)**

#### **REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY**

In keeping with the need for periodic reconciliation of the school department's budget, the Regional School District Committee will consider requests for transfers of funds [between cost centers](#) as they are recommended by the Superintendent.

The Committee wishes to be kept abreast of the need for these adjustments so that it may act promptly and expedite financial record keeping for the school district.

All requests for transfers ~~between the major accounts (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chart of Accounts defines these as the 4 digit accounts ending in 00)~~[between cost centers as approved during the annual budget deliberation](#) must be submitted to the [full](#) School Committee for approval. ~~Transfers between line items within a major account must be reported to the School Committee~~ as part of the Director of Business and Finance's quarterly report at [the School Committee's finance subcommittee or at](#) the business meetings of the School Committee ~~or the School Committee's finance subcommittee.~~ [Approval of transfers must be done by the full Committee.](#)

All funds in the general account not expended by the close of the fiscal year will be placed in an excess and deficiency fund that shall not exceed five percent of the operating budget and its budgeted capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year. Any added funds exceeding five percent shall be returned to the member communities to reduce their assessments in accordance with law.

SOURCE: MASC [August 2016 2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: MGL [71:16B1/2; E&D Fund](#)

[DOR 94-660](#)

[Cross references: DBG; DI](#)

**File: DD - ~~FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS~~GRANTS, PROPOSALS, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

~~In accordance with state law, all grants and gifts to the District shall be reviewed and accepted by the School Committee before expenditure.~~ The School Committee will encourage the administration to seek and secure possible sources of state, federal, and other special funds that will enhance the educational opportunities for the children ~~in our schools~~in alignment with district goals. ~~The superintendent will submit for School Committee approval spending plans at the same cost center level as the district budget.~~

~~The Superintendent will keep informed of possible funds available to the school district under the various state and federal programs, and in what manner these funds can best be used in the school district.~~

The Superintendent will be responsible for ~~seeking out and~~coordinating the development of proposals for all specially funded projects and for ~~submitting the proposals to the Committee for approval keeping the Committee apprised and updated on all such projects.~~

~~The Superintendent is authorized to sign all reports for these projects and will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds received for such projects.~~

SOURCE: MASC ~~August 2016~~ 2021

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 44:53A

**~~NOTE: Regulations for staff investigation and submission of proposals are frequently needed to implement a policy in this area.~~**

**File: DEC - FEDERAL FUNDS SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT POLICY**

The \_\_\_\_\_ School District is committed to utilizing federal grant funds to supplement instructional programs funded by local, state and other sources [as required by law and regulation](#). Federal funds will be used to complement and extend district-funded programs, not to take the place of (supplant) programs previously funded by the district, [except as provided by the granting program](#).

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that federal grant funds are disbursed appropriately and that associated record-keeping and reporting complies with required guidelines and mandates.

SOURCE: MASC ~~July 2020~~ [2021](#)

[LEGAL REF: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended](#)

**File: DGA - AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

The Chair of the School Committee or designee and the Superintendent or designee will sign payrolls presented for approval.

The ~~town-municipal~~ treasurer, who also serves as the school department treasurer, signs all checks drawn against school department funds. No other signature is valid.

SOURCE: MASC ~~August 2016~~ [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [41:41](#); [41:52](#)

**NOTE: Town and city charters often address this topic; [alignment with charters is necessary](#). References to appropriate sections of a charter should be added as necessary. The content of policy in this area for a regional school district will be different than the above.**

~~Regional school districts should refer to and cite M.G.L. 71:16A at this code.~~

**DGA-1**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

The treasurer and the assistant treasurer are authorized to sign check withdrawals and to sign the appropriate bank forms for the Regional School District.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [41:41](#); [41:52](#); [71:16A](#)



**File: DH - BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS**

Each employee of the school district who is assigned the responsibility of receiving and dispensing school funds will be bonded individually or covered by a blanket bond. The ~~town~~[municipality](#) will pay the cost of the bond.

SOURCE: MASC [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [40:5](#)

~~NOTE: Regional school districts should refer to and cite M.G.L. 71:16A at this code.~~

**DH-1**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS**

Each employee of the school district or School Committee member who is assigned the responsibility of receiving and dispensing school funds will be bonded individually or covered by a blanket bond. The cost of the bond will be paid by the District.

SOURCE: MASC [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [40:5](#) ; [71:16A](#)

**File: DI - FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

The Superintendent will be ultimately responsible for receiving and properly accounting for all funds of the school district.

The accounting system used will conform with [the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System state requirements as well as](#) and with good accounting practices, providing for the appropriate separation of accounts, funds, and special monies.

The School Committee will receive periodic financial statements from the Superintendent showing the financial condition of the school department. Such other financial statements as may be determined necessary by either the Committee or the administration will be presented as found desirable.

SOURCE: MASC [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: [MGL Ch. 44:38](#)

~~Board of Education~~ 603 CMR [10:00](#)

[Cross references: DBJ; DIE](#)

**NOTE: References to town or city charters may be appropriate at this category, and the content of the policy should be changed accordingly.**

## File: DIE - AUDITS

As a department of (municipality), an audit of the school department's accounts ~~should~~ shall be conducted annually by external auditors. This review shall be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and the Government Auditing Standards issued by the U. S. Comptroller General. ~~In addition, the Committee may request a private audit of the school district's accounts at its discretion.~~

Upon completion of the external audit, the superintendent will share the resulting documentation with the Committee. The Committee will consider the recommendations made by the auditor for maintaining an efficient system for recording and safeguarding the school department's assets. Additionally, the district is also subject to the following:

- End of Year Financial Compliance Report; Every Massachusetts school district must submit the results of this report to the Department. This End of Year report must be submitted to the Department on or before September 30 each year.
- Government Accounting Standards Board 34; The District is covered in these government financial statements of revenue and expenditures of the municipality.
- Federal grant audits; As a district that spends about thresholds required, the district is subject to the Single Audit Act.
- Student Activity Account; As required by state law, student activity accounts are audited annually.

~~In addition, the Committee may request an additional private audit of the school district's accounts at its discretion.~~

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 44:38-40; 71:47; 72:3

Cross reference: DI

**NOTE:** References to a town or city charter may be appropriate here. The content of these references may require a change in the content of a policy adopted by a local school Committee in this area.

Not every district is subject to the single audit act; check thresholds.

Regional school districts should cite M.G.L. 71:16E at this code. Certain provisions of that law could be incorporated into a policy on audits.

## DIE-1

### REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS

An independent -audit of the school department's accounts shall be conducted annually. This review shall be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and the Government Auditing Standards issued by the U. S. Comptroller General.

Upon the completion of each audit, a report there on shall be made to the Chair of the School Committee, and a copy sent to the Chair of the Selectboard or City Council and the Chair of the School Committee in the member municipalities. The Committee will consider recommendations made by the auditor for maintaining an efficient system for recording and safeguarding the school department's assets.

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Additionally, the district is also subject to the following:

End of Year Financial Compliance Report: Every Massachusetts school district must submit the results of this report to the Department. This End of Year report must be submitted to the Department on or before September 30 each year.

Government Accounting Standards Board 34: The District is covered in these government financial statements of revenue and expenditures of the municipality.

Federal grant audits: As a district that spends about thresholds required, the district is subject to the Single Audit Act.

Student Activity Account: As required by state law, student activity accounts are audited annually.

~~The Committee will consider recommendations made by the auditor for maintaining an efficient system for recording and safeguarding the school department's assets.~~

In addition, the Committee may request an additional audit of the school district's accounts at its discretion.

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REF: MGL [44:38-40](#); [71:47](#); [71:16E](#); [72:3](#)

Cross reference: [DI](#)

NOTE: Not every district is subject to the single audit act; check thresholds.

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**File: DJ - PURCHASING**

The School Committee declares its intention to purchase competitively without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent:

To procure materials, supplies, equipment, and services at the lowest possible cost consistent with the quality necessary for the proper operation of the District, thereby attaining the maximum value for each public dollar spent;

To maintain the District's reputation for fairness and integrity and to promote impartial and equal treatment to all who wish to conduct business with the District;

To encourage a mutually cooperative relationship with requesting departments, recognizing that successful purchasing is a result of team planning and effort;

To promote social and economic goals such as encouraging local, small, minority, and women-owned businesses to participate in bidding for District purchases.

The acquisition of materials, equipment and services will be centralized in the Superintendent's office of the school district.

The Superintendent will ~~serve~~ designate the District's as purchasing agent. They will develop and administer the purchasing program for the schools in keeping with legal requirements and with ~~in~~ the adopted school budget.

School purchases will be made only on official purchase orders approved for issuance by the appropriate unit head and signed by the Superintendent, with such exceptions as may be made by the latter for emergency purchases.

SOURCE: MASC [2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [7:22A](#); [7:22B](#); [30B](#); [71:49A](#)

~~NOTE: This category is useful for a general, overall policy on purchasing, which includes content that might otherwise be filed in a number of subcategories of this main topic. Specific regulations pertaining to purchasing are better filed under DJF, Purchasing Procedures.~~

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**File: DJA - PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

Authority for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, and services is extended to the Superintendent through ~~the detailed listing of such items compiled~~ cost-center appropriation as part of the District budget-~~making~~ process.

The purchase of items and services within the cost-center appropriation on such lists requires no further Committee approval except when by law or by Committee policy ~~the purchases or services must be put to bid.~~

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30B

CROSS REF.: DJE, Bidding Requirements

**NOTE:** The cross reference is to a closely related policy in this manual. Local town and city charters may have additional purchasing language, which should be referenced as necessary.

**File: DK - PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

All claims for payment from school department funds will be processed in accordance with ~~regulations-procedures~~ developed by the Superintendent. Payment will be authorized against invoices properly supported by approved purchase orders, with properly submitted vouchers, or in accordance with salaries and salary schedules approved by the School Committee.

As an operating procedure, the Committee will receive monthly lists of bills (warrants) for payment from school department funds. The lists will be certified as correct and approved for payment by the School Committee and then forwarded to the municipal auditor for processing and subsequent payment by the municipal treasurer.

Actual invoices, statements, and vouchers will be available for inspection by the School Committee upon request.

~~The Superintendent will be responsible for assuring that budget allocations are observed and that total expenditures do not exceed the amount allocated in the budget for all items.~~

~~The school building administrators will be responsible for observing budget allocations in their respective schools.~~

SOURCE: MASC ~~August 2016~~ 2021

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. ~~41:41; 41:52;~~ 41:56

**NOTE: Specific details established by an individual town should be substituted for those required in the policy above, which were established by that city's code of ordinances.**

**Appropriate citations should also be substituted.** ~~Different procedures are often required for regional school districts.~~

~~Those details should be added in place of those in the policy above.~~

**DK-1****REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAYMENT PROCEDURES**

All claims for payment from the School District's funds will be processed in accordance with ~~procedures-regulations~~ developed by the Superintendent. Payment will be authorized against invoices properly supported by approved purchase orders, with properly submitted vouchers, or in accordance with salaries and salary schedules approved by the School Committee.

As an operating procedure, the Committee will receive monthly lists of bills (warrants) for payment from school department funds. The lists will be certified as correct and approved for payment by the School Committee or by a subcommittee of no less than 3 members. Actual invoices, statements, and vouchers will be available for inspection by the School Committee

upon request.

~~The Superintendent will be responsible for assuring that budget allocations are observed and that total expenditures do not exceed the amount allocated in the budget for all items.~~

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. ~~41:41; 41:52~~ 41:56; 71:16A

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**File: DKC - EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS**

Personnel and school department officials who incur [authorized](#) expenses in carrying out their ~~authorized~~ duties will be reimbursed by the school department upon submission of a properly completed and approved voucher and any supporting receipts required by the Superintendent. When official travel by a personally owned vehicle is authorized, mileage payment will generally be made at the rate currently approved by the Committee, [aligned with the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate](#).

To the extent budgeted for such purposes in the school budget, approval of travel requests by School Committee members must have prior approval of the School Committee. Staff travel requests within budgetary limits may be approved by the Superintendent. Staff travel requests that exceed budgetary limits will require the approval of the School Committee and the identification of funding sources by administration. Each request will be judged on the basis of its benefit to the school district.

SOURCE: MASC [August 2016 2021](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [40:5; 44:58](#)



**REVISED 5/6/2022 at 2:55 p.m.**  
**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION NO. 55**  
**Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, Massachusetts**

TO: Town Clerk, Town of Marion, Massachusetts  
Town Clerk, Town of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts  
Town Clerk, Town of Rochester, Massachusetts  
DATE: May 6, 2022  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

Pursuant to Chapter 30A of the General Laws, you are notified of the following REGULAR joint meeting of the **OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE and the MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55.**

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Please see attached agenda.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 508-758-2772 ext. 1956.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Russo  
Secretary to the Superintendent

**REVISED AGENDA 5/6/2022 at 2:55 p.m.**  
**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

**May 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

**133 Marion Road**

**Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**Zoom link:**

**<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/95485906137?pwd=WnhmNmpTQ05OekMrak9CNldGTmxxdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 954 8590 6137**

**Passcode: 985502**

*This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.*

**TIME: 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

**OPEN COMMENTS**

**RECOGNITION**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**XI. Executive Session**

**I. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Regular Minutes: January 20, February 15, 2022**

**2. Executive Session Minutes: January 20, 2022**

**II. Old Business**

**III. Agenda Items Pending**

**IV. Special Topic Report**

**V. General**

**A. Approval Professional Development Plan 2022-2023 School Year**

**B. Approval of School Committee Meetings for the 2022-2023 School Year**

**C. FY23 Budget Update**

**D. Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline**

**E. Superintendent's Contract**

**VI. New Business**

**A. Curriculum**

**B. Business**

**C. Personnel**

**D. Policy Review**

**VII. School Committee**

**A. Reorganization (Union #55 Only)**

**VIII. Future Business**

**A. Timeline**

**B. Future Agenda Items**

**IX. Open Comments**

**X. Information**

**XI. Executive Session**

**ADJOURNMENT**