

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Marion – Mattapoisett – Rochester, Massachusetts REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Smith, Acting Chairperson (in-person), Jason Chisholm (in-person), Margaret McSweeney (remote), Frances-Feliz Kearns (in-person), Joe Pires (in-person), Rosemary Bowman (remote) and April Nye (in-person) and James Muse (remote).

Members Absent: Matthew Monteiro.

Others Present: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chairperson Smith. Ms. Smith informed everyone attending the meeting that the meeting was being recorded. Chairperson Smith made the following statement: *This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.*

XI. Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session at 6:35 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Nye

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Chisholm

ROLE CALL VOTE:

7:1 (Chisholm; yes, Bowman: yes, Nye; yes, McSweeney: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes, Muse: abstain)

Mr. Muse joined the meeting virtually at 6:38 p.m. when in executive session.

Motion to exit executive session and return to the regular meeting at 6:44 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Nye

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL VOTE:

8:0 (Chisholm; yes, Bowman: yes, Nye; yes, McSweeney: yes, Muse: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes)

V. General

A. Review of Open Meeting Law Complaint(s)

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

On February 14th - we received three open meeting law complaints from Ms. Kathleen LeClair of Mattapoisett. One complaint (was updated on - February 16th) is addressed to the Mattapoisett School Committee regarding policy KCD Public Gifts to Schools procedures and needs to be responded to by this committee, formally within 14 business days - per the instructions outlined by the Division of Open Government. The other two complaints are addressed to the Equity and Policy Subcommittees and will need to be responded to by those specific committees. I have shared the complaints with this committee in their entirety for your review and reference. My recommendation is for this committee to vote to delegate the

responsibility to respond to the complainant to legal counsel through the superintendent and provide a copy of the response to the Attorney General within the 14 business day timeline.

Motion to delegate the responsibility to respond to the complainant to legal counsel through the Superintendent.

MOTION by Mr. Chisholm

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Muse

ROLL CALL VOTE:

8:0 (Chisholm; yes, Bowman: yes, Nye; yes, McSweeney: yes, Muse: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes)

B. School Committee Social Media Accounts

Chairperson Smith made the following statement:

It has come to my attention that there has been a post on the ORR Facebook page that is not agenda related or discussed with this body as a whole. It has been my understanding that the ORR school committee page is that, it's function is to share school committee meetings, our public meetings, or post school related information that the School Committee has voted on and approved for distribution. With that said, the post on Saturday February 18, I feel does not fall in any of these categories related to that particular post, which was about the received open meeting law complaints. As the chairperson I found this very concerning, and this issue needs to be addressed immediately for clarity and redirection.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:

Ms. McSweeney inquired as to who manages the ORR School Committee Facebook page.

Chairperson Smith responded that member Joe Pires manages the page.

Ms. McSweeney asked if all committee members have access to the page or have liked the page or are aware of the page. Mr. Pires stated that the Facebook page was a brain child of the communications subcommittee. It was intended to create awareness, be well-rounded on anything related to the board and the school. The outline Ms. Smith gave is not 100% accurate. Anything related to the school board can be posted on that page. The idea of posting the complaints was basically to tell the community that we are going to go through this and stand by it. It's public record that the information is available to the general public. We haven't met as a subcommittee. The goal from last year was to meet with Superintendent Nelson and members of that subcommittee to discuss policy and move forward. I propose that we take the page down and set-up a communications subcommittee meeting to further discuss the page.

Ms. McSweeney recommended that if and when we are updating the Facebook page that we turn comments off. Messaging can still be available - have it be a place to acknowledge information to the public to get messages out and not have dialogue. Also, have an updated list of committee members which mimics our website. Mr. Pires agreed.

Ms. Nye asked Mr. Pires who else is an admin on the Facebook page. Mr. Pires explained that in the past it was himself and Heather Burke. She is no longer an admin as she is no longer on the School Committee. Ms. Nye agreed that it should be only for informational purposes and maybe it should be posted as himself and not anonymously. Mr. Pires stated that it only shows as the page when posting because it's a business page, not an individual. Mr. Pires expressed that it should be all the members of the communications subcommittee as admin on the page and if a meeting is held they can clarify/confirm that. Ms. Nye stated on other pages that she runs, she can see who has posted it. Mr.

Pires stated you could never see his name on the posts on that page, it was always done as the page itself.

Mr. Chisholm stated that it could be unclear to the public which committee member is posting on that page. Mr. Pires asked why is that relevant, are we not wanting the public to know about the complaints? Mr. Chisholm said that if Mr. Pires is the only admin on the page - Mr. Pires said you want me to have all the responsibility and you do not want the responsibility? Ms. Nye stated that is not what she meant, but if the public cannot see who is posting it, you are representing all of us. The page has never been discussed in this committee this year. You shared the information on the 18th but the open meeting law complaints from earlier this year were not shared on this page. Mr. Pires believed they were shared on social media. Chairperson Smith clarified that they were posted on personal pages and not on the ORR school committee page. She continued that if it's shared on the ORR page it is supposedly from all of us, it shouldn't be just what one person wants to post.

Mr. Pires stated that the page has been up for almost six years and discussed in almost every communications subcommittee meeting. Before it was Heather Burke and this year it was himself. Typically, it has been good events that are happening at the school, committee meetings, agendas, anything relevant to the school board. He thinks it should be made formal and have a subcommittee meeting to discuss everything that Ms. Nye is talking about. Ms. Nye said that if it is meant to be everything that we are doing, it came across this time that the post was just page by page of the open meeting law complaints. When she looked back to the previous complaint, she only found the video of the meeting, not the actual complaint posted. The transparency piece and who is posting it, that is important. She also feels that it should not just have one admin.

Mr. Muse asked to confirm who is on the communications subcommittee. Ms. Wilcox stated that members this year are Ms. Smith, Mr. Pires and Ms. Bowman. Mr. Muse continued that his concern with the current post is that it went ahead before the committee discussed any of it. It is public knowledge, nothing is being hidden but the committee should discuss the happenings and address it and move forward. Mr. Muse stated that Facebook and social media can be a great tool but it is far more likely that it can be dangerous and cause mishaps. He thinks this is an unfortunate mishap because there is a complaint, which he understands needs to be addressed but the nature of seeing it on social media has other connotations to the general public. The committee should have decided if we wanted to post something there. Mr. Muse said that he does not feel that the Facebook page or communications subcommittee are not directly benefiting our students and both should be disbanded.

Ms. McSweeney stated that she agrees with Mr. Muse about the open meeting law complaint post. The ones earlier this year are not on that page. Consistency and transparency are important as she has said before. She agrees that we should not be posting any complaints until they are discussed with the committee.

Mr. Pires explained that last year Mr. Muse had asked for something related to the budget to be posted on the page and similar to this there was a little bit of controversy to that as well. He stated we agreed to come up with some sort of policy. We should meet as a communications subcommittee and go over the details and come up with a plan or policy. One of his issues early on was the general public doesn't get the information readily available. Having something that is pushing out the information is extremely valuable.

Mr. Muse agreed that there was something posted last year and it was deemed inappropriate and it was taken down. As a member of the committee and when the committee agrees on something, he agrees with the committee. This is the place where we should be having the discussions in a public format and social meeting is not controlled. When anything other than the school calendar, and things like that are put there, very little can be noncontroversial. Posting it, having opportunity for comments, and the page being visible for open discussion in that way. He agrees that the post was removed last year and that the particular post should come down now as well. One step further, since the communications subcommittee hasn't even met this year or had any discussions then this page is a runaway train. Not only should we not have the page, Mr. Muse does not see the need given the circumstances, for the communications subcommittee.

Ms. Kearns commented that she remembers having conversations about the individual schools having their own social media. She continued that maybe that would be the better place to communicate about what is going on in the district moving forward. She supports Mr. Muse's comments since members of the communications subcommittee have not met and we have other avenues that we can communicate what is going on in the district.

Ms. Nye stated she is not necessarily for disbanding the communications subcommittee. Her issue was about this specific post and just the transparency of where it is coming from. She thinks there needs to be more people involved. Chairperson Smith said there are a couple of options to explore that the subcommittee can review if they meet or we can discuss as a whole committee. Ms. Nye stated she would be willing to be on the committee.

Mr. Pires said that if you look at school boards across the country, there is representation on social media for practically every school district. To take a webpage down because someone does not understand how it works, it should be a discussion to come up with a policy or a plan. Chairperson Smith confirmed that we are not taking it down forever, just until we can discuss it. Mr. Muse commented that he does understand social media and also understands the benefits but also the dangers and he thinks the dangers aren't being addressed.

Motion by Mr. Pires to take down the ORR School Committee Facebook page until the Communications Subcommittee meets to make a recommendation.

MOTION by Mr. Pires

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Bowman

ROLL CALL VOTE:

8:0 (Chisholm; yes, Bowman: yes, Nye; yes, McSweeney: yes, Muse: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes)

C. FY24 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

The budget subcommittee has been busy at work developing a budget that aims to be both programmatic and fiscal responsibility. In other words, the primary focus of the budget subcommittee has been understanding and then striving to develop a budget that provides the resources necessary to meet the educational needs of our students - while accounting for available funding resources. First, the budget subcommittee analyzed and discussed the financial landscape of the District regarding funding projections and revenues. Next, the budget subcommittee identified contractual obligations, fixed costs, and determined projected utility costs. Furthermore, the budget subcommittee identified and considered potential budgetary requests from

administration. At the budget subcommittee's last meeting, appointed budget subcommittee, school committee members endorsed a FY24 proposed draft budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

To achieve this, the budget subcommittee has made adjustments to the operating budget compared to FY23. These adjustments will decrease staffing in multiple departments, decrease technology resources, decrease academic resources, and decrease facilities resources compared to FY23. The impact of rising retirement obligations and projected utility costs have created daunting challenges this budget season.

Regarding state funding, this proposed budget was built on projections knowing the governor's preliminary budget had not yet been released when the subcommittee last met. At this point, the overall Old Rochester Regional School District budget proposed for FY24 represents a 3.56% overall increase compared to the FY23 operating budget.

Since the last time the budget subcommittee met, the governor's preliminary budget has been released. Therefore, the budget subcommittee will convene in the near future to make any needed adjustments to the proposed FY24 draft budget. I share this information with the whole committee tonight to update you on the current status of the budget process and knowing that the committee will need to vote on a FY24 budget at a public hearing in the near future. No action is required of the committee tonight, instead this update is intended for informational purposes only. The proposed FY24 budget has been shared with town administrators and finance directors and we will continue to update them on our budget development work.

Chairperson Smith commented that the budget subcommittee has completed a lot of work. It has been very hard, and although not happy about the situation, it could be worse. Superintendent Nelson stated that the focus still remains what our students need now and what they will need going forward.

D. Appointment of Treasurer

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

Based on the resignation of Treasurer, Mr. Michael Perrone - the District's Treasurer position was posted on January 6th of 2023, a hiring committee was formed, and the search process was completed. The finalist for the position possesses approximately 19 years of relevant experience and direct experience with treasurer duties. As a result, it is recommended that the school committee appoint Ms. Cristina Gagnon as the Old Rochester Regional School District treasurer pursuant to successful contract negotiations.

Motion by Ms. Kearns to appoint Ms. Christina Gagnon as the Old Rochester Regional School District as presented.

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Chisholm.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

8:0 (Chisholm; yes, Bowman: yes, Nye; yes, McSweeney: yes, Muse: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes)

OPEN COMMENTS: Chairperson Smith read the following statement:

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy. Per the committee's policy we will offer up to 15 minutes for public comments this evening. Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the school committee. However, the committee takes any public comment made seriously and appreciates hearing from the public. Anyone looking to provide a public comment must be acknowledged by the Chairperson before addressing the

committee. Those making a public comment will have up to three minutes to address the committee and must start their comment by stating their name and the town they reside in. For those in person there is a sign in sheet for those looking to make a public comment located on side wall and those on zoom, you can send a message in the chat with your name and the town you reside in. The chairperson will alternate between in-person and zoom participants. The school committee reserve the right to address any comment that present incorrect information at our next meeting.

Karen Thomas from Rochester made the following statement:

I wanted to follow-up on the ORR meeting on December 14th. There was a request that ten books be reviewed to see if they are appropriate for school. Just going forward, to be transparent, I hope there is going to be a plan of some form of communication to the community for those books, but also any in the future that may be deemed needing review. Perhaps maybe a discussion at the next meeting or a meeting in the future. I am personally interested and would like to know because there was a lot of discussion going back.

Motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Kearns

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Muse

ROLL CALL VOTE:

8:0 (Chisholm: yes, Bowman: yes, Nye: yes, McSweeney: yes, Muse: yes, Kearns: yes, Smith: yes, Pires: yes)

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wilcox

Recording Secretary

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Marion – Mattapoisett - Rochester, Massachusetts

March 1, 2023

Meeting to be held remotely

Zoom LINK:

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/92885898022?pwd=MjA0VkpCVnhxQWRPL29iTmltUllhUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 8589 8022

Passcode: 755304

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

MEETING TO ORDER

RECOGNITION PRESENTATION

XI. Executive Session

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting

B. Executive Session

II. Consent Agenda

III. Agenda Items Pending

IV. Special Topic Report

V. General

A. Review of Open Meeting Law Complaint(s)

B. School Committee Social Media Accounts

C. FY24 Budget Discussion

D. Appointment of Treasurer

VI. New Business

A. Policy Review

B. Curriculum

C. Business

1. Financial Report

2. Food Service Report

3. Facilities Report

4. Budget Transfers

D. Personnel

VI. Unfinished Business

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

VII. School Committee

A. Reorganization

B. Committee Reports

1. Budget Sub-Committee

2. Communication Committee

3. District Agreement Committee

4. Equity Sub-Committee

5. Facilities Committee

6. Local School Committee

7. Policy Sub-Committee

8. SMEC

9. Tri-Town Foundation

VIII. Future Business

A. Timeline

B. Future Agenda Items

IX. Open Comments

X. Information Items

XI. Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Marion – Mattapoisett – Rochester, Massachusetts

TO: Old Rochester Regional District School Committee
FROM: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Agenda Items

The following items are on the agenda of March 1, 2023.

V. General

A. Review of Open Meeting Law Complaint(s)

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review an Open Meeting Law Complaint(s) from Kathleen LeClair of Mattapoisett. Please refer to “MSC 03022023 OML Complaint”, “MSC 03022023 OML Complaint Revised”, “MSC 03022023 OML Complaint – Equity”, “MSC 03022023 OML Complaint – Policy”.

B. School Committee Social Media Accounts

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and discuss current School Committee Social Media Accounts and access.

C. FY24 Budget Discussion

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and discuss the FY24 Budget.

D. Appointment of Treasurer

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for appointment a new Treasurer.

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



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Instructions for completing the Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government interprets and enforces the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Sections 18-25. Below is the procedure for filing and responding to an Open Meeting Law complaint.

Instructions for filing a complaint:

- o Fill out the attached two-page form completely and sign it. File the complaint with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. If the violation was not reasonably discoverable at the time it occurred, you must file the complaint within 30 days of the date the violation was reasonably discoverable. A violation that occurs during an open session of a meeting is reasonably discoverable on the date of the meeting.
- o To file the complaint:
 - o For a local or municipal public body, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body AND to the municipal clerk.
 - o For all other public bodies, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body.
 - o Complaints may be filed by mail, email, or by hand. Please retain a copy for your records.
- o If the public body does not respond within 14 business days and does not request an extension to respond, contact the Division for further assistance.

Instructions for a public body that receives a complaint:

- o The chair must disseminate the complaint to the members of the public body.
- o The public body must meet to review the complaint within 14 business days (usually 20-22 calendar days).
- o After review, but within 14 business days, the public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address it. At the same time, the body must send the Attorney General a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to its counsel or a staff member, but only after it has met to review the complaint.
- o If a public body requires more time to review the complaint and respond, it may request an extension of time for good cause by contacting the Division of Open Government.

Once the public body has responded to the complaint:

- o If you are not satisfied with that the public body's response to your complaint, you may file a copy of the complaint with the Division by mail, e-mail, or by hand, but only once you have waited for 30 days after filing the complaint with the public body.
- o When you file your complaint with the Division, please include the complaint form and all documentation relevant to the alleged violation. You may wish to attach a cover letter explaining why the public body's response does not adequately address your complaint.
- o The Division will not review complaints filed with us more than 90 days after the violation, unless we granted an extension to the public body or you can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

If you have questions concerning the Open Meeting Law complaint process, we encourage you to contact the Division of Open Government by phone at (617) 963-2540 or by e-mail at openmeeting@state.ma.us.



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Kathleen Last Name: LeClair

Address: _____

City: Mattapoisett State: MA Zip Code: 02739

Phone Number: _____ Ext. _____

Email: _____

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): None

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☐ City/Town ☐ County ☒ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Old Rochester Regional School Committee, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Committee Chair(s)/Secretary/Keeper of the Records ORR School District

Date of alleged violation: Feb 3, 2023

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

Extensive review of Meeting Minutes, Public Records Requests and confirmation from the District's Keeper of the Records received February 3, 2023, have revealed that all Committees in the Old Rochester Regional School District are in violation of Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools, for not obtaining committee approval for books donated by the group "Tri-Town Against Racism" (TTAR) to the school libraries. The Policy states, "In accordance with state law, all grants and gifts to the district shall be reviewed and accepted by the School Committee before expenditure or use". By not obtaining approval, our School Committees have violated this Policy and Massachusetts State Law <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section37A>.

As a result of this violation of policy and state law the committee(s) have also failed to provide accurate minute records to the public that contain committee approval of the titles of all book donations made to the public school libraries by TTAR, as required by Massachusetts State Law <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleIII/Chapter30A/Section22>

"Section 22. (a) A public body shall create and maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, including executive sessions, setting forth the date, time and place, the members present or absent, a summary of the discussions on each subject, a list of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting, the decisions made and the actions taken at each meeting, including the record of all votes".

The public first became aware of this OML violation on February 3, 2023.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

Provide minutes containing the committee approvals of each book donation made by TTAR from June 2020 to date. Approvals should contain an accurate list of all book titles donated and the date of each donation.

If minutes with approvals cannot be produced, a public statement made to the community explaining under what authority the committee(s) acted when it made the decision not to obtain approvals of book donations as required by state law and how they plan to rectify the violation.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO:



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Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Kathleen Last Name: LeClair

Address: _____

City: Mattapoisett State: MA Zip Code: 02739

Phone Number: _____ EXT. _____

Email: _____

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): None

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

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☐ City/Town ☐ County ☒ Regional/District ☐ State

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If minutes with approvals cannot be produced, a public statement made to the community explaining under what authority the committee(s) acted when it made the decision not to obtain approvals of book donations as required by state law and how they plan to rectify the violation.

** and all book donations made to the school district since June 2020.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Use By Public Body

Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO

Date Received by AGO:



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Instructions for completing the Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government interprets and enforces the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Sections 18-25. Below is the procedure for filing and responding to an Open Meeting Law complaint.

Instructions for filing a complaint:

- o Fill out the attached two-page form completely and sign it. File the complaint with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. If the violation was not reasonably discoverable at the time it occurred, you must file the complaint within 30 days of the date the violation was reasonably discoverable. A violation that occurs during an open session of a meeting is reasonably discoverable on the date of the meeting.
- o To file the complaint:
 - o For a local or municipal public body, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body AND to the municipal clerk.
 - o For all other public bodies, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body.
 - o Complaints may be filed by mail, email, or by hand. Please retain a copy for your records.
- o If the public body does not respond within 14 business days and does not request an extension to respond, contact the Division for further assistance.

Instructions for a public body that receives a complaint:

- o The chair must disseminate the complaint to the members of the public body.
- o The public body must meet to review the complaint within 14 business days (usually 20-22 calendar days).
- o After review, but within 14 business days, the public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address it. At the same time, the body must send the Attorney General a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to its counsel or a staff member, but only after it has met to review the complaint.
- o If a public body requires more time to review the complaint and respond, it may request an extension of time for good cause by contacting the Division of Open Government.

Once the public body has responded to the complaint:

- o If you are not satisfied with that the public body's response to your complaint, you may file a copy of the complaint with the Division by mail, e-mail, or by hand, but only once you have waited for 30 days after filing the complaint with the public body.
- o When you file your complaint with the Division, please include the complaint form and all documentation relevant to the alleged violation. You may wish to attach a cover letter explaining why the public body's response does not adequately address your complaint.
- o The Division will not review complaints filed with us more than 90 days after the violation, unless we granted an extension to the public body or you can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

If you have questions concerning the Open Meeting Law complaint process, we encourage you to contact the Division of Open Government by phone at (617) 963-2540 or by e-mail at openmeeting@state.ma.us.



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Kathleen Last Name: LeClair

Address: _____

City: Mattapoisett State: MA Zip Code: 02739

Phone Number: _____ Ext. _____

Email: _____

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): None

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☐ City/Town ☐ County ☒ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Old Rochester Regional School Committee - Equity subcommittee, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Committee Chair(s)/Secretary/Keeper of the Records ORR School District

Date of alleged violation: Feb 3, 2023

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

Public Records requests have revealed that accurate detailed minutes as required by state law are not available for public review for meetings held by the Equity (f/k/a Anti-Racism) Subcommittee during a period starting 10/5/2020 through 6/21/2022. This information was confirmed by the district's keeper of the records on February 3, 2023 and is the most recent date the public became aware of this OML violation.

Other violations of Policy KCD Public Gifts to School and State Law MGL 71:37A pertaining to donated books to the public school libraries has created mistrust and division in the community. The authority of certain actions of this committee is in question therefore minutes need to be made available as soon as possible.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

Provide detailed minutes in accordance with state laws for all meetings held from 10/5/2020 through 6/21/2022.

Provide a clarity on the following excerpt from the October 13, 2022 Meeting minutes, "MASC was clear that school committee members must adhere to the functions of their role and to clarify that the subcommittee is not a "taskforce". Why did MASC need to clarify this?

Provide a public statement explaining why minutes were not being recorded in accordance with state law.

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Your Contact Information:

First Name: Kathleen Last Name: LeClair

Address: _____

City: Mattapoisett State: MA Zip Code: 02739

Phone Number: _____ Ext. _____

Email: _____

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): None

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☐ City/Town ☐ County ☒ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Old Rochester Regional School Committee - Policy subcommittee Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Committee Chair(s)/Secretary/Keeper of the Records ORR School District

Date of alleged violation: Feb 3, 2023

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

Public Records request have revealed that accurate detailed minutes as required by state law are not available for public review for Policy Subcommittee meetings conducted between November 2020 through September 2022. This information was confirmed by the district's keeper of the records on February 3, 2023 and is the most recent date the public became aware of this OML violation.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

Provide detailed minutes in accordance with state laws for all meetings held from November 2020 through September 2022.
Provide a public statement on why minutes were not being prepared and approved in a timely manner in accordance with state laws.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

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Signed: 

Date: 2/11/23

For Use By Public Body
Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO
Date Received by AGO:

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, Massachusetts

TO: Town Clerks, Towns of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester,
Massachusetts
DATE: February 27, 2023
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

Pursuant to Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are notified of the following
REGULAR meeting of the OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

Please see agenda below.
This regular meeting will be held remotely.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Wilcox
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Marion – Mattapoisett - Rochester, Massachusetts

March 1, 2023
Meeting to be held remotely
Zoom LINK:

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/92885898022?pwd=MjA0VkpCVnhxQWRPL29jTmltUllhUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 8589 8022

Passcode: 755304

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

MEETING TO ORDER

RECOGNITION PRESENTATION

XI. Executive Session

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting
 - B. Executive Session
- II. Consent Agenda
- III. Agenda Items Pending
- IV. Special Topic Report

V. General

A. Review of Open Meeting Law Complaint(s)

B. School Committee Social Media Accounts

C. FY24 Budget Discussion

D. Appointment of Treasurer

VI. New Business

- A. Policy Review
- B. Curriculum
- C. Business
 - 1. Financial Report
 - 2. Food Service Report
 - 3. Facilities Report
 - 4. Budget Transfers
- D. Personnel

VI. Unfinished Business

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

VII. School Committee

- A. Reorganization
- B. Committee Reports
 - 1. Budget Sub-Committee
 - 2. Communication Committee
 - 3. District Agreement Committee
 - 4. Equity Sub-Committee
 - 5. Facilities Committee
 - 6. Local School Committee
 - 7. Policy Sub-Committee
 - 8. SMEC
 - 9. Tri-Town Foundation

VIII. Future Business

- A. Timeline
- B. Future Agenda Items

IX. Open Comments

X. Information Items

XI. Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT