

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

November 19, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM

Mattapoisett, MA 02739

District Members Present: Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Margaret McSweeny, Frances Kearns, Heather Burke, Suzanne Tseki and Joe Pires.

District Members Absent: Tina Rood

Union Members Present: Shannon Finning, Chairperson, Carole Clifford, Anne Fernandes, Nichole Daniel, Sharon Hartley April Rios, Robin Rounseville and Karin Barrows.

Union Members Absent: Jody Dickerson

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 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Humphrey of the ORR School Committee and Chairperson Finning of the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55.

Superintendent Nelson informed the school committee that Dr. Jannell Pearson Campbell's father passed away this past week, he expressed that our thoughts are with her and her family during this difficult time. Mr. Nelson expressed that it was clear from the first time we met Dr. Pearson-Campbell during the interview process that family is very important to her and he expressed that her school family is here to support her. Mr. Nelson expressed that he wanted to let the school committee members and the community at large to be aware of this situation.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Mr. Humphrey thanked everyone for being here tonight and thanked everyone for all their hard work these past few months, he expressed that a lot of progress has been made and he's very thankful for our administrators and staff and he also expressed that he's thankful for all the school committee members.

Dr. Finning made the following statement:

I want to thank the school district administration for the delivery of the addendum to the return to school plan on October 30th that detailed a fully in person plan. I hope we will receive an update re: how families, students and other constituents will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the plan as was promised on the 1st page of the document – to my knowledge that has not happened to date.

I recognize the tri town has had increased COVID 19 cases, some of which have affected members of our school community but at no point has it been stated that there was a cluster or belief of school based transmission of positive cases – the efforts we have made and continue to make are working. I applaud our students, teachers and building administrators for their efforts.

Governor Baker, DESE Commissioner Riley and medical and public health experts across MA have been clear students belong in schools – particularly our most vulnerable students including students with special needs and students in grades k-3. While the CDC continues to change their guidance, undoubtedly due to political pressures, we can and must look to the guidance of our public health and medical experts in our state – they are after all heralded around the world.

The in person plan indicates additional needs for staffing and/or transportation and states: “Please know that these are hypothetical scenarios that would require additional planning to implement”.

My questions are: how are we exploring those needs? What planning is or should be underway? How will budget subcommittees be engaged to consider options?

*Families and students and teachers, have articulated increasing frustration that it took so long for an in-person plan to be released and now three weeks after the release, to my knowledge, no feedback has been sought and there does not appear to be ongoing engagement to plan for possible return. **Will this occur by January?***

Should school committees be meeting more frequently to review the weekly dashboards and discuss paths forward – once a month does not feel like enough frequency in which to make meaningful change.

If we truly care about and prioritize the learning and development of our students, we owe it to ourselves and our communities to meaningfully and tirelessly engage in these efforts. There is no higher priority in my mind than finding a path forward to allow as many of our students who wish to, to return to school in person. Other communities have successfully done so across the SouthCoast and the state – we should be able to do the same.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

Thank you very much: tonight I will share updates from the Superintendent within the general agenda. However, I would ask that Mr. Barber our Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Operations brief the Joint School Committee on several topics:

Those topics include:

- *The status of closing the FY20 fiscal year for our districts*
- *The status of our FY21 budgets and financial updates regarding the state budget and financial picture*
- *CARES fiscal support*
- *And starting the FY22 budget development process (including capital planning)*

Status of FY20

Mr. Barber reported that the books are formally closed for FY 20, he expressed that final adjustments have been finalized and we have made necessary corrective actions. Mr. Barber reported that the independent auditors have been working and reviewing the ORR FY20 budget relative to the general accounts, revolving accounts and grant accounts. Mr. Barber expressed that he has also been working with each of the towns to compile comparable database reports making sure that all our credits and debits agree.

Status of FY21 Budgets

Mr. Barber reported that they are in the process of creating their warrant processes, spending plans, making sure we’re in line with the original budget process, and also being mindful to various funding opportunities. Mr. Barber reported that there might some additional grants in Special Education that might be available and he will work with Mr. Davidson to secure those districtwide.

FY22 Budget Development

Mr. Barber reported that he has been working with the town financial officers to determine what their timelines and potential increases might be and he also reported that soon we will be meeting with administrators and Budget Sub-Committees. Mr. Barber referred to the FY22 Budget Process Timeline which is as follows:

DECEMBER

- Administrators and Budget Sub Committee meet to set general parameters/review FY22 potential increases
- School Administrators will meet with Town Officials
- Draft budget proposals set for review by the Budget Sub-Committees of the respective 4 school committees.
- 4 Budget Sub Committees meet to discuss overlap and input on budgets.

JANUARY

- Budget proposals discussed with full School Committee at regular January school committee meetings.

FEBRUARY

- Town officials meet with School Committee Leaders and School Administration to review status of FY22 budget proposals.

MARCH*

March 2nd – ORR Public Hearing & Official Vote

*NOTE:

ELEMENTARY BUDGET HEARING: Done in conjunction with the March & April School Committee meetings.

April 7th

Marion

March 4th or April 8th

Rochester

March 29th

Mattapoissett

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Burke thanked Mr. Barber for his very detailed report and expressed that while we want to have a working relationship with the towns, however it's important for the public to understand that it's the members of the school committee who set and approve the budget that is then put forth to the towns. She expressed that she's speaking for the ORR budget, she does not know what the process is for each of the elementary budgets. She expressed that it's important to understand that school committee really needs to be driving that process forward and not the town financial officers.

I. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

Ms. McSweeney expressed that will she was reviewing the September 24th minutes she read where Mr. Davidson reported that his staff was trying to “catch up from the Spring and trying to meet federal and state timelines” and she's wondering how that is going.

Mr. Davidson reported that as of last week all of our districts are now caught up on all evaluations and academics that were back logged from the spring.

1. Regular Minutes: September 24, 2020

Motion to approve the September 24, 2020 minutes as amended

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Burke

Union, Ms. Rios

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

2. Executive Minutes: September 24, 2020

Motion to approve the September 24, 2020 minutes as presented

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. Burke

Union, Ms. Rios

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

V. General

A. Reopening Update - Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Joint School Committee regarding our learning models and current status. Since our last Joint School Committee Meeting we have continued to operate our schools in a hybrid learning model – with remote learning being an ongoing option for all students and families to consider. We have continued to provide additional in-person opportunities for certain sub-groups such as preschool students, ELL students, foster care students, and high needs special education students. With that being said during on October 30th – the District released two important documents. The first document was an addendum to the Back to School 2020-2021 Plan that was approved in August by the four school committees. This addendum provided additional information for our stakeholders to utilize in future decision-making such as:

-an executive summary

-an overview of the addendum (including ongoing considerations for pivoting)

-the introduction of our district's weekly Dashboard

-5 hypothetical options for increased in-person learning

-updated feasibility data for all six schools with supporting appendix data

Circling back to the Dashboard –

Each Friday the District is now distributing a weekly COVID-19 Dashboard that includes the week's key data points and key indicators (that includes school-based information and data from the most recently DPH weekly COVID report). This Dashboard is shared with all stakeholders and also posted on our COVID-19 Dashboard webpage with additional resources for families. Since September 16th and as of this evening – our school district has experienced 21 positive cases of covid-19 that have involved either students or staff members.

The breakdown is as follows:

7 cases at Sippican School

0 cases at Rochester Memorial School

4 cases at Center School

3 cases at OHT

2 cases at the Junior High School

5 cases at the High School

We continue prioritize social distancing measures and safety protocols as related to COVID. It is critically important that we follow these mitigation measures to protect our learning models.

Overall, our school community has shown a commitment to supporting our learning plans and we thank the different stakeholders for their ongoing support. Specifically, I want to thank the town

nurses and their Boards of Health and our school nurses who are helping navigate the complexities and provide excellent school-based medical leadership.

To date our enrollments at our schools, show:

408 hybrid students and 30 remote students in the Mattapoisett Elementary District

420 hybrid students and 61 remote students at Rochester Memorial School

331 hybrid students and 62 remote students at Sippican School

357 hybrid students and 57 remote students at the Junior High School

643 hybrid students and 74 remote students at our high school

To assess the impact on learning in addition to teacher assessments practices – we have implemented Aimsweb benchmarking throughout our six schools to ensure we are collecting data on our students' skill sets. We have completed the first benchmarking process and will have two additional ones later this year. This information can help drive teacher, grade level, and/or department decision-making regarding teaching and learning in addition to the great work that our teachers continue to do support our students. Hearing feedback from our stakeholders is very important: we are close to finalizing a parent/guardian, student, and teacher survey that we will release by the close of the day tomorrow.

At upcoming district school committees – we plan to share that data to foster conversations about ways to improve our learning models regarding next steps. In closing, I want to share with all of the most recent developments and/or updates I have received from the state level:

First, The Department of Public Health/DPH released updated guidance on Covid-19 quarantining in the last couple of days. Second, the DESE of Education has updated DPH weekly report metric guidance. Third, we are anticipating MIAA Guidance anticipated by the close of this week regarding High School sports. Finally, today, Commissioner Riley from the DESE shared with the superintendents that revised transportation could be released before the December holiday break – with the possibility of updated remote learning guidance sometime in January. Our Fall Reopening and COVID Dashboard webpages include the most recent guidance links, the reopening documents I have referenced, the most current and archived dashboards, and other resources for our stakeholders to access. In closing, I continue to remain grateful to the many stakeholders who support and advocate for our school community, the staff members extremely hard work, the students strong and resilient efforts, and for the support of the school committees. That concludes my report tonight. Thank you.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Burke thanked Mr. Nelson for his extensive report and wanted to unpack the information relative to the new guidelines regarding quarantining, she expressed that given that we are coming up on a Holiday week where school is out for a number of days she was wondering if the school has plans to send out a communication to our students and families about travel notices and requirements for returning to school. She also expressed that if a large number of students do need to go remote for a couple of weeks to complete the quarantine period, are the schools equipped to handle that. Ms. Burke expressed that some districts are asking families to file their travel plans with the school district so that they can plan accordingly, she expressed that there should a communication to families that should they leave Massachusetts for the Thanksgiving break that their children will need to stay home to quarantine.

Mr. Nelson expressed that the district has routinely updated the community regarding the ever changing state guidelines and some of that work that you are referencing actually started today, he expressed that Rochester Memorial School actually started messaging that today and he expressed that other schools will follow. He expressed that they have encouraged families to work with our school nurses in terms of their travel plans, and Mr. Nelson expressed that he agrees that we have to

be aware of the consequences these plans might have on our remote learning models and be able to support to support families based on their individual situations.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that the Department of Health is recommending that school districts have the week after Thanksgiving a remote learning week for everyone. She also expressed that the not knowing how many students will be remote or in person also puts added strain on the teachers. She asked if there was someone a staff or administrator that could speak to that. She expressed these are hard conversations to have and it's our duty as school committee members to have them and move forward.

Mr. Nelson expressed that what we're hearing from the Governor as well as the DPH is that they are doing their best to discourage families from traveling during this time at the same token we understand that each family has to make their own decisions and then we need to work within the guidance around quarantining based on what actually occurs. He expressed that in terms of hybrid out learning and remote learning, he reported that each time that a student goes into quarantine it does make it more difficult, he expressed that we are doing our best to prioritize in-person learning, that is our preference, thus far we have not seen a high transmission in school of COVID 19, which would be the main trigger point to move to remote learning. Mr. Nelson expressed that it's always a concern to keep our students, families and staff as safe as possible and he understands the complexity of all these issues. Mr. Nelson expressed that he's happy to open the floor to any principal who would like to make any comments. Principals Sirois reported that Sippican is not switching quarantined students to fully remote, she reported that the teachers are prepared to release instructional components and lessons to families who have students who need to quarantine. Mr. Devoll reported that at the High School level, their learning plans don't really lend themselves to temporary stays in remote learning versus hybrid, however he expressed that it's worth noting that they have had quite a few families move learning models and with careful thought and planning we are able to execute those changes almost immediately, he expressed that in some cases more than one change has been made in learning models. He expressed that they follow the guidance and make it as painless and seamless as possible for students and families. He expressed they have done two things to accommodate the students being quarantined, they have provided them with makeup work on their hybrid in days and have invited them to participate fully in the hybrid out days. He explained that one of the benefits of our schedule is that if a student is out for ten days they are only missing 4 days of in-person instruction, because within those ten days there are 6 hybrid out days.

Ms. McSweeney thanked Mr. Devoll for the information and she expressed that she understands that in-person learning is what we all want it and why we want it, and she expressed that she really appreciates the efforts made by everyone at the school and the explanation.

Mr. Nelson explained that the current guidance lets district have from 4 to 6 weeks to approve changes in learning models for students, however he expressed that in our districts most changes are made almost immediately or within a very short amount of time to accommodate families. Mr. Nelson expressed that the other piece in terms of guidance is that they did hear that other districts are considering shutting down between Thanksgiving and Christmas Break and some even after that, however the Commissioner was discouraging districts from doing that, Mr. Nelson expressed in the local area he doesn't believe of any schools doing this. Mr. Nelson expressed that type of decision would be something the school committee would need to make.

Ms. Smith expressed it's important to look at the numbers, she expressed that our numbers are has high as they were in April, she expressed it would be foolish for us to think that we are in a bubble. She expressed it's not just about travel, it's about our own communities and not having birthday parties or large gatherings, she expressed that's key, she believes it's not just about traveling but it's about what we do as a community and what kind of risks we take.

Mr. Nelson expressed that he wants to mention one other piece around key indicators that we are monitoring, he expressed we are talking quite a bit about students who are in quarantine and one of the other pieces that we are continuously monitoring, navigating and problem solving is staff members who also need to quarantine. He expressed that it becomes very complex depending on the role or availability of substitutes, he expressed that's a very important piece and to be aware of the impact that might have on our learning models.

Ms. Hartley stated that Mr. Nelson mentioned in his report that the commissioner talked about an update in the transportation guidelines, she expressed that will be interesting to look at, as it will have some impact (fiscally) on some changes that are being talked about.

Mr. Nelson expressed that the superintendents have advocating pretty strongly about the transportation guidance, and as we learn more about the virus and how it impacts schools and that the guidance also be updated in real time, Mr. Nelson expressed that this afternoon during a zoom call the commissioner stated that school districts could anticipate a possible revision to the transportation guidance before the holiday break, however he did not allude to what those changes might be.

Ms. Burke wanted to reiterate to the public that if you travel outside of the state for Thanksgiving you must keep your children at home, she expressed that we need to be crystal clear about that because as much as we want to meet families where they are and respect their choices, we need to keep our school community safe. Ms. Burke expressed that she really appreciates the benchmarking that's being done with AIMSweb, she expressed that she was very concerned about learning loss from the fully remote last Spring and Summer and the two weeks delayed start, she expressed she's very pleased that the district is doing that and appreciates the extra efforts, she believes it's very important to continue our children on their learning journeys. She expressed that she thinks it's absolutely remarkable the working being done on this hybrid model and having the in-person component, she expressed that quite a few districts were not able to implement such a model and went fully remote, she expressed it was a lot of work but it's extremely valuable, she expressed it's an excellent value between balance between the building and the educational community and supporting our students and keeping the community safe. She expressed that she has been very impressed with the execution of the hybrid model and she believes it's serving our students really well.

Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Burke for her comments especially around the AIMSweb tool, he expressed not only did we make that decision to secure those resources at the end of FY20 but it's also going to have great benefits for us in the long run as we continue to support teaching and learning.

Ms. Tseki wanted to clarify that only travel to high risk states falls under the quarantining guidelines.

Mr. Nelson expressed that any time we share guidance we share the live link to make sure there is clarity and transparency.

B. Approval of Superintendent's Goals

Superintendent Nelson presented his two year goals for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Please see attachment A and attachment B.

Dr. Finning asked if any members on the sub-committee would like to offer comment. There were none. Dr. Finning asked for comments from any one at this time.

School Committee Feedback:

Mr. Muse expressed that it's fantastic that with a complete new team, a new superintendent and a NOVEL virus and he thinks it's remarkable the resilience and patience that goes into every effort to make educate our kids. He expressed that the goals look good and he appreciates all the hard work put into creating them especially this year.

Ms. Kearns thanked the Supt. for putting those goals together she expressed that one of the things that she noticed in the description of the goals that she very much appreciated was the commitment to making the school an anti-racist school and furthering that type of environment in the schools.

Ms. Burke wanted to thank the committee she expressed it's a tremendous amount of work that goes into this. She wanted to ask the Supt in particular that "if you felt in the development of the goals that there's some way that student outcomes are reflected in and perhaps that could be included in the evaluations that you do with other administrators, some type of goal or measurement that looks at student outcomes, do you feel that is reflected in these goals?"

Mr. Nelson expressed that was a very debated topic, he expressed that has she is aware these goals are brand new, he expressed that his MASS coach and the new supt. induction program help you design the entry plan and also the goals around it, he expressed that these are initial efforts that can be updated and revised, he expressed the initial efforts are really about introducing yourself and getting a clear understanding where you see the district in terms of your values and listening to different stakeholders, he expressed that he would envision that these goals would be updated in different ways where you would see more student outcome benchmarking.

Ms. Hartley expressed that pertinent to Mr. Burkes question around student outcomes, she expressed there is an item that the committee discussed with Supt. Nelson about student benchmarking and it is included in the goals.

Mr. Nelson expressed that it's included in goal number two (2).

Motion to approve the superintendent's goals as presented

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rounseville

District, Ms. McSweeny

Union, Ms. Hartley

ROLL CALL-District (Humphrey: yes, Smith: yes, Muse: yes, McSweeny: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Tseki: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

School Committee Feedback:

C. School Calendar/Snow Days Discussion

Superintendent Nelson reported that the The Department has received inquiries from school districts about possible snow days this school year. Districts have asked whether it is permissible to schedule students for a remote learning day in the event that schools are closed because of inclement weather or other emergency, instead of closing school and making up that time later in the school year. For the 2020-2021 school year, because of the pandemic, each district has created a plan that includes a remote learning model. As set out in DESE's regulations ([603 CMR 27.00](#)), remote learning may include synchronous or asynchronous components, provided that students have opportunities to regularly interact with teachers, such as through feedback, office hours, and other regularly scheduled individual student interactions. Remote learning models must include the following components:

1. procedures for all students to participate in remote learning, including a system for tracking attendance and participation;
2. remote academic work shall be aligned to state standards;
3. a policy for issuing grades for students' remote academic work; and
4. teachers and administrators shall regularly communicate with students and their parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.

The Commissioner has determined that for this school year only (2020-2021), if there are days when schools must close because of inclement weather or other emergency, districts may choose whether to treat those days as “snow days” to be made up later or provide all students with remote learning on those days in a manner that is consistent with the regulatory requirements listed above. This decision will be made at the local level.

Dr. Finning asked Ms. Burke if she would like to have a separate discussion on the school calendar before the snow days are addressed and voted on.

Ms. Burke expressed that she does believe they are two separate topics; she would look to the chairperson to see what order they should be addressed. Dr. Finning suggested having the calendar discussion first, since that is how it’s listed on the agenda.

Ms. Burke expressed that it’s worthy of the boards consideration to look at the February school break and see if that is something we want to have this year, she expressed that families might hope to travel over February vacation but it seems unlikely that would be advisable at that time, she expressed there was a loss of learning time that has happened in this school year and she believes there are several reasons to reconsider the February vacation, she expressed that our families might appreciate having our children engaged in learning. She just wanted to submit this proposal to the board and asked if school personnel had any thoughts on this.

Ms. Barrows expressed that while she certainly sees the value in she wonders how that would impact our teachers’ contracts.

Mr. Nelson expressed that depending on the nature of the recommendation, but certainly if you’re asking for additional days beyond the collective bargaining agreement that would require negotiations and could also have fiscal implications for the budget sub-committees to consider.

Mr. Humphrey asked if the February vacation was taken away then we would have 4 less days at the end of the school year, is that the proposition?

Mr. Nelson expressed that he’s not quite sure of the recommendation, if it’s what Mr. Humphrey suggested or adding an additional 4 days to the school year. Ms. Burke would have to elaborate.

Ms. Burke explained that it’s just a topic for discussion, she explained that if there are fiscal implications maybe Mr. Barber could look at other savings being absorbed from operating in the hybrid model. She expressed that she would hope that our faculty would give it some consideration as we gave them the time at the beginning of the school year for professional development, but she understands these things would have to be negotiated and she understands the complexity of that.

Ms. McSweeney worries about making a decision like this without input from the teachers. She expressed they might need that break emotionally. She expressed it would behoove us to ask the teachers of our district their thoughts on this matter. She agreed that the value to students would be great, however she wants to make sure we are not overloading those who are already overloaded.

Ms. Smith expressed that it's a better sell to teachers if the four (4) days are in lieu of the days at the end of the school year.

Ms. Kearns expressed that we should get the same feedback from parents as well. Dr. Finning expressed that it would also be helpful to hear from older students.

Ms. Tseki expressed that while she agrees with the extra learning, she believes it's important to keep the schedule as similar as possible with continuity because students have already had so many changes in their schedules and their learning.

Ms. Burke expressed that since she is not hearing an overwhelming support and she believes by going out to families for feedback it will be too late to change the schedule and give families enough time to change their schedules, therefore she prefers to withdraw her request for consideration.

Ms. Smith expressed that last year we cancelled April vacation based on guidance from the state in March.

Ms. Rios explained that last year when we cancelled April vacation we had just started the remote learning model and we didn't want to lose momentum. She expressed it made sense to do that last year.

Dr. Finning and Mr. Humphrey explained that Ms. Burke is welcomed to make a motion. Ms. Burke declined to make a motion but if anyone else would like to make one she will leave it up to them.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Smith expressed that she believes it's a great idea to have the flexibility of opting to have a normal snow day or a remote snow day, especially this year when the students have already lost so much learning time.

Ms. Barrows suggested that sometimes a neighborhood or street might lose power and how that may impact student attendance and if there would be a timeline extension for their work to be completed.

Mr. Nelson expressed that with situations such as described the student would not be penalized.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that there are those snow days where because of missed forecasts this remote idea would make sense; however, we also have to remember that the Tri-Town has a lot of areas that lose power during the powerful storms.

Dr. Finning asked Supt. Nelson what is his recommendation? Mr. Nelson expressed he wants to make sure this is something the school committee supports before he used superintendent's discretion. He expressed he thought it was important to knowing he uniqueness of this school year he would rather work with all of you and have your support before moving forward. Mr. Nelson expressed that it would not be an automatic "remote snow day" every time, he explained that he would look at all the components of each scenario and his professional judgement and the expertise of Mr. Jones who starts to patrol the Tri-Town very early to determine his decision.

Dr. Finning expressed while a lot of our educators live in the tri-town however not all do and conditions might be very different where they are living, how would that be factored into student engagement.

Mr. Nelson reported that when he discussed this with his leadership team they discussed that component and he determined that he would also need to get feedback from them for those reasons before making a decision.

Mr. Devoll expressed that he doesn't know many educators who wouldn't trade a learning day in June for a learning day any other month of the calendar, Mr. Devoll also expressed that MCAS testing dates don't change therefore a lost day of instruction is harmful, he expressed he is very sensitive to power outages and he is confident we can overcome those challenges through flexibility and creating and crafted for these situations. He would advocate for the high school that a day of learning in January, February or March is more valuable than a day of learning mid to late June.

Ms. Kearns expressed that based on Mr. Devoll's feedback and the information on power outages I would be in favor of supporting the remote learning snow day option.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that he would be in support of Mr. Nelson having the latitude to make this decision.

Mr. Muse agreed he expressed that the Superintendent has to make an evaluation of such days no matter what.

Motion to approve the use of remote learning snow day option for the 2020-2021 as outlined in the DESE guidance

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Burke

Union, Ms. Rios

ROLL CALL-District (Humphrey: yes, Smith: yes, Muse: yes, McSweeny: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Tseki: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

D. School Committee Meeting Format

Mr. Nelson expressed that the last time we met we were discussing different options for school committee to hold their meetings and it was suggested that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms. McSweeny expressed this is a very difficult conversation and it seems like the school committees keep having the same conversation, everyone shares their opinion and at the end everything is kept the same for obvious reasons, especially when cases are rising.

Mr. Pires expressed that under the current conditions were all under extreme stress and facing challenges and looking at us now we are in a place of choice, either in our office or in our homes and there's a level of convenience that just lightens up the load a little. Mr. Pires would recommend to stay remote through zoom until things are back to normal.

VI. New Business

Mr. Nelson explained that he has met with the newly appointed members of the policy sub-committee and they have the following recommendations.

D. Policy Review

IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees

Motion to approve IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar Policy as presented

District, Ms. McSweeney,

Union, Ms. Barrows

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Rios

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

ID- School Day-

Ms. Kearns expressed that she did receive questions/feedback about the 15 minutes prior to let students into the building and why that had been removed from the policy. Ms. Kearns expressed that she shared these concerns and received feedback indicating that this would not apply during this school year (during COVID-19) it would be implemented in a normal school year. Ms. Burke explained that her concern was about breakfast and it students are not able to enter the school building early then how would they get their first meal of the day. Mr. Nelson expressed that each of the buildings have different practices when it comes to arrival time and principal discretion is used when needed and the policy refers to “unless require earlier admittance” which would include breakfast.

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees

Motion to approve ID – School Day Policy as presented

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Rios

District, Ms. Kearns,

Union, Mr. Dickerson

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

IE- Organization of Instruction

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees

Motion to approve IE-Organization of Instruction Policy as presented

District, Ms. Kearns

Union, Ms. Clifford,

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Rios,

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

IGA- Curriculum Development

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees

Motion to approve IGA – Curriculum Development Policy as presented

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Clifford,

District, Ms. Sweeney,

Union, Ms. Rios,

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

IGD- Curriculum Adoption

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees

Motion to approve IGD – Curriculum Adoption Policy as presented

District, Ms. Tseki,

Union, Ms. Fernandes,

District, Mr. Muse,

Union, Ms. Rios,

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

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

OPEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Stephanie Clark made a public comment: Ms. Clark made the following statement:

Thank you for allowing me to speak, this statement is directed to the Joint School Committee, the Old Rochester School Committee, members of the Marion School Committee, members of the Mattapoisett School Committee and members of the Rochester School Committee. I preface my remarks that my concerns for students, teachers and staff and their safety is also my priority. I am not advocating that we make reckless decisions, but I continue to be troubled by the lack of transparency and communication by the school administration and members of the school committee in each town. Many school committee meetings and many emails specifically exchanged specifically with the Mattapoisett School Committee and parents are still not getting full and complete answers from this administration. The school committee is our advocate and should be asking these questions on our behalf as parents and as constituents and I am troubled that we feel that we continue to be stonewalled at every turn. With that being said, I am asking again, to get an answer to these questions at this meeting. First, while I can't turn back time, I still want a reason why the "addendum" that was provided to the opening plan on October 30th when we should have had it back in August? Why didn't the respective school committees hold them accountable to what the state required back then? But now we have this plan, but why hasn't this been reviewed and voted on by the school committees? Why are we not holding emergency meetings to review not only this but new directives from the governor and DESE that was released on November 6th? Other school districts were meeting within 48 hours of this coming out, why isn't Old Rochester, is this not a priority? Based on this guidance districts are now expected to prioritize in-person learning across all color coded categories, unless there is suspected in school transmission, districts in grey, green or yellow are expected to have students fully in-person where logistically feasible and a hybrid model should only be used if there's no other way to meet health and safety requirements in school buildings or for transportation. Now granted I know transportation could be an issue, but I again

ask how can we make this work so that we can get kids back to school full time. I suspect that we can have enough people opt in for driving so this is not a barrier for reopening. Why does Old Rochester continue not to follow DESE guidelines or the World Health Organization guidelines, instead stands firm on the 6feet of social distancing even with masks. In an article in the Boston Globe that shared data from larger school districts I personally reviewed the reopening plans of other southcoast school districts, including Plymouth, Bridgewater and Fall River and they have all set the distancing standard at 3 feet which follows both DESE and WHO guidance. Why is ORR unwilling to follow this guidance? Based on your own feasibility study 4 ½ plus feet would still be able to accommodate all students, meet the requirements and then some and this was also the second option in the addendum for the full return plan for students. I want to have a straight answer as to why ORR feels they should not be following this guidance, why are we not holding this administration accountable about having this discussion? I find it concerning that we are quick to draft a letter about ORR schools not have MCAS testing in the 20-21 academic year because we are concerned with the learning challenges our children have had for the last six months but we are not quick to figure out to get out kids back to school full time so they can actually learn. Where are our priorities? Thank you.

Dr. Finning asked Mr. Nelson if he would like to give any feedback or any other school committee members.

Mr. Nelson expressed that in terms of his obligation as superintendent, in terms of what was requested from me was a feasibility report and also a back to school plan that was reviewed by the department of education, he expressed that he did not receive feedback from the department indicating he was not in compliance. He expressed that he worked with each individual school committee in terms of receiving feedback from them and their approval in terms of what direction they wanted to move in, he expressed he did hear the feedback from school committee, parents and guardians in terms of asking for more information, the addendum includes some the original feasibility but also a lot of what we learned since the start of school in terms of implementing our hybrid learning model, he feels that the addendum was a lot more robust in terms of feasibility data that could have been included in the original plan. He expressed that moving forward I understand that there are different debates between 3 feet versus 6 feet, in terms of CDC guidance, he explained that the school district has taken the close contact definition as it currently stands, which is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes around someone who was positive is considered a close contact. He also expressed that the districts are honoring the current MOA's in place with between the school district and the association which calls for 6 feet. Mr. Nelson expressed that's his initial response to the open comment.

Ms. Smith expressed that Mr. Nelson is doing a fabulous job and we all support you and have supported all the decisions you have made up to this point. She expressed that the decision to support his decision was unanimous and she's pretty sure it was almost unanimous across the board.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she also supports Supt. Nelson and all the steps he's been taking so far. She expressed that it would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that COVID19 affects the communities of color at a greater rate than other communities, she expressed we have to keep that in mind. She also expressed that she hopes people respect the science as we learn more about this virus. She requested that everyone have an open mind and follow the science and the data.

Mr. Muse expressed that in Mattapoissett they had a number of meetings on this and it has been stated and restated that there is no one single metric to make the decision to switch learning models, he expressed that we thoughtfully reviewed all of the issues and a great deal of effort was put into creating the plan and the alternatives, he expressed we received information from surveys, had working groups, included all stakeholders and this is what was voted on adopted and implemented.

He expressed that this information has been stated over and over again and we know the information is changing all the time however what we do know is that this virus is extremely contagious and it has the capacity to kill and it's a novel virus so we don't know a lot about it. He expressed that when votes were taken they were taken thoughtfully and with the best interest and safety of the students the staff and the community as a whole.

Ms. Sara Jacobsen also made a public comment: Ms. Jacobsen expressed that she teaches in Mattapoisett, she lives in Mattapoisett and is co-president of the MEA. She expressed that what we hoped would not happen has happened and we have had many positive cases of COVID 19 in our schools and she expressed that there were some close contacts that arose from that but much fewer than if we were 3 feet apart, she expressed that when she confers with her colleagues supporting students who have had to quarantine has been complicated over the past few weeks, as she imagines the rise in the next few months with the holiday break it will just get harder. Ms. Jacobsen expressed that the MEA is advocating for bringing back as many students as we can but maintaining them 6 feet apart, or else those numbers of children in quarantine will be up to the point that we won't be able to handle.

Ms. Clark made an additional open comment: Ms. Clark wanted to make sure she clarified, she expressed that maybe she's not getting her point across, she's concerned that we are choosing which data to follow, she expressed that she also supports science and data, she expressed she doesn't take this fibrously, she expressed other school districts are with different guidelines and doing just fine, but her bigger concern is that is transparency the fact that this was not in fact voted on and I will continue to say that Mr. Muse, but also that we are not meeting to discuss these and have question and answer sessions and help parents understand. She expressed she is told they can only talk about it in open meetings, she expressed it took a petition in Mattapoisett to have a meeting to talk about it, she expressed now it's out there and we still can't get a meeting to talk about it. She expressed we had new guidance from the governor and the commissioner, we still can't get a meeting to talk about it, therefore, I'm here at an open meeting to talk about it and yet we still don't get answers and if everyone thinks that's perfectly ok then we have a serious problem and I think we need to have a bigger discussion. She expressed she's not advocating for us to be unsafe, she understands that, she has been touched by the virus, just like probably everyone has been, but the lack of communication, the lack of transparency, the frustration to try to have these discussions is just not ok and I want an answer. Thank you.

Ms. Nicole Boussy also made a public comment: Ms. Boussy introduced herself as the president of the Marion Teachers Association. Ms. Boussy expressed that she would like to report to the community to the members of the school committee that we have had open and honest communication with our in house administrative team, she expressed she has had numerous conversations with the Marion School Committee and Superintendent Nelson and she can speak for her entire membership when she says that they are truly grateful for the support and guidance that they have received from our administrative team.

Ms. Daniel asked Ms. Clark to clarify the transparency comment.

Ms. Clark that she's being told she can only have discussion during open meeting so she's here to talk about it and get answers, she expressed that they have been asking for this since August and we continue to still not have answers. She expressed that we are picking and choosing which guidance to follow and that doesn't feel right. She expressed that she continues to reach out to the Mattapoisett School Committee and continues to not get answers, she expressed that's her issue with transparency.

Ms. Daniel expressed that as a teacher, parent and school committee member she certainly sympathizes, however there are so many moving pieces that it's hard to get a clear cut answer. She expressed that as a teacher and a parent she also wants her kids back in school but it's not that simple. She expressed that conversations at school committee meetings is ongoing.

Dr. Finning expressed that she appreciates Ms. Clark's comments and concerns and she expressed not giving parents the opportunity to provide feedback about the in person plan and she explained that vote would not take place at the Joint Committee, it would take place at our local meetings. She expressed that she posed questions at the beginning of this meeting that she was hoping Mr. Nelson would speak to around how are we scoring the needs articulated in the in-person plan? What planning is happening or underway? She expressed all of these are really important factors that we need to understand should our individual committees be meeting more frequently to look at new data as many area school committees do.

Mr. Nelson expressed that as late as this afternoon he met with the Joint Labor committee in Mattapoisett to discuss possible next steps and then possibly update the school committee at their next scheduled meeting. In terms of significant changes in guidance he's happy to collaborate with any chairperson and attend any school committee that needs to be scheduled and ultimately as you know the school committee makes the final decision in terms of what learning model we are currently in. He expressed he will continue to collaborate with all 4 school committees and make decisions that's best for kids and my goal is like everyone else's I want as many kids in school as possible. He expressed it's no big secret that he himself has a young family and his children and not in school very often and those situations are also difficult for him and his family, so I'm empathetic to everyone's situations. He expressed that he is having ongoing conversations with the stakeholders and each school committee and any time there is a need to come together I will be there.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that he has a daughter in high school and he would love for her to back full time, he expressed that as a school committee chair he sat in on the negotiations with the teacher's union and he explained that's one of the moving parts, he explained that's one of the parts that we can't control until we negotiate, so where not just dealing with parents and students but also educators and their fears about this virus and we have to be mindful of that as well. He expressed that we might all have different opinions but we are all trying to do what's best.

Carly Lavin, Mattapoisett School Committee member made an open comment. Ms. Lavin expressed that she wanted to address Ms. Clark she indicated she appreciates her feedback and comments and wanted to let her know that the Joint Labor Committee was setup back in August and we have setup a process and we are working through that process, she expressed that is taken very seriously and the committee is having very consistent dialogues between the school committee and the association and members of the administration. She expressed that there is a lot of work happenings in between meetings and things are moving forward, she expressed that at the next school committee meeting there would be multiple options to put forth to the whole committee to make actual votes and decisions on. Therefore, I just ask that you trust us and that we are doing the right thing.

Mr. Pires expressed that with all due respect he doesn't consider any of us experts in COVID and we all interpret information differently, I was always under the impression that we were adhering by the mandates of the governor and the commissioner and we were going to the full extent of what is allowed, he expressed that at the end of the day we have to adhere to safety for students and teachers.

Ms. Barrows expressed that many if not all of the districts mentioned by Ms. Clark that are utilizing the 4 feet distancing standard are currently operating in hybrid model, one of which I work in, that's also important to note.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:46 p.m.

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rios

ROLL CALL-District (Humphrey: yes, Smith: yes, Muse: yes, McSweeny: yes, Kearns: yes, Burke: yes, Tseki: yes, Pires: yes)

ROLL CALL-Union (Finning: yes, Clifford: yes, Fernandes: yes, Daniel: yes, Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Barrows: yes)

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

November 19, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Zoom link:

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/94457783451?pwd=dTNSRm9DSjVrOTdvcGVuZ3ExbzQxQT09>

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

MEETING TO ORDER

RECOGNITION

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Minutes: September 24, 2020

2. Executive Session Minutes: September 24, 2020

II. Old Business

III. Agenda Items Pending

IV. Special Topic Report

V. General

A. Reopening Update

B. Approval of Superintendent's Goals

C. School Calendar/Snow Days Discussion

D. Format for Next School Committee Meeting

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: November 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Items

The following items are on the agenda of November 19, 2020

I. Consent Agenda

A.1. Approval of Minutes- Regular Minutes – September 24, 2020

Recommendation

That the School Committees review and approve the minutes of September 24, 2020. Please refer to “JSC 11192020 September Minutes”.

A.2. Approval of Minutes- Executive Minutes – September 24, 2020

Recommendation

That the School Committees review and approve the minutes of September 24, 2020.

V. General

A. Reopening Update

Recommendation:

That the school committee hear an update from administration regarding reopening.

B. Approval of Superintendent’s Goals

Recommendation

That the School Committees review for approval the Superintendent’s Goals.

C. School Calendar/Snow Days Discussion

Recommendation

That the School Committees and the Administration have a discussion about the School Calendar and snow days for the 2020-2021 school year.

D. Format for Next School Committee Meeting

Recommendation

That the School Committees discuss the format for the next school committee meeting.

VI. New Business

Policy Review

Recommendation:

That the school committee review and approve the following policies:

IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees.

ID - School Calendar

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees.

IE - Organization of Instruction

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees.

IGA – Curriculum Development

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees.

IGD – Curriculum Adoption

The revisions for this policy were sent to us by MASC and were reviewed by the policy sub-committee on November 9th. The revised policy needs final approval of the Joint School Committees.

VIII. Future Business

A. Timeline

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

Joint School Committee

March 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

- ❖ School Calendar (March)
- ❖ Budget Update (March)
- ❖ Approval of School Committee Dates (March)
- ❖ Professional Development Plan Approval (March)
- ❖ Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Evaluation (June 2021)

XI. Executive Session

Recommendation

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

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

IC/ICA - SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR - REVISED

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval annually. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. The School Committee shall schedule a school year which includes at least 185 school days for each school in the district.

24. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

32. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; in service days; and parent conferences.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [4:7](#); [69:1G](#); [71:1](#); [71:4](#); [71:4A](#); [71:73](#); [136:12](#)

Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day, effective 9/1/75

Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations

603 CMR [27.00](#), Adopted 12/20/94

File: ID - SCHOOL DAY-REVISED

The length of the school day is established in the collective bargaining agreements with the various school unions. The specific opening and closing times of the schools will be recommended by the Superintendent and set by the Committee.

The Superintendent is authorized to make minor changes in opening and closing times to simplify transportation scheduling; however, major changes in schedules will be subject to Committee approval.

Parents and guardians will be informed of the opening and closing times set by the Committee. To help insure the safety of all children, parents will also be notified that students will not be admitted into the school building until ~~15 minutes prior to~~ the start of the official day unless ~~bus schedules~~circumstances require earlier admittance.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [15:1G](#); [69:1G](#); [71:59](#) [603 CMR27.00](#)

Board of Education Regulations for School Year and Day, effective 9/1/75

IE - ORGANIZATION OF INSTRUCTION-REVISED

The District offers a diversified educational program compatible with the needs of the community and state standards.

The organizational plan is designed to facilitate the philosophy of educating every student, each to his/her fullest potential.

The structure will consist of multiple levels (for example, Primary/Elementary, Middle and Secondary levels).

The Primary/Elementary level includes schools with ~~kindergarten-preschool~~ through grade six. The Middle level consists of schools for grades seven and eight. The Secondary level consists of schools with grades nine, ten, eleven, ~~and~~ twelve and a transitional program.

Special education services are integrated across each grade level in all schools.

The organization is designed to meet the standards established ~~within the Curriculum Frameworks as required by the State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education~~ by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Curriculum Frameworks, by Time and Learning regulations, -and in order to serve the needs of all students.

CROSS REFS: IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar

LEGAL REFS: 603 CMR 27.00

File: IGA - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT-REVISED

Constant adaptation and development of the curriculum is necessary if the District is to meet the needs of the students in its schools. To be successful, curriculum development must be a collaborative enterprise involving staff and administrators utilizing their professional expertise.

The Committee expects the faculty and administration to regularly evaluate the education program and to recommend modifications of practice, changes in curriculum content, and the addition or deletion of courses to the instructional program.

~~The Superintendent of Schools or a designee is responsible for directing the development and implementation of curriculum required to meet the educational needs of all students in the public schools.~~

~~Constant adaptation and development of the curriculum is necessary if the District is to meet the needs of the students in its schools. To be successful, curriculum development must be a collaborative enterprise involving staff and administrators utilizing their professional expertise.~~

~~The development and implementation of curriculum are intricate processes that require the close cooperation of all professional staff members and of parents and students at appropriate points. The school curriculum is a constantly evolving program outline that is improved and upgraded by development in each area of study and the efforts of state and local school officials to have the content and skills being addressed in the schools to be as up-to-date and relevant to the time as possible.~~

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [69:1E](#)

603 CMR [26:05](#)

File: IGD - CURRICULUM ADOPTION-REVISED

The School Committee will rely on ~~it~~^{the} professional staff to design and implement instructional programs and courses of study that will forward the educational goals of the school ~~system~~^{district}.

The Superintendent will have authority to approve new programs and courses of study after they have been thoroughly studied and found to support educational goals. The Committee itself will consider, and officially adopt, new programs and courses when they constitute an extensive alteration in instructional content or approach.

The Committee wishes to be informed of all new courses and substantive revisions in curriculum. It will receive reports on changes under consideration. Its acceptance of these reports, including a listing of the high school program of studies, will constitute its adoption of the curriculum for official purposes.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [15:1G 71:1](#); [69:1E](#)