

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

**October 23, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Media Room, Jr. High School
Old Rochester Regional School District
133 Marion Road
Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

District Members Present: Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Joe Pires, Michelle Smith, James Muse, Heather Burke (via phone, arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Suzanne Tseki and Paul Goulet.

District Members Absent: Stefan Gabriel and Tina Rood.

Union Members Present: Carole Clifford, Anne Fernandes, Ronald Gerhart, Nichole Daniel, Shannon Finning, Karin Barrows and Sharon Hartley, April Rios

Union Members Absent: Robin Rounseville.

Other Staff Members Present: Douglas White Jr., Superintendent of Schools, 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 6:36 p.m. by Chairperson Humphrey of the ORR School Committee and Chairperson Hartley of the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55.

RECOGNITION: NONE.

OPEN COMMENTS: NONE

Ms. Hartley expressed how important she believed it is for everyone to work together on this initiative of the Supt. Search.

V. General

A. Central Office Administrative Appointment

Dr. White made a request to the Joint School Committees to approve a title change for Mr. Michael Nelson that had been discussed and approved in executive session of the October 9, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Humphrey asked for discussion and then a motion from his committee. The ORR School Committee did not have a discussion.

Motion to approve the new title of Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Student Services to Mr. Michael Nelson as presented by Dr. White, Superintendent of Schools.

District, Mr. Muse

Seconded

District, Ms. Smith

DISTRICT VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Hartley asked for a motion from her committee. Ms. Barrows made a motion to approve the new title for Mr. Nelson as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Student Services, Ms. Daniel seconded the motion. Ms. Hartley at this point asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Fernandes expressed that in her recollection the committees had decided last year that the assistant superintendent position would be left open for the new superintendent to fill. She expressed that the discussion last year was around having the current building administration and other central office

administrators to help fill that void during the current year. She expressed she felt it would be a better idea to have the position be an interim or acting position. She also expressed that her decision has nothing to do with Mr. Nelson, she expressed that Mr. Nelson is “top notch” but for her it’s about the process. She believes the committee should stick to the original plan.

Ms. Hartley asked if there was an amendment to the motion, Ms. Barrows and Ms. Daniel expressed “no”.

Ms. Hartley expressed that the superintendent himself made the recommendation to have the next superintendent hire the next assistant superintendent, and beyond that we do have a change, where the Central Office has another vacancy, Ms. Hartley expressed that she understands the need for additional support. She believes that creating the position an interim position would make more sense, and would show respect to all who worked so hard on this plan.

Mr. Muse expressed that the plan was for the new superintendent to hire a curriculum person.

Ms. Finning expressed it was time to review the motion and take a vote.

UNION VOTE: (Finning, Clifford, Rios, Daniel, Barrows approved) (Hartley, Fernandes & Gerhart apposed)

Motion Passed

Mr. Humphrey congratulated Mr. Nelson. At this time Mr. Nelson thanked the school committee, the superintendent and his colleagues for their support and he expressed he would continue to serve the districts to the best of his ability.

B. MASC Superintendent Search Presentation -

Ms. Hartley introduced Mr. Hardy from MASC. Mr. Hardy thanked everyone for allowing MASC to help them with the Superintendent Search. Mr. Hardy explained that the previous search had also been done by MASC. Mr. Hardy expressed that to begin the process the committee needs to approve a few items, one being the timeline, the survey and the focus groups. Mr. Hardy reviewed and revised the timeline with the school committee.

Ms. Finning asked if one month period between advertising and the deadline is enough time, especially considering it’s during the month of December. Mr. Hardy expressed that 80% of the applications come in the last 2 days. Mr. Hardy explained that he has used that time period before and it has not been a problem.

Mr. Muse expressed that originally he has asked for an internal search to run concurrently with the national search, and he expressed that he did not see any information in the paperwork about an internal search.

Mr. Hardy expressed that if that was something that needed to be added, that he would ask that the school committee approve that particular detail. At this time a very passionate and respectful conversation took place between all school committees, the end result was that it was in the best interest of any internal candidate that the search be done at the same time and that any qualified internal candidate would be more than welcomed to apply.

Mr. Hardy reviewed the online survey that will be distributed to staff, parents, community members, students, he asked the school to review all the questions.

Mr. Humphrey asked that members email him and Ms. Hartley with any changes to the survey.

Mr. Hardy also described the setup of the focus groups and how many he would have and the schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by
Diana Russo, Secretary to the Superintendent