

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55  
March 23, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.  
MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM  
Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**District Members Present:** Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Stefan Gabriel, and Heather Burke, Tina Rood, Suzanne Tseki and Joe Pires.

**District Members Absent:** Paul Goulet

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

**Union Members Absent:** Ron Gerhart

**Other Staff Members Present:** Douglas R. White, Superintendent of Schools, Michael Nelson, Asst. Superintendent and administrative team.

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.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:** Chairperson Humphrey reminded everyone that this meeting is being recorded and that it will be aired on ORCTV, Mr. Humphrey also thanked faculty, staff and administrative team for all their hard work during these unprecedented times. Chairperson Finning echoed the sentiments of Mr. Humphrey and thanked all the educators and administrative team for their support during this very difficult time, she explained that educators have been doing a wonderful job communicating with students whether it be through zoom or through daily email communications. She expressed that a family in Mattapoisett lost their mom, it’s a family with 4 children, she expressed that the staff and administrative team in Mattapoisett really stepped up to help this family and that she feels incredibly proud to be part of this community. She expressed that she’s hopeful and grateful.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** The superintendent thanked the cafeteria staff, the technology team, the custodial staff and the administrative team for all their hard work during this difficult time, he expressed they have all been working extremely hard to keep the needs of students at the forefront. He also thanked the School Committee for their support.

Motion to approve the January 29, 2020 minutes as amended

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rios

District, Mr. Gabriel

Union, Ms. Daniel (Barrows abstained)

Motion Passed

Motion to approve the February 29, 2020 minutes as presented

District, Mr. Muse

Union, Ms. Fernandes

District, Ms. Smith

Union, Ms. Rios

Motion Passed

Motion to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes as amended  
District, Ms. Smith,  
Union, Ms. Clifford  
District, Mr. Muse  
Union, Ms. Rios  
Motion Passed

## **V. General**

### **A. School Closure Update**

Superintendent White gave the school committee an update on school closures. Dr. White explained that the commissioner has regular meetings with all superintendents, he went on to explain that currently the commissioner has explained that districts only have to go to the 185<sup>th</sup> day, and that day for ORR/Union #55 would be June 24<sup>th</sup>, meaning you don't have to make up any other days. Dr. White explained that the grab and go lunches are currently being distributed from 10:30 to 12:30 Monday through Friday, at Sippican, Rochester Memorial, Center and ORR High School. Dr. White also explained that currently chromebooks are being distributed to students who need them, currently we have distributed over 100, the superintendent explained that if any family needs a chromebook or access to internet they should contact his office. Dr. White explained that they are working with the union on drafting an MOU regarding remote learning and he explained he will be looking for approval from each school committee. Dr. White explained that this MOU covers teachers, and related service providers, Dr. White explained specifics of the MOU. Dr. White explained that the MOU is through April 6, 2020, which is the date the schools are closed through. Superintendent White explained that Superintendents are looking for clear direction from the Commissioner. The Superintendent also expressed he was very clear with the union and the administrative team of what the expectations are. Dr. White explained that they are in the process of getting a survey out to teachers about learning resources, Dr. White explained that the administrative team understands that if school is not back in session in a couple of weeks that next steps will need to be taken and the administrative team and educators are ready to do so. Dr. White also explained that educators will be working on professional development and curriculum development during this time as well as surveys and data collection. Mr. Nelson explained that the district currently has a hotline for any students who may have social emotional concerns during this difficult time. He explained that once the call comes in he identifies who is the best staff member to reach out to that specific family. He also expressed that social workers are reaching out to families regularly to make sure they have the supports they need. The superintendent explained that there is a weekly meeting with the commissioner on Friday and that he will keep the school committee informed. Dr. White expressed that currently MCAS is postponed and delayed but that might change.

Ms. Burke, Ms. Fernandes and Ms. Hartley and other school committee members expressed how important it is to provide consistency and learning equity for all our students during this difficult time.

### **B. Approval of School Calendar 2020-2021**

Dr. White explained that the calendar presented at tonight's meeting is similar to the one of the current year, however he explained that due to a primary election he would suggest moving the first day of school for teachers to September 1<sup>st</sup>, for students to September 2<sup>nd</sup> and having September 4<sup>th</sup> as a school for both students and staff. He also explained that due to the election they moved the professional development day to November instead of October. Dr. White reviewed the rest of the calendar with the school committee. He explained that this calendar has been shared with unions, school councils and all other school committees.

Motion to approve the school calendar for the 2020-2021 as presented

District, Mr. Muse  
Union, Ms. Rios  
District, Ms. Smith  
Union, Ms. Daniel  
Motion Passed

### **C. Superintendent's Contract Update**

Mr. Humphrey and Dr. Finning gave an update on the incoming superintendent's contract and explained that they would have a final contract soon for approval. They explained that they would be calling another meeting to get this approved.

## **VI. New Business**

### **D. Policy News – Mr. Nelson endorsed these policies**

#### **JFABD- Homeless Student Policy (REVISION)**

Mr. Nelson reviewed this policy with the school committee.

Motion to approve policy JFABD – Homeless Student Policy as presented

District, Mr. Muse,  
Union, Ms. Rios  
District, Ms. Smith  
Union, Ms. Clifford  
Motion Passed

#### **BEDG – Minutes (REVISION)**

Superintendent White reviewed this policy with the school committee.

Motion to approve policy BEDG – Minutes as presented

District, Mr. Muse,  
Union, Ms. Barrows  
District, Ms. Smith  
Union, Ms. Rios  
Motion Passed

#### **JFABE – Education Opportunities for Military Children (NEW POLICY)**

Mr. Nelson reviewed this policy with the school committee for 1<sup>st</sup> read. This policy will be brought back to the next meeting for final approval.

#### **JFABF - Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (NEW POLICY)**

Mr. Nelson reviewed this policy with the school committee for 1<sup>st</sup> read. This policy will be brought back to the next meeting for final approval.

**OPEN COMMENTS:** Ms. Fernandes asked that school committee be updated as staff is updated. Dr. White expressed that he would keep the school committee informed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.