



## Old Rochester Regional School Committee Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

*October 25, 2022 AT 4:30 p.m.*

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/99016955917?pwd=OWhUVE5WN2VVR2hLSmpSblk2SHpXOT09>

Meeting ID: 990 1695 5917 Passcode: 993896

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee, Katherine Duggan, Rochester School Committee, Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee, Cristin Cowles, Mattapoissett School Committee, Margaret McSweeny (arrived at 4:36 p.m.), ORR School Committee and Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services, Sharlene Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning & Michael Nelson, Superintendent of Schools.

**MEETING TO ORDER at 4:31 p.m. by Ms. Frances-Feliz Kearns**

**Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2022-**

**Motion by Ms. Beauregard to approve minutes of September 14, 2022 as presented**

**Seconded by Ms. Kearns**

**ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, Cowles: yes, McSweeny: not yet present, Pires: yes)**

**1. Mr. Nelson explained that the following two policies had been brought to the last Joint School Committee on September 29<sup>th</sup> and were referred back to the Policy Sub-Committee for further review:**

- JIC - Student Discipline –

Mr. Nelson reported that a member of the Rochester School Committee Member had the following feedback: *Who provides education services for a student experiencing suspension? Where is the “school-wide education service plan” describing education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten consecutive days located? Do students with disabilities who receive specialized instruction indicated via an IEP or 504 Plan receive services from licensed providers during a suspension?*

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Davidson reported the following response: The building principal and professional staff are responsible for the implementation of the general rules of conduct. When a student is suspended for more than ten consecutive days, the school district (led by the building principal) is responsible for notifying and identifying the educational services (in collaboration with the parents/guardians) for the student to continue making academic progress. Educational services may include, but are not limited to the following: alternative schooling services; private schooling services; web-based academic services; tutoring services; and homebound school services. Decisions are made case by case and students with disabilities who receive specialized instruction (IEP or 504) follow the same procedure as above. Additionally, the principal would involve key stakeholders to discuss how to provide the services appropriately during a suspension period that meets the needs of the specific student. After review of the feedback and the presentation from the administration the policy sub-committee made the recommendation to send policy JIC Student Discipline back to the Joint School Committee as it currently is written.

**Motion by Ms. Kearns to send back Policy JIC Student Discipline for approval to the Joint School Committee as it’s currently written**

**Seconded by Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, Cowles: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes)**

- JB - Equal Educational Opportunities –

Mr. Nelson reported that a member of the Rochester School Committee had the following feedback: *It will also offer careful consideration and sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings particularly with reference to” We are now giving “sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings?”. The previous sentence explains our*

*intent, "School Committee will make every effort to protect the dignity of the students". The next line including "sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings" is not needed.*

After review of the feedback, members of the Policy Sub-Committee all agreed that the language in the policy were 1. Consistent with the language recommended by MASC and 2. Aligned with our district's vision and core values on empathy and therefore it was agreed that the language in the policy should remain the same and should be brought to the next Joint School Committee for approval.

**Motion by Ms. Cowles to send back Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities for approval to the Joint School Committee as it's currently written**

**Seconded by Ms. McSweeney**

**ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, Cowles: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes)**

**2. Instructional Materials Policies:** Mr. Nelson explained that school committee member McSweeney made a request to review Policy IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/IJM in light of the current concerns raised by stakeholders at a recent joint school committee meeting regarding some books in our libraries. Mr. Nelson reported that he thought it was important to include all the policies and procedures that talk about instructional resources and library resources and materials. Mr. Nelson also reported that the policies and procedures referenced below were reviewed and revised in 2012 and then again in 2013. Mr. Nelson also explained that his office checked with MASC and they reported that the district's current policies are all up to date.

- IJ Instructional Materials
- IJ-R Reconsideration of Instructional Resources
- District Adopted Procedures
- IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/IJM Selection Policy for Instructional Materials and Programs
- IJLA Library Resources
- KE - PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Mr. Nelson's recommendation to the policy sub-committee is to have Asst. Supt. Fedorowicz meet with the school librarians and review the District Adopted Procedures to make sure they are updated to the most recent guidance. Mr. Pires inquired about a timeline for the review of the District Adopted Procedures since there are some concerns regarding some of the books currently in our libraries and he asked that the next policy meeting be moved up. Ms. Kearns asked Mr. Pires if he had provided the committee with redline versions with his proposed changes to these policies.

Mr. Nelson reported that although currently no complaints had been submitted to the district, Dr. Fedorowicz would start meeting with the librarians and if their review of the procedures was completed before December 21<sup>st</sup> we could certainly move up the policy meeting.

**Motion by Ms. McSweeney to have the district adopted procedures reviewed**

**Seconded by Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, Cowles: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes)**

**3. JH Student Absences and Excuses Policy & JE Attendance Policy** – Superintendent Nelson explained to the committee that policy JH Student Absences and Excuses had been brought to the committee as a recommendation from MASC back in 2021, he explained that at the time we also reported that we had another policy that we were using that was JE Attendance Policy, the sub-committee at the time suggested that administration combine the two policies and bring it back to the policy sub-committee. Mr. Nelson explained that since it's been a while since the committee last spoke about this he just wanted to make sure that the recommendation was still the same and he would work with TLC to solidify the policy and bring it back to the next policy sub committee meeting.

Mr. Nelson also informed the policy sub-committee that at the next meeting we would be reviewing the fiscal policies as recommended by MASC.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:08 p.m. by Ms. Beauregard**

**Second by Ms. Cowles**

**ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, Cowles: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes)**