

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

**January 29, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Media Room, Jr. High School
Old Rochester Regional School District
133 Marion Road
Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

District Members Present: Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Stefan Gabriel, and Heather Burke, Paul Goulet and Tina Rood.

District Members Absent: Suzanne Tseki and Joe Pires.

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

Union Members Absent: Ron Gerhart and Karin Barrows.

Other Staff Members Present: Diana Russo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, as well as many members of the administrative team in the audience and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Humphrey of the ORR School Committee and Chairperson Finning of the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55.

OPEN COMMENTS: NONE

Chairperson’s Report: Chairperson Finning thanked the search committee for their tremendous work, she explained that the committee worked for well over 18 hours on the interviewing and reviewing resumes and she had the honor of working with them, she expressed that they each took the task very seriously and were all very committed, Dr. Finning recognized everyone by name. Below is a list of everyone on the committee:

Alves	Jamie	Teacher, Rochester Memorial School
Bowman	Rose	Principal, Mattapoisett Schools
Cafarella	Carla	Teacher, ORR
Devoll	Michael	Principal, ORR High School
Fernandes	Anne	School Committee
Finning	Shannon	Elementary Parent
Goulet	Paul	School Committee
Hartley	Woody	Member of the Rochester Selectboard
Hughes	Marissa	Teacher, Mattapoisett Public Schools
Medeiros	Derek	Principal, Rochester Memorial
Milde	Elizabeth	Teacher, Sippican School
Mooney	Judy	Marion Town Accountant & Matt. Res.
Muse	James	School Committee
Rios	April	School Committee
Thompson	Kevin	Secondary Parent

V. General

A. Supt’s Search Committee Recommendation

Mr. James Hardy, MASC consultant introduced the Chairperson of the Search Committee, Mrs. Rose Bowman, Mrs. Bowman read the following statement:

Twenty-four candidates submitted packages for the position of Superintendent of Schools in Old Rochester. The Old Rochester Search Committee reviewed all the applications, and after a series of preliminary interviews and discussion, voted to submit the following three candidates to the School Committees for consideration as the next Superintendent. The candidates (listed in alphabetical order) are:

Michael S. Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Student Services, Old Rochester Regional and Union #55 School Districts

Mr. Nelson has served in his current position since October 2019. He previously served as the Director of Student Services in Old Rochester since July 2014. He received a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Bridgewater State University and is enrolled in a Doctoral program at Northeastern University.

Gary S. Reese, EdD, Superintendent of Schools, Westport, MA

Dr. Reese has served in his current position since July 2018. He previously served as Superintendent of Schools in the Amesbury Public Schools from August 2015 to June 2018. He received a Doctorate in Education from Boston College. He received a Masters Degree in Special Education from Fitchburg State.

Michelle Roy, Assistant Superintendent, Dartmouth Public Schools.

Ms. Roy has served in her current position since 2014. She previously served as the K-12 Director of Data and Accountability for the Attleboro Public Schools. She started a PhD program at Lesley University. She received a C.A.G.S. in School Administration/Superintendency from Bridgewater State University.

Each candidate has been contacted and all are excited to start the next phase of the process.

B. Next Steps

Mr. Hardy reviewed next steps with school committee members including site visits for the following week in Dartmouth, Westport and ORR. The visits will run from about 8:30 to 3:00 p.m. any school committee members can attend the site visits. The following week the three candidates will visit ORR and I will work with Diana to set those up, those are usually where the candidates will visit ORR and tour the schools and get to know ORR, there might be opportunity for school committee members to drive the candidate to or from a school, Mr. Hardy encouraged school committee members to take those opportunities especially if they are not available during the site visits. He explained that the next step would be interviews, he explained that typically interviews would take anywhere from one and half to two hours per person. Mr. Humphrey expressed that Ms. Russo had made a suggestion that the committee meet on Saturday, February 29th and do all three interviews on the same day, he asked for feedback, everyone agreed and the interviews were scheduled for Saturday, February 29th starting at 9 a.m. Mr. Hardy explained that these are open meetings.

MOTION: to schedule superintendent interviews for Saturday, February 29, 2020 starting at 9:00 a.m.

District Mr. Muse

Union Ms. Hartley

Second

District Mr. Goulet

Union Ms. Fernandes

Mr. Hardy explained that this meeting will be a public meeting but there will be no public participation, this will be the chance for the school committee to ask all the questions they want. In the packets Mr. Hardy included questions that have already have been asked by the search committee, he also included questions that were included in the survey, as well as questions that are typically asked at site visits as well as at superintendent interviews, he suggested that school committee members review those and then come up with their own questions. He asked that they send those questions to Ms. Russo by February 24th. Mr. Hardy explained that it would be helpful to have them printed so that the candidate would have them in front of them when they were being interviewed.

Dr. Finning asked if questions for the site visit should be setup ahead of time. Mr. Hardy explained that for the most part site visits are conversations and not Q&A's. Dr. Finning expressed that Mr. Humphrey and she would be participating in all site visits and she asked who else would be participating, Ms. Rios, Ms. Rood, Ms. Hartley and Mr. Muse said they would be participating. Mr. Muse asked if he needed to participate in the entire day, Mr. Hardy expressed that he could participate the entire day or for only part of the day. Mr. Humphrey asked school committee members to let him or Dr. Finning know which site visits they would be able to come to. Mr. Hardy explained that the site visits will be scheduled at one location so that school committee members are not going from school to school.

Mr. Hardy suggested that the school committee assign three people to do reference checks on the three candidates. Mr. Hardy suggested that the people doing reference checks should also ask for second generation references. He explained that all references should be done by March 5th, which is when the superintendent appointment should be done. Mr. Hardy also explained that in the school committee packet there is information about what questions should be asked when doing reference checks. Dr. Finning asked if there were members interested in volunteering to do the reference checks. Ms. Burke, Ms. Hartley and Ms. Clifford volunteered to do reference checks.

Mr. Humphrey thanked Mr. Hardy for all his work on the search.

Mr. Hardy thanked the search committee for all their hard work, he expressed it was a great committee to work with, he expressed the dialogue and debate was great and healthy, he expressed that every candidate that came in had great things to say about your school district, he expressed that the search committee were great ambassadors for the school district and they did a great job on behalf of the school committee and they kept focused.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Humphrey (DISTRICT) and Dr. Finning (UNION) made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel and to come out of executive session only to adjourn.

District Roll Call Vote

Humphrey: YES, Smith: YES, Muse: YES, Gabriel: YES, Burke: YES, Rood: YES, Goulet: YES

Union Roll Call Vote:

Clifford: YES, Fernandes: YES, Daniel: YES, Finning: YES, Rounseville: YES, Rios: YES, Hartley: YES.

Chairperson Humphrey (DISTRICT) and Dr. Finning (UNION) made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. only to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.