

**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
December 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Marion – Mattapoisett – Rochester, Massachusetts
REGULAR MINUTES
MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM**

Members Present: Cary Humphrey, Chairperson, Heather Burke, Vice-Chairperson, Joseph Pires, Margaret McSweeney, Frances Kearns, James Muse and Suzanne Tseki.

Members Absent: Michelle Smith and Tina Rood

Others Present: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning, Howard Barber, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services, Diana Russo, Administrative Assistant to Supt., Michael Devoll, Principal, ORR High School, Silas Coellner, ORR Jr. High School, Kelly Chouinard, Asst. Principal, ORR Jr. High School, Vanessa Harvey, Asst. Principal, ORR High School, Edward Gonet, Member of Student Council, Payton Lord, Member of Student Council, teachers, parents, students and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Humphrey. Mr. Humphrey expressed that tonight's agenda is quite lengthy, he also noted that items have been moved around to accommodate staff members attending the meeting.

V. General

J. Foreign Travel Discussion

Mr. Nelson expressed that it might be funny to be having a discussion about foreign travel as we navigate through a worldwide pandemic, Mr. Nelson reminded school committee members that all foreign travel had been postponed due to the pandemic, however Mr. Nelson explained that this opportunity would take place next year, and having it approved now would allow for planning and possible fundraising to take place and if we are in a situation where we could safely travel. Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Devoll to brief the School Committee. Mr. Devoll explained Mr. Robert Biehl would be the staff member taking charge of this student opportunity but he could not join the meeting until later therefore he will be presenting. Mr. Devoll explained that this trip would be during the April 2022 vacation, it's a 10-day tour through EF Tours. Students will travel first to Dublin, the capital city of Ireland. They will have a guided tour of the city, including a visit to the Interactive Museum of Irish Emigration. They will then travel to Belfast, the capital city of Northern Ireland. They will visit Titanic Belfast Museum, near the site of the construction of the famous ship. Like Dublin (and Edinburgh), the city is rich in history, architecture and literary heritage. The group will travel by ferry to Scotland, on route to Edinburgh, its capital city. After touring the Edinburgh region, the tour will culminate in the Scottish Highlands, including a cruise on Loch Ness. Guided tours of each city are included, as are visits to museums, castles, and other attractions. The cost is \$3,885 which covers airfare, accommodations, admission fees, breakfast and dinner daily, and travel within and between destinations. Mr. Devoll explained that the departure date is Friday, April 15, 2022 with a return date of Sunday, April 24, 2022. Mr. Devoll explained that at the current time there are 14 interested students.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any provisions for refunds. Mr. Muse expressed that parents/students/families need to be informed of the risks. Mr. Devoll expressed that this is a primary concern, Mr. Devoll expressed that last year they had similar issues with tours/trips that were cancelled. Mr. Devoll expressed that companies such as EF Tours were reported to the Attorney

General's Office because of lack of cancellation guidelines, and the outcome was to push the travel to a year down the road, he did express that refunds were hard to come by, Mr. Devoll expressed that some students no longer want to travel and others have graduated, Mr. Devoll expressed again that this is his primary concern. Mr. Humphrey asked what was the outcome last year. Mr. Devoll expressed that they still have families seeking refunds. Mr. Kearns asked how do students typically pay for these type of programs. Mr. Devoll expressed that each family pays for their own students, Mr. Devoll also expressed that he encourages advisors to do fundraising to give students who can't attend due to the cost. Mr. Devoll expressed that these are wonderful opportunities that we want all to have access to. Ms. McSweeney explained that sometimes there are grants available for international travel, she encouraged Mr. Devoll's committee on travel to look into those. Ms. McSweeney wanted to clarify that the school committee at this time is just approving this so that Mr. Biehl can gather more information, she wanted to make sure that families did not have to make any payments at this time. Mr. Devoll advised any family that before they paid anything to make sure they have a clear understanding of what a cancelled or postponed trip would look like as far as a refund. Mr. Muse expressed that he would like this opportunity approved with the understanding that safeguards will be put in place for families such as disclosures about the refund process. Mr. Muse wants to make sure that families receive and understand this information.

Motion to approve the foreign travel in April of 2022 with the mentioned provisions

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Tseki

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6:1 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; abstained due to technology problems, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

I. Winter Athletic Discussion

Mr. Nelson expressed that as School Committee may remember earlier this year a decision was made to postpone our Fall Athletic Programming in light of COVID-19, Mr. Nelson expressed that with so many unknowns and the focusing on opening our schools from a teaching and learning standpoint we collectively as a school community and member of the southcoast conference delayed Fall Sports. Mr. Nelson expressed that we were careful to use the word delay, as we always wanted to provide as many opportunities for students as possible including athletics. Mr. Nelson expressed that we as a district understand the role that athletics plays in a students' lives not only in a competitive standpoint but also in a social/emotional standpoint, Mr. Nelson expressed that now that we have settled into this unique school year we have learned immensely from our experiences, these lessons involve safety protocols and mitigation strategies. Mr. Nelson expressed that at this point we feel prepared to present to the school committee a modified Winter Sports Program, he expressed that Mr. Tilden and Mr. Devoll have worked with him and other central office administrators to design a plan that meets the needs of Old Rochester. Moreover, they have collaborated with the Southcoast Conference with the proposal's design. At this time, I'd like to call on Mr. Devoll and Mr. Tilden to present the plan to the school committee. Mr. Devoll explained that himself and Mr. Tilden are quite involved in athletics not only at the school level, district level, and state level, Mr. Devoll explained that although athletics didn't happen this fall that Mr. Tilden and himself have been very involved in athletics across the state. Mr. Devoll reported that both himself and Mr. Tilden serve on different committees. Mr. Devoll presented the Winter Athletic Program (please see attachment A)

QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK:

Mr. Humphrey thanked Mr. Devoll and Mr. Tilden for the wonderful presentation they put together. Mr. Humphrey expressed that the students have lost so much already, he expressed it's important to give them something to believe in, something to look forward to.

Mr. Devoll reported that across the Southcoast Conference school committees are all having these conversations and to date they have all moved forward with approval.

Mr. Muse asked Mr. Devoll to go over the quarantine protocols if there is a positive case on a team. Mr. Tilden expressed that if an individual tests positive two days after a game that whole team will have to quarantine in line with the guidelines. Mr. Tilden expressed that the CDC guidelines are constantly changing but they will abide by the guidelines. Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Linda Deveau, Jr. High School Nurse to update the school committee on the new guidelines from DPH. Ms. Deveau reported that the guidelines that took place yesterday were that the 14 days will continue for individuals with symptoms, she explained that for individuals without symptoms and that can produce a negative test can be released after day 8 and if a person does not have a test and does not have symptoms they may be released from quarantine after 10 days.

Mr. Muse expressed that it's pretty clear to him that a case or two will basically close the season, is that how administration is envisioning this. Mr. Nelson expressed that it could very well work out that way, however he did express that every scenario is different depending on the timeline, infection period, who was involved, number of contacts. Mr. Nelson expressed that's why he has been so steadfast in terms of involvement of our school nurses, board of health to help us make those decisions. Mr. Nelson expressed that whatever the school nurses and the board of health agree as far as timelines and quarantines those will be the recommendations we will follow. Mr. Nelson expressed that what Mr. Muse said could happen or depending on the timeline it could turn out different, we have to wait and see. Mr. Devoll explained that communicating that to our student body is so important, he hopes that the student body rises to the challenge of making good decisions outside of school. Mr. Devoll expressed that yes Mr. Muse is correct a season could be in jeopardy pretty quickly.

Mr. Pires thanked administrators for the hard work on this presentation, he expressed that student athletes will be very appreciative. Mr. Pires expressed that he knows it's been very challenging but he believes this program will help to remedy some of the challenges. Mr. Pires applauds and highly recommends the program.

Ms. Kearns asked what kind of proactive methods of communication will be employed to make sure parents and students understand how this season is going to work. Mr. Devoll expressed that during he has been talking to students about this new program. Mr. Devoll expressed that the message to the community needs to be that this is all contingent on everyone making safe decisions. Mr. Devoll expressed that he wants to be very clear that if himself or Mr. Tilden feel that at any time that anything is not safe they will shut it down. Mr. Tilden also explained that they will be conducting a mandatory parents meeting where they will share all these new guidelines once the plan is approved.

Ms. Tseki expressed that she's excited about our students getting back to some physical activity. She asked about the size of these teams as opposed to a regular team. Mr. Tilden expressed that numbers in basketball, swimming and hockey would be about the same as last year.

Ms. Frances reported that she knows these opportunities are available to remote students, she asked if administration has reached out to students who have not come back to participate. Mr. Devoll reported that registrations have not gone out yet. Mr. Devoll expressed that some remote students have expressed interest and they will be sure to reach out to everyone who is participating in the remote plan to make sure they are aware of these new opportunities.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that she appreciates the time and effort that into the presentation, she asked when would be the start date of the season. Mr. Devoll expressed that the start date would be Tuesday, December 15th for the Winter Sports and March 9th for the Fall Season. Ms. McSweeney

expressed that she's concerned about the uptick in cases since the Thanksgiving break and the dashboard that we just received on December 3rd had higher Tri-Town positivity rates, she expressed it would be interesting to see the only for this coming week, she expressed she would like to consider those numbers. She expressed that she understands the value to sports and understands how it helps with mentality, however she did express a concern for uptick in cases. Mr. Humphrey expressed that Mr. Devoll was very clear that if there is a problem they will shut it down. Mr. Humphrey expressed that the school committee just approves this moving forward, he expressed that the students/parents should also have a say in this, therefore it's up to them to follow the rules, he expressed that they have all heard from parents that want sports back for their student athletes but they need to do their job to keep their student athletes safe. Mr. Humphrey expressed that he supports giving these kids and families that opportunity. Ms. McSweeney understands completely the importance of athletics and social emotional health, however she is also concerned about student athletes losing in-person learning if they have to be quarantined, and she believes in-person learning is very important as well. She expressed that the concern is real and everyone should consider it.

Ms. Payton Lord (student council member) expressed that she would like to give a student perspective. She expressed that she has been a three season athlete for the past three years, and she expressed that running by yourself does get a little bit boring after a while. She expressed that most students would give anything to have their season back, especially for students who are looking to go to school for sports, she expressed that for a lot of students succeeding in sports is their shot at going to college, she expressed that also looking at the mental health aspect of it, she expressed that she has to be active to be able to focus, she believes if students are told right away that the season could possibly be cut off it will act as an incentive for them to act mature and responsible.

Mr. Devoll expressed that between himself, Mr. Tilden and Ms. Harvey they will be supervising the after school activities and making sure they are taking place in a safe manner, Mr. Devoll also expressed that we believe the entire school experience for our students, he expressed he's not just here to advocate for athletics, he expressed he wants to see our clubs return and our full student experience return. Mr. Devoll expressed that over the weekend they had a video of a school play, he expressed it was wonderful, it was done in total isolation and with social distancing, he expressed that if we are able to do these things safely it will open doors for all of our students to do more safe activities. Mr. Devoll expressed that our clubs are important to us as well, the full experience for our student body.

Ms. Burke thanked the administrators who worked on this plan, she expressed that it's an incredible undertaking and it will be an incredible undertaking during the season as well. Ms. Burke expressed that it's important to set expectations not only for the students but more so for the families. She expressed that this is a wonderful opportunity to take sports back to what they are really about, which is they are about the kids. She expressed this won't be the season that will get you that college scholarship, it's not about parent pride, it's about kids being active, being a team, doing what they need to do to release stress and doing what's right. Ms. Burke expressed that this will also be an opportunity to remind everyone that sports is a privilege and if you don't do what's necessary for your team to stay healthy than that privilege will be taken away not just from you but potentially from your whole team.

Mr. Humphrey asked for a motion to approve moving forward.

Motion to approve the approve Winter Athletics Program

MOTION by Ms. Tseki

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Burke

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6:1 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; abstained, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Burke

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

Motion to approve the minutes of October 21, 2020

MOTION by Ms. McSweeny

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

Motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

A. Update on Reopening Plan

Mr. Nelson thanked Chairperson Humphrey and asked his permission to include Mr. Craig Davidson, Mr. Silas Coellner and Mr. Michael Devoll in his report to the school committee. Mr. Nelson also expressed that he was asked to invite the two school nurses Ms. Linda Deveau and Ms. Nicole Sadeck who are both here to answer any questions school committee members may have of them. Mr. Nelson read the following statement: *“It’s my hope that all students, families and staff have had an enjoyable Thanksgiving break even if that means it looked a little different this year. As we continue to look at our hybrid learning model we continue to examine our enrollment and which learning models are students are selecting. Presently we have 635 hybrid students, 75 remote students at the high school and the jr. high school we presently have 356 hybrid students and while 57 are remote learning. We have 27 students, 15 at the high school and 12 at the jr. high school who are being homeschooled this year. Finding substitutes despite increasing the rate continues to be difficult this year, we have 4 regular subs at the high school and 5 at the jr. high school who are available readily to our administration. We continue to be impressed by our student’s resilience and ongoing efforts to capitalize on their teaching and learning opportunities. Our staff members continue to be flexible problem solvers and engage our students in learning opportunities no matter what learning setting they are in. Regarding COVID-19 and its impact on our school community, our district does issue a weekly Dashboard that shares COVID-19 data and key indicators with are stakeholders, however I want to be clear that after each case I work with key stakeholders including the board of health to determine if there is any school transmission and if there is a need for any action to be taken immediately. To date we have had 43 positive cases system wide in our 6 schools as of the close of the day today, our high school has 6 confirmed cases who are in isolation, 24 individuals in quarantine while 9 individuals are waiting test results, at the Jr. high school has 3 individuals in isolation, 10 individuals in quarantine and one individual waiting test results. In addition to excellent medical services from our school nurses, the board of health continues to be an excellent support for our schools to guide our work around COVID-19 and help us with decision making. I thank all the stakeholders who are assisting us no matter what time of day. Furthermore, we recently surveyed our parents and guardians to hear their perspective thus far this school year.*

At this time Mr. Davidson shared the results from the “Back to School Feedback Survey Parents & Guardians” presentations (please refer to attachment B)

QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK:

Ms. Kearns asked if there will be another portion of this presentation where we address the more negative responses to the survey. Mr. Nelson expressed that hearing this feedback was important for the district as well as for the administration and staff. Mr. Nelson expressed that they will now use this information to work on some of the issues that were raised, such as making Mondays as meaningful as possible, as well as improving communication especially seeing that we still have a few parents that feel like they could use more forms of communication and overall creating connections for children, those were the big take away. Mr. Nelson expressed that this data is pretty fresh, but those are the initial big thoughts in terms of next steps.

Ms. Kearns asked about the percentage of families that responded, she expressed that it looked pretty low at the high school level. Ms. Burke also asked if we were able to control one submittal per student on the results. Mr. Davidson expressed that they worked with Mr. Coellner and sifted through the data to make sure they didn't count the same student twice. Mr. Davidson expressed that about 50% of families districtwide took the survey.

Ms. McSweeney thanked administration for putting this presentation together, she expressed it was very informative, she understands that only 50% of the families responded, but it's still helpful to see some of these numbers. Mr. Nelson expressed that this won't be the last time we ask for feedback from parents/guardians and we are hopeful that next time we have more responses/participation.

Ms. Tseki expressed that this is such an important step to help the community feel like they are part of the decision making process, she expressed that parents appreciate just being asked those questions, she thanked administration for putting the survey out.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that our Superintendent is right in the middle of people that feel strongly one way or another way and he expressed that other school committees have certainly had challenges with that, Mr. Humphrey expressed that surveys like this help parents to make their voices heard. Mr. Humphrey expressed that as a superintendent and a school committee you're always going to be caught in the middle of these difficult decisions.

Ms. McSweeney suggested that in our next survey we ask a question about equity in the district as well as other services such as food distribution, or maybe an open ended question of what more can we do for you to help support you. Ms. Kearns also suggested to add a question for remote learners about technology support.

Mr. Humphrey asked if we had any families that have been struggling with the technology part and what have we done to address that. Mr. Devoll expressed that our technology department has been amazing, he expressed that we are able to swap up chromebooks almost immediately if students let us know they are having a problem with their device. Mr. Devoll expressed that Ms. Harvey worked really hard at the onset of the school year to get hotspots for any family who needed one. Mr. Coellner echoed Mr. Devoll's sentiment, expressing that he has received a handful of emails and once they are forwarded to the technology department those requests are handled almost immediately.

Mr. Muse commended the administration and staff for all their hard work, he expressed that running a school is hard enough now adding the pandemic to the mix and it just makes everything that much harder, he expressed just the announcements that come to the school community around the positive cases, those take time and effort, while still doing “the job”. He expressed that everyone has done a

fantastic job and he applauds the teachers, staff and the administration. He expressed that putting something like this together to find out how we can do better is going above and beyond.

Mr. Humphrey thanked Mr. Nelson as well as Dr. Everett, Mr. McEvoy and the teachers' union for an excellent job. Mr. Humphrey expressed that he's very appreciative, he expressed that the feedback that he receives from his own daughter is overwhelmingly positive. She feels connected and expresses that teachers are going above and beyond.

In closing Mr. Nelson expressed that this won't be the final time they survey parents/guardians, he expressed that he envisions that this will be an ongoing process as things continue to change and as things change and learn more from our students/parents/families that we serve. Mr. Nelson expressed that safety continues to be his main concern, they are aware that the local numbers and state numbers are on the rise, he expressed they are proud of their efforts to keep our schools as safe as possible, he expressed he gets no pleasure out of sending notices of positive cases but he believes that information is critical in terms of being transparent and he believes it helps families make the best decisions for them. Mr. Nelson expressed that he's happy to report that the mitigation strategies and social distancing have proven effective regarding school transmission, he expressed that transmission on our school buses and in our school buildings has been pretty low, Mr. Nelson expressed that there is always room for improvement, we can't become complacent or relaxed making sure we continue to do what we need to do in terms of a safety standpoint. Mr. Nelson also expressed that we would use this data as well as daily data to inform our decisions regarding teaching and learning. Mr. Nelson expressed that Mr. Humphrey asked that the two school nurses be invited to this meeting and they are present if any school committee has any questions for them.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she made the request for the school nurses to be present, she expressed she wanted to thank them for all their efforts, she understands they are herculean, challenging and she appreciates them. Ms. Kearns also wanted to understand better the process of contact tracing and asked one of the nurses to walk her through it and she also asked what are the determining steps on whether we continue to operate in a hybrid learning model or not. Ms. Deveau thanked Ms. Kearns for her kind words. She explained that as far as the process, she explained that it's very individualized depending on if the person is in the building or if the person is at home, she explained that if the person was home they would get in touch with her and she would speak to them to get specific dates from them, find out when they were last in the building last, because that determines the period where they would have been infectious, Ms. Deveau expressed once that happens we start to look at any close contacts, she expressed that immediately she gets Mr. Nelson and her own administration within the JHS involved so that they are aware that we have a positive case, she expressed that she also collaborates with the town nurse from Mattapoisett and we review our thought process regarding the infectious period, quarantine period and close contacts. Ms. Deveau expressed that if they do have close contacts she works specifically with her administration at the JHS going through the infectious period, when was the last time they were in the building, what's their schedule, following up with staff member or student but never giving a direct name, she expressed that sometimes in some situations you give multiple names to pin point the situation, she expressed that a close contact is identified as 15 minutes within 6 feet within a 24 hour period. Ms. Deveau also explained that if students were involved you would also look at the bus routes to make sure that that infected student was not on the bus to and from school during the infectious period. Ms. Deveau explained that she along with all the school nurses work very closely with Mr. Nelson, the public health nurses as well as the school doctors therefore if there was an alarming trend or situation we are constantly in contact with each other about the broader picture. Ms. Deveau expressed that "knock on wood" in her building most of the cases have not had close contacts, she expressed that they try to be proactive with families and if they receive a call about a sibling who isn't feeling well, she expressed that depending on the situation and the symptoms she tries to encourage the parent to have the child work remotely, she expressed that situations like that have

really helped us to keep the close contacts to a minimum. Mr. Nelson also expressed that in addition to what Ms. Deveau has reported he also involves the Town Administrator depending on the Town with the positive case and if it's a case here at ORR he notifies all three Town Administrators to make sure everyone is on the same page, Mr. Nelson expressed that in addition we problem solve each case as they happen and we also have regular meetings with the three town nurses to discuss data and other information they might have to really talk about trends that we are seeing within our individual schools and our system as a whole. Ms. Kearns asked if we were to see an indication of school spread how would we report that and who would we report that to. Mr. Nelson expressed that each time there is a positive case the public health nurse has to report that in their own public health system and Mr. Nelson also reports those same cases to DESE. Mr. Nelson expressed that the department has the same questions for each reporting and the last question is always does the district need any additional support and then they usually follow up with us within a few days. Mr. Nelson expressed that when it comes to school transmission that if there was a particular grade level or class that was an issue they would be contacted as soon as possible, similar to when we closed our preschool class a few weeks back. Ms. Kearns stated "ok but it doesn't sound like we have specific metric capturing in school spread?". Mr. Nelson expressed that as Ms. Deveau expressed "knock on wood" we have not had to create a category yet to identify school transmission.

E. Naming of Press Box

Mr. Nelson expressed that in September the school committee had a request from Mr. Justin Shay, President of the ORR Booster Club to name the Press Box in honor of Mr. Howard Stillman Bates. Mr. Nelson expressed that per district policy the request was announced at a public meeting on September 9th and also per district policy the school committee needed to wait 45 days after making this public announcement. Mr. Nelson also reported that the school committee asked him to share the information publicly and he reported that the information was shared publicly in The Wanderer on December 3rd edition, Mr. Nelson reported that as of this date no feedback or concerns have been received. Mr. Nelson expressed that we are now looking for a motion from school committee to review and approve the official naming of the ORR Press Box.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that the school committee had a long conversation last time about this item, therefore if there's no secondary questions he would like to entertain a motion.

Motion to name the press box in honor of Mr. Howard Stillman Bates

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Tseki

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

Mr. Humphrey congratulated Mr. Shay, Mr. Shay expressed that congratulations goes to the school, the students and the school committee for approving this and he thanked the school committee.

B. ORPEA Health & Safety Report

Mr. Nelson expressed that it's his understanding that building administration and members of the ORPEA met in accordance with the MOA and that Mr. Devoll will summarize that meeting.

Mr. Devoll reported that they met this week and these were the take aways:

1. Humidity was really low, DESE guidance suggests bringing in dehumidifiers, Mr. Jones was able to provide us with dehumidifiers and they are ready to be deployed. Mr. Devoll expressed that with the changing of the season the heat is on in the school and the temperature has normalized in the building, Mr. Devoll reported high CO2 ratings between both schools in classrooms. Mr. Devoll expressed that the committee wanted to commend the maintenance team for their response time, they respond almost immediately to the aid of

teachers to support those high CO2 ratings, he expressed that solutions include fans, opening windows

2. PPE use and availability is good to all staff.
3. Mr. Devoll expressed that our students are good about wearing their masks, they are good about cleaning their work spaces but we remained challenged with social distancing, we need to have constant reminders.

Mr. McEvoy reported that CO2 ratings at the JHS haven't been bad this week but they did have some rooms that were a little cold, but he reported that generally speaking the summary was well represented. Dr. Everett agreed that he believes everything was covered, he expressed that they have 5 CO2 monitors that monitor humidity and CO2 and the CO2 has spiked in 3 of the 5 rooms that we have monitored in the last couple of weeks, he explained that the alarm goes off at 1,000 and the department of public health recommends 600 parts per million and 800 is sort of the danger zone, Dr. Everett explained that the humidity has been at around 18% and the recommended range is about 40% to 60%, he expressed he's happy to hear about the dehumidifiers. Dr. Everett also wanted to thank Mr. Humphrey and the school committee for their kind words during these difficult times.

C. Foreign Language Requirement Discussion

Mr. Nelson explained that this was discussed at length at the last meeting in October and it was requested that it stay on the agenda. Mr. Nelson explained that it was asked of some members that Mr. Devoll bring back additional information about this recently adopted graduation requirement and give some historical background for this meeting and also how it could possibly impact our students this particular year based off the fact that we are navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Devoll explained that for the historical piece, 13 years ago ORR High School had a two year foreign language requirement, and it was removed 13 years ago, he explained that over the past 13 years we have not had that as a graduation requirement for our students but it is data that we track because in many cases it keeps a door open to acceptance to a four year college, he expressed that typically students who do not have two years of a foreign language will typically go to a community college and then matriculate to a four year college. Mr. Devoll explained that within those last 13 years the DESE issued their Mass Core Curriculum Requirements and within their Core requirements they included two years of a foreign language and as such we as a school have to report upon graduation what percentage of our students have met the Mass Core Curriculum Requirement. Mr. Devoll expressed that one particular year that particular area was a problem, the school reported at about 57% but through hard work from our school and our students we currently stand at 90%. Mr. Devoll expressed that last spring the administration put forward to the school committee a to make this a graduation requirement, Mr. Devoll expressed that the requirement would start this school year, for this year's freshmen class, Mr. Devoll expressed that it is important to examine this current school year as a different school year, he expressed that the learning plans for students in both hybrid and remote plans are for the school committee to consider. Mr. Devoll explained that currently our remote plan offers Latin but does not offer Spanish, he explained that we do have some freshmen in the remote plan that switched from Spanish to Latin or opted not to take a language at all. Mr. Devoll reported that the freshmen class of 153 students, and of those 153 currently 14 are not taking a foreign language, he explained that all but 1 student of those 14 are on an Individualized Education Plan. Mr. Devoll expressed that since the last meeting the Standing Committee for Graduation Requirements has met and reviewed all the requirements and in particular this requirement, analyzed the numbers and the waiver process. Mr. Devoll expressed that when this was requirement was approved last spring it was with the caveat that a waiver could be applied for.

Ms. Kearns asked about options for the students on the hybrid learning model. Mr. Devoll expressed that they have both Latin and Spanish. Ms. Kearns asked if the students on the remote learning plan had the same options. Mr. Devoll expressed that they only have Latin. Ms. Kearns asked what has

the school done to close that gap. Mr. Devoll expressed that it was problematic during the planning and that unfortunately we have not closed that gap. Ms. Burke asked if that would include the option of taking a course at a community college or dual enrollment. Mr. Devoll expressed that any student could take a foreign language at a community college in the dual enrollment program and that would count towards their graduation requirement, he expressed that many of our students have done that throughout the years in American Sign Language.

Mr. Muse expressed that when this came up last year he was quite concerned about it and he still is, he expressed that the reason is that we have very few options for the person to complete this requirement, he expressed at the time this was approved that we had a solution and we were looking for a problem, we had 90% of the students already taking two years of a foreign language. Mr. Muse expressed that when we deny anyone a diploma, they will not be eligible to even audit a class in Massachusetts higher public education, Mr. Muse expressed that the idea that we are putting that road block potentially to even one student at any time is unnecessary based upon all of the statistics that we just heard and when we hear about waiving the requirement to give the diploma, it relies upon potentially advocacy by parents and identification of the problem. Mr. Muse expressed that what brought this to his attention again recently was when a few months this committee took a vote to make the fine arts requirement more accessible for graduation. Mr. Muse expressed that he can't stress enough that it's inequitable, he believes it burdens certain students a lot more than others, and he expressed it should be reconsidered having it as a requirement. Mr. Muse expressed that he hopes the members of the committee consider removing this requirement. Mr. Muse expressed that if we want to be fair about foreign language we should start offering foreign language at the elementary level, he expressed that this two-year requirement is a farce and he finds it despicable that we are creating this scenario unnecessarily.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she is really concerned about the remote learners only having one option. She expressed that regardless of what they decide about this requirement, we need to close that gap immediately, she expressed that remote learners are choosing this option because it's the only that works for their family and they should not be penalized.

Mr. Devoll expressed that we currently have 9 freshmen in the remote learning plan and 3 are not taking a foreign language. Mr. Nelson expressed that Ms. Kearns concerns were heard and we will try to close that gap as soon as possible.

Ms. McSweeney asked if the committee was voting on this tonight and if the vote was to keep the requirement or get rid of the requirement, she asked for clarification. Mr. Nelson explained that this was a requirement that was approved last year and it was asked by school committee to put back on the agenda for reconsideration, he expressed the voting is at the discretion of the school committee. Ms. McSweeney expressed that the historical knowledge and the data was very helpful. She asked if there were a number of students not getting a diploma because of this foreign language requirement. Mr. Devoll expressed that he's been a principal for 12 years and they have never had this requirement before so he can't speak to that.

Ms. Burke expressed that she could also give some historical knowledge and she expressed that Mr. Muse makes very good points, she expressed that when this came up about two years ago she had asked the school committee to wait on the vote so that constituents had the opportunity to give feedback, she expressed that this has been on the school committee agenda another three or four times and she has never heard from anyone either pro or con, she expressed that when it first came up there were several people that came to the meetings to talk about the value of the foreign language, but no one has spoken against this particular measure. She expressed that Mr. Muse makes some good points, she expressed that since the time that we voted on this I have learned more and more about the way colleges incorporate their views of a high school's academic rigor into their

choice of accepting students, she expressed that it can often be a deciding factor if they have two candidates of equal measure, she asked, how would not having this requirement affect the reputation of ORR High School, she asked does this requirement make the school appear more rigorous, she expressed that is a very important factor to consider. Mr. Devoll expressed that one of our guidance counselors who is a member of our standing committee did affirm that having it on the school profile is of importance and shows the rigor our students are presenting as they apply.

Ms. Tseki asked if there was a pathway for students who can't meet the foreign language requirement for them to receive the diploma. Mr. Devoll expressed that those fourteen students who are currently not taking a foreign language will have team meetings and should the team make a decision that particular student would struggle to meet that requirement they would ask the standing committee for a waiver at that time. Ms. Tseki asked what about the students who are not on an IEP. Mr. Devoll expressed that for those student, they would need to be taken care at the guidance level. Mr. Devoll expressed there is a pathway but it takes advocacy. Ms. Tseki expressed she really likes the statement Mr. Muse said about starting foreign language at the elementary level and then once they get to the high school level you have an idea of who has the capability of learning a new language, she expressed that she knows that's not a discussion for tonight, but she wanted Mr. Muse to know that she appreciates that comment.

Mr. Muse expressed that he would be interested to know that a student didn't get accepted to college because ORR didn't have a two-year foreign language requirement. Mr. Devoll expressed that he didn't know. Mr. Muse expressed that the whole concept is hypothetical. Mr. Muse asked what does a student need to be a strong learner, a problem solver, be able to function well in the society, to be able to contribute to our society, that's standard for a diploma, what does having two years of a foreign language do as a requirement. He expressed it can satisfy humanities requirements or other requirements and he can see the benefit of it, but to use it as an instrument where it is so narrow, where we have so little offerings, so little support, and this year we have the pandemic and we don't have full capabilities to enhance it now it makes no sense to me, he expressed as Mr. Devoll expressed we have 90% of the student body already taking it anyway. He expressed it's a potential roadblock and he doesn't understand why it's there. Mr. Muse expressed that it's insulting to hear that we can put it to a committee and wipe out as a pathway to this requirement, Mr. Muse expressed it's a cope out and he doesn't agree with it, he expressed it was never necessary to add and it doesn't add anything to our high school and he would like to see it removed.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that she's been doing a little of research on this and Massachusetts does not have a foreign language requirement, and she expressed that it's important to make students aware of the fact that colleges do look for a foreign language. Ms. McSweeney was also concerned about the lack of choices, therefore she would be in favor of wiping the requirement with the stipulation that students are advised about the importance of a foreign language if attending a 4-year college.

Ms. Burke expressed that up until about two or three years ago the High School did offer French but had to remove it due to low enrollment, she expressed it's not just about offering choices, she expressed that the demand was not there. Mr. Devoll expressed that we did offer Portuguese for two years. Ms. McSweeney suggested that we look into dual lingo which is a virtual program where a student picks the language of their choice and work at their own pace.

Ms. Tseki asked if the vocational high school had a foreign language requirement. Mr. Devoll reported that they do not have a requirement.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that he has not heard any school committee member in favor of maintaining this requirement, he asked if there was anyone who supports that.

Ms. Burke expressed that she does support keeping it for the reasons she mentioned previously. She expressed that she believes like everything else in our world is marketing and branding and if another school appears to be more competitive than that counts in their favor. She expressed that when the original conversation was had a lot of school committee members spoke very passionately about keeping this requirement even though it wasn't a state requirement it was a requirement within our peers. She expressed she feels there's real value in it, however she "wouldn't fall on her sword for it".

Mr. Humphrey asked if it would be more fair to discuss this after COVID. Ms. Tseki asked if it was something that needed to be decided tonight, she feels like there are some angles that she could possibly be missing, she expressed she's not sure who the educators feel about this requirement.

Mr. Muse expressed that we have spoken about this before and the context has not changed, he expressed there is some urgency in moving forward as students make educational decisions. He expressed that "he will fall on his sword for this". He believes it's unfair and unequitable, it's a solution looking for a problem.

Mr. Devoll expressed that as you consider the options, this is a different school year than any of us anticipated, he expressed that lack of options being offered in the remote plan don't make him feel very good. He expressed that we are starting this requirement with this freshman class and it's a really wild year to start something like this, he suggested perhaps a delay to the requirement, he advocated that due to the pandemic and the variables in our learning plan that this might not be the year to start.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that he doesn't think a permanent decision should be made about something like this during a year such as this one. He expressed he respects Mr. Muse's strong opinion on it but I support waiting.

Mr. Muse asked, what do we gain by delaying this decision. He expressed the issue was there before the pandemic, it's just magnified due to the pandemic.

Ms. Tseki thanked Ms. Burke for the information about the French offerings, she expressed she's also concerned that if it's not a requirement she's afraid some students won't take it, she expressed it's a wonderful thing to be exposed to, but I certainly wouldn't want to deny someone a diploma. She expressed that maybe a delay would make sense for at least this year.

Ms. Kearns expressed her concern for the remote students only having one option in foreign language and no one said anything until now, she asked "how did we miss it"?

Motion to remove the foreign language requirement as a graduation requirement

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL VOTE:

5:2 (Humphrey; no, Burke; no, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

D. Dual Enrollment Classes/GPA Discussion

Mr. Nelson expressed that at the last meeting students presented this item to the school committee and it was asked that they bring to the Standing Committee for graduation requirements for review.

Mr. Devoll expressed that the students did a great job presenting to the Standing Committee as well as presenting to the staff at large. Mr. Devoll expressed that their request is to award an AP credit to

on the grade point average to all dual enrollment courses beginning on the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020 to include in GPA and class rank. Mr. Devoll expressed that they had some rich discussions at the committee level as well as with the staff, he expressed that the committee voted and made a recommendation and then our staff made a separate recommendation. The committee agreed to have classes count towards GPA but excluded from class rank, the reason being that they felt strongly that class rank should be an apples to apples comparison offered at the school, versus GPA which is a reflection of the grade a student earns. The staff voted no change, therefore keeping dual enrollment classes out of GPA and class rank. Mr. Devoll expressed that in both cases they felt that should not be going back in time, this should not be for classes taken in the past. Mr. Devoll expressed that when students sign up for classes they know they would not count towards GPA or class rank as it states in the student handbook. He suggested that anything moving forward would be applied. Mr. Devoll expressed that those are the recommendations from his committee and the staff at large. Mr. Devoll made the recommendation that dual enrollment classes moving forward should be included in GPA not just during the pandemic.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she still has the same concern she had last time, and that was equity, students being able to find the funds to take these courses outside of the school. She expressed she would be interested to find out ways that we have provided information to students about scholarships or grants to help them. She expressed that in terms of equity she doesn't believe it's in the right place.

Mr. Devoll expressed that those concerns were shared with the standing committee and making sure that the class rank is apples to apples because not all students have the same opportunities.

Ms. Burke expressed that Mr. Devoll provided the reasoning from the standing committee about their thought process, she asked if the staff provided backup for their decision and their thought process. Mr. Devoll expressed that staff have a long standing feeling about these courses and that is that we don't have any control over these courses and "we don't have thorough knowledge of the curriculum being taught" he expressed that a dual enrollment class can look very different depending on the college, he expressed it's about the levels of control. He expressed he knows what a class looks like at ORR. He expressed that those were some historical concerns that our staff shared. Mr. Devoll also expressed that a large conversation was about access and equity.

Mr. Gonet (student) expressed that he was just looking on the Mass Dual Enrollment website and it says that CDEP students may take the first course free of charge, some institutions may charge a nominal admission fee. He expressed that there are opportunities out there for those students who can't afford to pay the fees.

Ms. Ward (student) expressed that she doesn't remember reading in the handbook the information about the dual enrollment classes not being counted towards GPA and class rank, she expressed that she does remember seeing something on mass.edu page that dual enrollment classes are to be recommended to count towards GPA and class rank. She expressed that she assumed that our district would have followed their recommendations and that's how she made her decision.

Mr. Devoll explained that in Ms. Ward's case, while the courses she's currently taking will not count her at ORR most colleges she will apply to will use to calculate her GPA.

Ms. Burke said just to be clear, she believes sometimes students take dual enrollment classes outside of the typical school year, would this include all classes or just classes taken within the school year? Mr. Devoll expressed that anything that would show up on their transcript will reflect the GPA. Ms. Burke expressed that brings up other concerns of equity, for example if people don't have the time

take a course. She expressed it's almost like an overload of courses and not just to replace a course that's not available.

Ms. Lord (student) expressed that these dual enrollment classes are a lot of work and so many other schools are allowing them to count toward GPA and if ORR does not count them towards GPA it makes ORR seem less competitive.

Mr. Muse expressed that he's struggling. He expressed that a student is doing something of consequence and getting an experience and an education and ultimately college credits and I'm trying to see how it hurts somebody else, Mr. Muse expressed that he's struggling to understand the concept, maybe someone can help him understand it.

Mr. Devoll expressed that we should be promoting dual enrollment courses and the GPA should reflect the courses you took and the grades that you got. Mr. Devoll expressed that class rank should be a ranking of classes offered at the high school.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that to Mr. Muse's point, we brought up equity just so that something can be in place to support those students who need it if they are interested.

Mr. Muse expressed that he agrees completely with that, he expressed everyone should have the opportunity but once they do take the course are they hurting someone else.

Ms. Burke asked Mr. Devoll to go over how is it determined which students take dual enrollment classes. She thought students could only take courses dual enrollment courses that were not available at the high school. Mr. Devoll expressed that historically that was our charge, but recent recommendation from the state has been to encourage dual enrollment classes and enrollment, he expressed that he didn't feel like it's good business to say to a student "don't take" that class, Mr. Devoll expressed that it's tied to our accountability rating, we get extra points for students who take dual enrollment classes. Ms. Burke expressed that she's concerned about that because that could impact our ability to offer AP classes for other students. Mr. Devoll expressed if a policy can be firmed up about this than this could stop, he expressed right now it's practice not policy. He expressed this is not an easy path, these classes are hard and challenging and the students find them rewarding.

Mr. Humphrey expressed that he supports this initiative and one good thing about this is the potential savings they will save when they attend college because they will have potentially 15 hours or more when they start college. Ms. Burke expressed that not all schools take those credits, unless there is an articulation agreement.

Ms. McSweeney expressed that she's in favor of doing what the standing committee suggested, she expressed that we always look to our educators to guide us and Mr. Devoll agrees, the students want to do it, she expressed in the base level it's education. She expressed that the committee should consider it.

Motion that dual enrollment classes be included in GPA but not in class rank beginning second semester

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL VOTE:

6:1 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; abstain, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

F. Donation Approval

Mr. Nelson reported that the ORR received a very generous donation from the Friends of Old Rochester Drama in the amount of \$10,000, Mr. Nelson explained that this donation was made to help the upgrade to the auditorium lighting project that has already been completed.

Motion to approve a donation of \$10,000 from the Friends of Old Rochester Drama Inc.

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. McSweeney

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

G. Technology Replacement Fee Approval

Mr. Nelson stated there has been some new revenue streams, including grant funding and CARES funding, and we have been able to secure additional devices for school including iPads for our youngest learners and additional Chromebook for our upper elementary grades. Mr. Nelson stated the iPads and cases are in and it has been a priority for our tech team to get these devices ready to roll out. Mr. Nelson stated Mr. Barber will explain how we will be able to maintain these new devices.

Mr. Barber explained that all districts have had the opportunity to update many of the technology needs for instruction, such as chromebooks and ipads and now he feels that an update to the Student Handbook should be taken into consideration. Mr. Barber expressed that with the 1:1 initiative there has not been fees or costs charged to the students or families for this equipment that is being provided, however per policy JQ- Student Fees, Fines and Charges we can implement a fee or a charge schedule for damaged books, materials, supplies and equipment. Mr. Barber explained that students who are indigent are exempt from paying fees, however they are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, materials, supplies and equipment. Mr. Barber expressed that if a family did have a hardship than that would be addressed.

Mr. Barber recommended the following replacement fees for damaged or replacement of equipment based on the research charges that are being incurred:

Chromebook: \$300, Chromebook screen: \$50, 45W Adapter with Power Cord: \$50, Keyboard: \$50, ipad complete unit: \$325, Apple USB lightning cable: \$25, Apple USB Power Adapter: \$25, Case: \$50.

Motion to approve the technology replacement fees as presented

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Ms. McSweeney

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

H. Memorial Plaque Approval

Students Gabriella Berg and Kathleen Dunn and made a presentation to the school committee regarding a memorial plaque for their fallen classmate Nolan Gibbons who died suddenly in his sleep this past summer. Please refer to (attachment C).

Ms. McSweeney expressed that Ms. Dunn and Ms. Berg did a wonderful job, she expressed it was a wonderful presentation and what a wonderful idea to honor your classmate. She expressed that she was happy to see that they were offering a scholarship to the A Cappella Group.

Ms. Burke expressed that the students did a really good job and that Nolan was a bright light and a wonderful talent in some many ways. She asked Mr. Nelson about the policy, she expressed when

she was reading the policy it seems like the memorial goes with the scholarship. Mr. Nelson expressed that the policy covers two pieces, the memorial plaque and then the policy also covers memorial scholarships.

Mr. Muse expressed that the students did a fantastic job, he expressed that his heart goes out to Nolan's friends and family. Mr. Muse expressed that they should decide which plaque to buy, just as long as it stays within the district's policy. He expressed that he truly appreciates the students' thoughtfulness, he expressed that they are a credit to their entire community, Mr. Muse encouraged the students to keep the account open in case there were other future donations.

Mr. Nelson concluded by saying that this plaque would be hang in the music hallway and it would have Nolan's name, with his picture also included would be 2005-2020 and the quote "Everyone likes to be themselves". Mr. Nelson expressed that the presentation was wonderful and very heart felt.

Motion to approve a memorial plaque in honor of Nolan Gibbons as presented by Ms. Dunn and Ms. Berg

MOTION by Ms. McSweeny

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Muse

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeny; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

VI. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Mr. Barber reported that as of November 30, 2020 the Old Rochester Regional School District currently has \$3,009,291 available of the general funds appropriated to the FY21 Fiscal Year. Mr. Barber reported that the report given to school committee which is by department identifies how the funds are currently being encumbered and expended. Mr. Barber explained that this report also recognizes that of the \$19,702,211 appropriated to the district, 73.57% is directly assigned and is spent/encumbered to student instruction.

Mr. Barber also reported on food service and facilities departments.

Ms. Kearns expressed that last year she participated in the free meal service and this year she is participating again and she encouraged Mr. Barber to send more communications about the registrations keeping in mind that parents are juggling a lot during these times.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: Ms. Lord reported and herself and Mr. Gonet had their first SERSAC (Southeastern Regional Student Advisory Council) meeting and they chose to breakout into the Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup and work with other schools to bring more ideas back to this group. She expressed that at the meeting they wrote down issues that each individual has seen at their own school and our homework for the next meeting is to come up with some solutions for some of those issues and how they might be implemented. We believe we will make a large impact in this group and we look forward to working with others. Mr. Gonet expressed that he agrees with everything that Payton said. He also expressed that he agrees with Mr. Devoll's concern about social distancing, he expressed that it's a valid concern, he expressed that we all need to be reminded now and then, especially during the mask breaks. He expressed that he really listened to Mr. Devoll's speech at lunch and he believes his classmates did as well, and he believes there was a change after that, he expressed that the more reminders students get the better. Mr. Gonet expressed that educators are doing a great job and they are really going above and beyond and he thinks that's

a great thing. Mr. Gonet thanked everyone that made this school year happen, he expressed he's very appreciative.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- Mr. Humphrey chose to skip the chairperson's report at this meeting to give the Central Office Administrators more time to report.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT -

Mr. Nelson reported that the commissioner has given districts local flexibility for the current year, so that if there are days when schools must close because of inclement weather or other emergency, districts may choose whether to treat those days as "snow days" to be made up later or provide all students with remote learning on those days in a manner that is consistent with the regulatory requirements. Mr. Nelson reported that he brought this information to the Joint School Committee and the committee voted on November 19th to shift snow days to possible remote learning days for the current school year and gave the Superintendent the authority to make that decision. Mr. Nelson explained that the vote does have a caveat that if there were significant power outages in any of our three communities he would make a decision to call it a traditional snow day.

Mr. Nelson expressed that on a more serious note yesterday he notified the school community that a person or group has created and disseminated a social media page illegally using the Old Rochester Regional High School mascot and name to promote a particular political ideology. Some of the posts on this site had racist overtones, with references to slaves. This social media page is not sponsored by nor supported by the school district. While we recognize the importance of free speech and dialogue - hate and bias have no place in our schools. We have reported the illegal use of our mascot and school name to local law enforcement and the social media host. Mr. Nelson expressed that his understanding is that the page is now down and he would like to thank the many individuals including students who responded immediately to use their voice and bring this to our attention in order for administration to act immediately in terms of addressing the situation, moreover Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Devoll and Mr. Coellner for coming together and creating opportunities for supporting students and families. Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Devoll to address the actions that were taken. Mr. Devoll expressed that they contact local authorities, contacting Instagram, Mr. Devoll expressed that they had some outstanding student outreach, he expressed that they have responding to students, communicating with students and tomorrow afternoon we have our counseling team, also including Dr. Pearson-Campbell, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Coellner and myself will be participating in a video conference with students where we will have the ability to conduct group conversations or move students to break out rooms. Mr. Devoll expressed it was an awful experience and it sadden me but the student response was overwhelming and I don't want that to get lost.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell gave an overview of the January 11th full day inservice. She expressed that she was asking our own teachers to submit proposals because she knew how important it was to work with colleagues and knew that our own teachers have expertise in various fields.

Mr. Davidson gave an update the school committee of the progress made on initial evaluations and 3 year evaluations. Mr. Davidson expressed that in the Spring the timeline for these was put on hold when schools were closed, he expressed that through the hard work of the district's special educators, related service providers and school psychologists the district is now up to date on all evaluations.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-

High School: Mr. Devoll reported that they have a PSAT scheduled for January 26th, he expressed that is a Tuesday and unfortunately that is the only date that is available to administer the PSAT, he expressed that we have approximately 200 students who have signed up to take the test, therefore he will be working with Superintendent Nelson to create a remote Tuesday that week, and this way we would only bring in the test takers that Tuesday and keep everyone else home. He wanted everyone to aware in case anyone received any questions about this.

Jr. High School: Mr. Coellner wanted to highlight a partial pivot, he expressed that he worked collaboratively with the association and the grade 8 teams. He reported that one of the things that they have seen recently is a shift of 7 students from hybrid to remote, overall there have been 10 students to do that and we are up to 36, he reported that it was over taxing on our remote teachers, therefore they developed a plan where the orange group is both hybrid and remote, so that we have both kids on the same team, he expressed that they are doing some analysis and doing some strategic thinking at the moment just in case we have to continue to move in that direction.

B. Committee Reports

1. **SMEC** – Ms. Tseki expressed they have a meeting on December 14th.
2. **Local School Committee-** Mr. Muse reported that Mattapoisett met on December 7th and approved the plan to proceed to bring back full time our youngest learners K-2 with a possible implementation in mid-January.
3. **Tri-Town Foundation-** Ms. Tseki expressed they have a meeting on January 12th.
4. **Budget Sub-Committee-** Ms. Burke expressed that the budget subcommittee has started to meet and they started talking about priorities as well as budgetary constraints for next school year.
5. **Facilities Committee - NONE**
6. **Communication Committee-** Ms. Burke expressed that there was no meeting, she reported that the MCAS resolution was sent to the state officials, and the at least at the high school level the MCAS has been postponed.
7. **District Agreement Committee-** Mr. Nelson expressed they are waiting to hear from the state.
8. **Anti-Racism Committee-** Ms. Kearns expressed that they met on December 2nd and we tabulated some results on where we wanted to go with the committee and came up with nine terms that will be discussed further. She reported that they have broken up into two groups or subcommittees to discuss the culture and the school system and how we can improve immediately. She also reported they are meeting again on December 22nd. Mr. Pires reported that they also talked about a possible name change so that it is more inclusive and maybe stepping away from the anti-racism term so that it doesn't insinuate that the school is racist as a whole, he expressed he thought that was a good take away.

Humphrey reviewed future timeline and stated the next meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 6:30 p.m. and the next Joint School Committee is scheduled for March 11, 2021.

OPEN COMMENTS: Ms. Kearns wanted to follow up, she expressed that based on some feedback we had from the last meeting. She expressed she would like to bring up communication, she expressed that she wants to be very clear that the school district has been extremely transparent throughout this whole process, she does think there is room for improvement as far as getting information out in front of the parents, she expressed that there is a lot going on and parents may be a little overwhelmed, especially for the younger parents getting the information out quicker and in front of them would be extremely helpful. She expressed she knows we have a communication subcommittee and if that would fall into that. She expressed that parents could even act as an advisory committee.

Ms. Burke expressed that the communications committee is still finding its way, she expressed that originally the committee was put together to promote and market the school. She expressed that we probably need to meet and figure out next steps for this committee as a whole. Mr. Pires agreed with Ms. Burke, and he applauded the administration for doing a great job during the transition. Mr. Pires expressed that he would like to explore the idea of having parents and community members on the committee would be a great idea.

Ms. Kearns expressed that the other item she wanted to bring up was mental health, she expressed that she has heard a lot about that and she wanted to remind people of the resources available, and she expressed it would be good to get that information out to folks.

MOTION: by Mr. Muse at 10:17 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of exception #3 to discuss union personnel and #7 to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

SECOND: by Ms. Burke

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

MOTION: by Ms. McSweeney to go come out of Executive Session at 10:24 p.m. and come out only to adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Muse

ROLL CALL VOTE:

7:0 (Humphrey; yes, Burke; yes, Pires; yes, McSweeney; yes, Kearns; yes, Muse; yes, Tseki; yes)

Motion to adjourn at 10:24 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Smith

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Muse

Submitted by Diana Russo