

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55
July 15, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM
Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

District Members Present: Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Margaret McSweeney, Frances Kearnes, Heather Burke, Tina Rood, Suzanne Tseki and Joe Pires.

District Members Absent:

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

Union Members Absent:

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 5:02 p.m. by Chairperson Finning, of the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 and by Chairperson Humphrey of the ORR School Committee. Mr. Humphrey also welcome Margaret McSweeney and Frances Kearnes the two newest school committee members.

XI. Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session at 5:02 for reason number three,

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Clifford

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Rios

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

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

Motion to come out of executive session at 5:45 p.m. and resume the regular meeting

District, Ms. Smith,

Union, Ms. Clifford

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Rios

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

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

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT: Chairperson Humphrey reminded everyone that this meeting is being recorded and that it will be aired on ORCTV.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

V. General

B. Appointment of Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations

Motion to appoint Mr. Howard Barber as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Hartley

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

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

Superintendent Nelson thanked the committee for their support and introduced Mr. Howard Barber as the new Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations. Superintendent Nelson stated that Mr. Barber has 12.5 years of business administrator experience, experience as a town, city and regional business administrator, budget development, budget monitoring, excess and deficiency management, end of year reporting, grant management experience, facilities oversight experience, human resources oversight experience, food services oversight experience, technology oversight experience, internal/external audit experience, collective bargaining and negotiations experience, credentialed Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official/procurement management experience, Certified Public Accountant, State of Massachusetts experience, well-connected with state agencies (Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials 2020-2021 President), strong communication style and last but not least he is a life-long learner attitude and demonstrated commitment (teaches and trains aspiring school business administrators),

Mr. Barber thanked the committee and Supt. Nelson for their support and expressed that he is extremely excited for this opportunity and looks forward to building relationships with school committee member as well as school administration and school community.

Superintendent Nelson thanked the following individuals who were on the hiring committee:

Rose Bowman, Mattapoisett Principal

Silas Coellner, Old Rochester Junior High School Principal

Susana Cunningham, Director of Human Resources

Nichole Daniel, Marion School Committee Member

Gene Jones, Director of Facilities

Carly Lavin, Mattapoisett School Committee Member

Michael Lorenzo – Mattapoisett Town Administrator

Judy Mooney – Marion Asst. Town Administrator

Suzanne Szyndlar – Rochester Town Administrator

Tina Rood, Rochester & Old Rochester School Committee Member

Mr. Nelson also thanked everyone that was part of the meet and greet, school committee members, town officials, union presidents and everyone else who take part in the process.

Chairperson Finning thanked Mr. Nelson for his leadership and stated that this is Mr. Nelson's first official meeting as superintendent, she expressed that herself and Chairperson Humphrey are grateful for his leadership and are excited about the team he is building to support our staff and students.

A. Approval of Donation

Superintendent Nelson explained that Embrace Loan has made a donation of a 1,000 masks to the school district, he expressed that the school district is very thankful to Embrace Loans and Mr. Cary Humphrey and asked that the school committee formally accept the donation.

Motion to approve a donation of masks from Embrace Loans to ORR

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Rios

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Daniel

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

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

Mr. Humphrey also expressed his gratitude to the owner of Embrace Loans for making this donation.

OPEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Rood stated that she attended the Reopening Task Force meeting at ORR and that the team has created two teams, one for the high school and one for the jr. high school, she expressed if anyone else on the ORR committee is interested in helping her to let her or Mr. Humphrey know. Ms. Burke asked about meeting times and frequency. Ms. Kearns offered her services, she expressed that she has a background in biomedical engineering and facilities risk assessment and she believes she would be able to contribute to the group.

Mr. Nelson gave an update on the Reopening Guidance and all the planning that has taken place during the summer months. Mr. Nelson expressed that DESE is asking that each district submit a full in person model, a hybrid model and a full remote learning model. Mr. Nelson expressed that DESE is encouraging districts not to make a decision on what plan they will select until early August.

Mr. Nelson also gave an update about communication with the Tri-Town Against Racism Association, Mr. Nelson expressed that he has recently met with the members of the Association in an informal zoom meeting and he reported that the meeting was attended by some school committee members and he thought it was a great start to what he believes will be a great relationship.

Mr. Nelson also stated that the Policy Sub-Committee has set a meeting for August 11^t , Mr. Nelson expressed that an anti-racism policy or resolution will be reviewed and discussed and he also indicated that he has invited the school district legal counsel to be part of that meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:25 p.m.

District, Mr. Muse,

Union, Ms. Daniel

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rios

Motion Passed

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

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