

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
133 Marion Road – Mattapoisett, MA 02739

MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2019

<https://vimeo.com/368614144>

The regular meeting of the Old Rochester Regional District School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Humphrey at 6:34 p.m.

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Cary Humphrey CHAIRPERSON	Heather Burke VICE- CHAIRPERSON	Tina Rood	Joseph Pires	Paul A. Goulet, Jr.
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James Muse	Stefan M. Gabriel	Suzanne Tseki	Michell Smith
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ABSENT

Committee Members:

ALSO, PRESENT

Dr. Douglas White SUPERINTENDENT	Michael Nelson ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT	Michael Devoll PRINCIPLE ORR HIGH SCHOOL	Vanessa Harvey ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	Silas Coellner PRINCIPAL ORR JUNIOR HIGH
Kelly Chouinard ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	Gene Jones FACILITEIS DIRECTOR	Cecilia Prefontaine Student Advisory Council	Natalie Neilson Student Advisory Council	Jenn Seco RECORDING SECRETARY

Members of the Press

MEETING TO ORDER

Recognition Presentation:

Dr. White gave an overview of the Superintendent Certificate of Academic Excellence Award including the criteria. He explained that the criteria is designed by the Massachusetts Association for Superintendents and he explained that the award is given out at each high school across the commonwealth. The award takes into consideration the student's three-year accumulative average, class rank, and is the personal selection of the superintendent who has the leeway of choosing from the top five percent of the class.

Dr. White was honored to present the award to Ms. Mackenzie Riley who excels in academics, fine arts and community service. She is ranked second in the senior class of a hundred and eighty students. She maintains a weighted 4.545 GPA on a 4.0 scale and is also an award-winning musician. He went on to share that she will be pursuing studies in the biochemical research area. Dr. White shared a statement from Ms. Riley's senior questionnaire – "Weather it be tutoring in academics to students in or out of the class, community service or contributing behind the scenes with our drama productions I truly enjoy helping people out in whatever way I can by leading with openness and companion I found and made my most valuable connections to others".

Dr. White proudly presented the award to Ms. Riley followed by a standing ovation from all attending the meeting.

Agenda item I.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I.A. Regular Meeting

Minutes of **September 11, 2019** (please reference: ORRSC 10232019 September Minutes)

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to accept the September 11th meeting minutes as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Burke
VOTE: Unanimously Pass (Ms. Smith abstained)

I.B. Executive Session
Minutes of September 11, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Burke made the motion to accept Executive Session Minutes of June 11th as amended
SECOND: Mr. Muse
VOTE: Unanimously Pass (Ms. Smith abstained)

Agenda item IV.A.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Principal Devoll introduced Ms. Mello, a senior at Old Rochester. He went on to share that her important topic was well researched and well developed. He felt that it had schoolwide and curriculum implications and shouldn't be something that stops at a presentation for the class.

Ms. Mello presented results from her research project on LGBT-inclusive Sex Education. She gave a little background about how she came across this topic and overall it is very important to the health and well-being of all youth. She believes that the lack of inclusive sex education is harming many of the ORR students now and potentially in the future. She shared several findings and questions, for example the correlations between effective sex education curriculum and an increase in sexual health and why are LGBT students not included in the curriculum despite claims of equality both in the law and at schools.

Ms. Mello's overall AP research question was – "How do LGBT inclusive sex education programs impact all members of the school?"

She narrowed her finding to two statistics. One is the impact on LGBT sexual health, 88% of the sources were positive. The other was 33% addressing the social emotional health, creating a greater sense of community, lessening anxiety and depression when attending health classes.

Ms. Mello concluded with benefits that extend beyond the classroom. A positive impact on sexual health minimizing the failure to teach that are in the current programs, reduces anxiety/depression in LGBT students helping them to learn and creates a more tolerant school environment with all students and staff. She urged ORR to look into LGBT sex education programs because implementing one can drastically improve the social climate and promote the sense of knowledge tolerance and understanding of all in the school.

Ms. Rood asked if Ms. Mello came across any existing curriculums in her research. Ms. Mello shared that many of the programs she came across were put on by outside agencies e.g. planned parenthoods and LGBT groups mostly based outside the U.S.

Agenda item VI.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

They shared that State Student Advisory Council and the Board of Education has broken out into work groups and are working on racial equity, staff appreciation (custodial, help and assistant staff), improvement in college/career readiness and a global outreach on English language learning initiative.

On the regional level they are working on an environmental policy group, teacher appreciation, school climate (social emotional and school safety) and college/career readiness. The Old Rochester School Council is working on the upcoming pep rally and spirit week.

Agenda item V.C.

DECA CLUB AT THE HIGHSCHOOL

Principal Devoll introduced members DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), a startup club at the high school.

The members gave an informative presentation on DECA pilot program. This program allows ORR to have a DECA club without currently having a business program at school but the future goal is to push for a new business program to better prepare students for the business world. MA DECA has given five years to potential get or show progress towards getting a business program at ORR.

There is a \$60 membership fee (\$19 state/\$2 regional/ \$8 national) and excess goes towards DECA merchandise and trips. Students are also paying the \$100 ORR club fee to help supplement transportation.

They went on to share that DECA is quite costly, and the following fundraisers are in the works to support the program

- Lip Sync Competition on November 15th
- Holiday Movie Night
- Paint Night
- Battle of the Bands

The DECA club shared that they would like to start a School Based Enterprise (SBE) which students would run a business authorize by the school. The idea would be to have an inhouse self-sufficient printing company that would keep cost low across the board providing a service to all printed merchandising needs of the school. It will be housed in the school store.

They also shared that categories of the DECA chapters are limitless giving everyone numerous options. DECA competitions start with district and depending on how well they do they move onto state competitions and from there they could go onto DC which include students from all over the world.

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to recognize DECA as a club.
SECOND: Ms. Smith
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item V.D.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

DECA along with chaperones will be traveling to Cape Cod, Boston and Nashville for competitions as well as raising awareness about the program.

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to accept the fieldtrips as presented
SECOND: Ms. Gabriel
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item V.E.

APPROVAL OF TRIP TO EUROPE IN 2021

Mr. Orie gave an overview of the proposed trip to Europe in April of 2021 for 7th and 8th graders to learn about the Holocaust through real world experiences and interactions. He went on to share that students would be traveling to several locations that not only tie directly to the ELA and Social Studies curriculum, but also would give students a wider world view and cultural knowledge that cannot be obtained through a classroom setting. Students would visit the Anne Frank House, Auschwitz, and explore many cultural relevant sites related to the Holocaust and World War II. The nine-day trip would be during April vacation. He shared that the trip does come with a financial cost, but the cost would be alleviated through fundraising. EF Tours will plan the trip as they have for the past five years. The cost will be \$3,665 per student and there will be one chaperone per every six students. Mr. Orie also confirmed the cost of the trip is covered by the student and fundraising at no cost to the school.

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to approve the trip as presented
SECOND: Ms. Smith
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item V.B.

APPROVAL OF SKI TRIPS AT HIGH SCHOOL

On behalf of the high school, Mr. Almeida presented the request to have one or two all day Saturday ski trips. The cost per student will be \$80-\$100 which does not include ski rental and there will be one chaperone per ten students.

Dr. White added that all student would sign a waiver and confirmation that each student has their own insurance before going on the trip.

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to approve the ski trips as presented.
SECOND: Ms. Smith
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item IV.B.

MCAS PRESENTATION

Dr. White thanked the administration for taking the time to put together the data and how to present the information. He explained that the state has changed its criteria. The accountability factors have changed and all that is taken into consideration of what the accountability number would be in each category. He went on to say that the target is set from the prior year's performance. He also added that the curriculum should always be looked at and what is asked of students insuring growth for all.

Dr. White thanked Principle Coellner for all the behind the scenes work setting up the platforms for the administration to be able to present the findings in the same way across all the schools.

Principal Coellner followed Dr. White's comments with the MCAS presentation stating that this was one of the best years he's seen in the past ten years. Please refer to the ORR Junior High School MCAS presentation for more details. Principal Coellner reviewed the achievement, performance and growth. Overall, students met or excited expectations across the board.

Principal Coellner went on to share that he set up personalized data for the teachers in order for them to take a deeper dive into how their students are performing. He went on to say that last year they changed their intervention for the students based on their needs and ensuring they get an extra ELA or math class which was reflected in the data and they will continue to do that going forward. They will also continue promote writing stamina on krone books. Along with the strategic plan and student improvement plan, teachers will pursue some form of project-based learning in every discipline. Lastly, Assistant Principal Chouinard has begun attending parents' meetings along with reviewing the attendance portion in the student handbook.

Vice Chairperson Heather congratulated Principal Coellner on the great work and asked if he had concerns about the math program and the junior high. Principal Coellner responded by stating the teachers are continuously working on improvements and he has no concern. Principal Devoll also shared that the high school math coordinator looks at student placement through grades 7-8 and the sustainability through grade 12.

Principal Devoll thanked Principal Coellner for the work he did producing user friendly materials to capture the MACS data for all the administration. Principal Devoll began the high school MCAS presentation stating that "I think we hit a homerun this year". Please refer to the ORR High School MCAS presentation for more details. He shared the difference in accountability between the high school and the rest of the school districts. The additional indicators are advanced course work, graduation rate and dropout rate.

Principal Devoll shared a few action items that are being taken for improvement. One item being the bull dog block, where content area teachers offer additional support to lower performing students. Another is revising the attendance policy with no excused absences following guidelines set forth by the state. He went on to share a few more, e.g. curriculum alignment teams, align with next generation MCAS, and increase writing stamina (word count).

Vice Chairperson Burke pointed out that MCAS scores are not comparable year to year and they are complex and confusing data sets. They are constantly changing which makes them difficult to access with complex and confusing data sets which makes trending difficult. The entire picture needs to be looked at to thoroughly understand them and not just one data point. She went on to say that the schools seriously evaluate the MCAS data and are continuously implementing best practices. The data is provided by the state and is accesses able by all.

Agenda item V.A.

APPROVAL OF ATHLETIC BUS CONTRACT

Dr. White shared that the previous bus company also provided services for the extracurricular and athletic programs and due to unforeseen circumstances they would not be able to continue, therefore the need for a new bids was necessary. There were six vendors who requested information but only one vendor put in a full bid which was a better rate than the prior contract. Please refer to "ORRSC 10232019 Athletic Bus Contract"

MOTION: Mr. Muse made the motion to approve the athletic bus contracted as presented

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item V.F.

UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT

Dr. White shared that Representative Straus is willing to request special legislation and once that is received the town will then decide if they will allow the leasing of the property. He had conversations with the attorneys, the individuals who would construct the carport and the contract is being reviewed in-depth. Also, there is no application fee in order to get into the queue and the goal would be this upcoming spring.

Agenda item VI.C.1.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White presented the committee with the most current expense report. He went on to share that each line is in accordance with what needs to be spent including the correct dollar amount for every salary. Anything over gets expended out to the towns.

Dr. White brought up a concern of copier leases and overages on excessive use. Once there is a better understanding and explanations from vendor Dr. White will share that information with the committee.

Agenda item VI.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Humphrey expressed that the presentations done by the many members of the student body were very impressive.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Dr. White reminded the committee of the Friday News and his hopes that it is a tool that is capturing happenings across the district and providing the materials and content needed to keep everyone aware of what steps are been taken to support education.

Dr. White shared the progress of the Eversource lighting grant that Mr. Jones has submitted. The schools included are Center School, Old Hammondton, Jr. High, High School and Sippican. LED lights will be available throughout these schools helping with the utility cost savings by December 1st. The fixtures will come at no cost to the schools. Ms. Rood added that they are looking at obtaining support from Eversource to update the specialty lighting in the auditorium.

Mr. Nelson shared that the first full day professional development was completed on October 11th. The feedback was very positive from all six buildings. He went on to say that the next focus is on Cultural Proficiency Training and on October 24th about thirty-five staff members who are part of the Cultural Proficiency teams and the TLC at large teams from all schools will be attending the Access and Equity conference in Marlborough. Following the conference Change First on October 31st through November 1st which will set the stage for the full professional development day in January centered around Cultural Proficiency.

Mr. Nelson thanked Principal Devoll along with Principal Bowman and the staff for their flexibility when presented with a last-minute request to host the Senior Associate Commissioner for the Department of Education and his team for four hours which focuses on looking at inclusive models for special education. He went on to state that they showed them a continuum of services throughout and the feedback was extremely positive applauding the schools unique model learning support centers which offer services to not only special education but to all students who need additional assistance.

Per Vice Chairperson Burke's request for more information concerning the sixty thousand dollars grant for security upgrades topic in the Friday Newsletter Dr. White shared that the state grant has allowed camera updates and additional support for the safety of the building at no cost to the school.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

Principal Devoll added to Mr. Nelson's earlier comments about hosting the Department of Education and that it was a great way to showcase all the good things happening at the school and he hopes to get that information out to the public soon.

Principal Devoll shared the news that Unified Basketball has taken over the school and everyone is very excited and great experience for the whole school.

Ms. Rood asked Principal Devoll to shed some light on how the student activity fee has been rolling out. He shared a few issues that had come up, e.g. that certain clubs are not charged a fee because they simply do not draw from the budget, clubs that are issued fees go offsite and need chaperones/nurse. These are additional expenses that are not included in our budget. It was carefully planned out having the club roosters first in order to determine participation and from there waived the fee from the students who receive reduced lunch and clarifications were made of what the fee would cover.

Principal Coellner shared a few highlights about the Booster Bash he explained it was a success and raised approximately \$12,965.50, which exceeded last year's amount with great opportunities and fun. 57% donations came from parents. Karen Horan (physical education teacher) spearheaded this making sure everything was in place. He went on to share that Pink Day for breast cancer awareness month raised \$200 to support the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Ms. Rood expressed that while she thought this was a great fundraiser, she believed that an excessive amount of communication went out to parents regarding it, she suggested that maybe next year they consider reducing the amount of communication regarding the event.

Agenda item VII.B.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

SMEC

Mr. Muse shared the following

- Upcoming audit
- He attended his final SMEC meeting

Local School Committee

Rochester Memorial Ms. Rood shared the following

- LED Lights
- Solar Update
- Growing development of houses causing bus issues

Mattapoisett Mr. Muse shared

- Presentation on budgetary changes from school choice to put into special education funds
- MCAS presentation

Marion Ms. Smith shared

- MCAS presentation
- Fundraiser events approvals
- Spaghetti dinner on November 14th
- Socks for Smiles raised over a thousand socks

Tri-Town Foundation

Ms. Tseki shared the following

- Community Foundation will be sharing what funds are available in the upcoming weeks.
- Discussion on various names the foundation is known as which has caused confusion. The official name is Old Rochester Tri Town Educational Foundation.
- Ways to raise awareness of what the foundation has to offer.

Budget Sub-Committee

No update

Facilities Committee

No update

Communications Committee

Vice Chairperson Burke and Mr. Pires shared the following

- Poster should be out soon

Policy Committee

Ms. Tseki shared the following

- Rental policy ORR facility and what budget covers for the school day. Information is being gathered to determine what it costs to have the school open off hours.

Ms. Tseki asked the ORR Committee the following question in order to report back to the Policy Sub Committee

- Rent to non-school groups?
 - Vice Chairperson Burke shared that Elementary school feel that the schools are kept up by town personal and the town is more willing to fund those buildings more than the regional schools. She went on to say there may be a need for two different policies.
 - Ms. Rood brought up the use for the auditorium compared to the use of the fields. She also suggested that the money from the rentals need to be kept aside for the sole purpose of these events.

- Mr. Muse shared that the big costs are the janitorial, utilizes and depreciation of the building meaning that money received need to pay those expenses.
- Dr. White chimed in stating that the analysis of the actual cost needs to be done. He went on to say that a school budget is based on the school day and cannot sustain the additional time this school remains operational. A contingency fund needs to put in place to offset the additional cost. Dr. White explained the state law that rental fees can go back into the building for maintenance purposes. A revolving stabilization account can be created. Currently what is in place now only covers man power costs.

District Agreement Committee

Ms. Rood shared the following

- Met with representation from the three towns and finance director and discuss the regional agreement that brings the town together. Met with an outside group that created a report about the struggles we face, and discussion took place about budget assessments. Conversations about changes that may need to be made to the regional agreement.
- Vice Chairperson Burke requested that the presentation of that report to the committee be put on the January agenda.
- Dr. White shared that a meeting with Town Administrator, Selectman, Dr. White, Ms. Burke and Ms. Rood will take place soon.

Joint Committee

Next meeting December 12th

Agenda item I.X.

OPEN COMMENTS

Ms. Rood thanked Mr. Jones for the great work on the fields and for everyone to take a look the pictures he shared and the before and after improvement from the before and after.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Ms. Smith gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Ms. Barrows

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 11, 2019 at 6:30

Submitted by:

Jenn Seco

Recording Secretary