

**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rochester, Massachusetts  
16 Pine Street - Rochester, MA 02770**

**MEETING MINUTES  
September 2, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chairperson Hartley. Ms. Hartley introduced the Rochester School Committee members and stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being videotaped, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson Hartley stated this meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format and the School Committee and Administrators are attending in person at Rochester Memorial School, located at 16 Pine Street, Rochester MA 02770, and Public Access is available through zoom. Superintendent Nelson also introduced the school administrators in attendance.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN HYBRID FORMAT:**

Sharon Hartley – Chairperson  
Anne Fernandes – Vice-Chairperson  
Robin Rounseville  
Katherine Duggan  
Jason Chisholm

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**OTHERS PRESENT IN HYBRID FORMAT:**

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools  
Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Instruction  
Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations  
Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services  
Derek Medeiros, Principal  
Charles West, Assistant Principal  
Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Teachers, Parents and Members of the Press and Public

**RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT – NEW STAFF**

Dr. Pearson-Campbell first spoke regarding the “New Teacher Orientation” which took place on August 26, 2021 in the cafeteria of the Old Rochester Regional cafeteria, stating the following:

- Began with a continental breakfast
- The new teaching staff was introduced to the Central Office staff
- Mr. Craig Davidson presented an overview on Student Services
- New teachers were introduced to our Technology Team
- New teachers met their Mentors
- New teachers traveled to their schools to see their new classrooms
- New teachers received a calendar and each month they will meet as a Team

- The first meeting in September will concentrate on preparing students for accelerated learning focusing on three key areas: Sense of Belonging; Monitoring Understanding; and Strong Instruction

Mr. Medeiros introduced Rochester Memorial's new staff as follows:

Michael Forns:

- Started off at RMS as a substitute
- Transitioned into the cafeteria and supported lunch and recess
- Transitioned last year as being a campus aide supporting our students during the pandemic
- He joins RMS as a Grade 3 Classroom teacher

Mr. Forns stated he welcomes this position at RMS and stated this really is the best school system he has ever encountered – the support from the top down to the colleagues that you work with is unparalleled and the community itself, working with the kids, is a very special place. Mr. Forns stated the kids are excited to be back in school, they are excited to be engaged in learning and every teacher in the hallways is just so welcoming to the students – they genuinely love what they do – I love what I do.

Mr. Forns stated it is an honor and a privilege to work in this community and thanked everyone who was part of the process in choosing him for this position.

Paige Teves:

- Last year was a student teacher in one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms with Ms. Audette and Ms. Higgins and became a regular Team member of that grade
- Once her student teaching was completed, she helped RMS out as a substitute
- She has a love for reading
- She joins RMS as a Grade 6 ELA teacher

Ms. Teves stated RMS is incredible and last year was her first year in teaching and watching everyone navigate in working together through a pandemic was very inspirational. Ms. Teves stated to see the team come together and watch them put a smile on their faces in front of the students and being able to adapt and be flexible with the students is something she looked forward to every day. Ms. Teves stated she is super happy to be working with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team.

Chairperson Hartley welcomed Mr. Forns and Ms. Teves and stated she is going to leave, under the care of Mr. Medeiros, an apple for each of them, which is a symbolic gift for a teacher and a symbol for the growth and sustenance that teachers provide.

Ms. Hartley stated she is very proud to have both Mr. Forns and Ms. Teves join RMS.

Mr. Medeiros stated Ms. Janet Lepage has joined RMS as a lunch aide and noted that Ms. Lepage was part of the RMS community for many years, retired, and now has come back to RMS to assist us during lunch.

Mr. Medeiros stated Alison Guard has joined RMS as the Principal's Secretary and noted she is not new to the school district. Mr. Medeiros noted Ms. Guard was the part-time secretary of the Athletic Department at the high school and prior to that Ms. Guard had a part-time position in the Guidance Department at the Jr. High School. Mr. Medeiros stated Ms. Guard will attend the October School Committee meeting to meet everyone at that time.

Ms. Hartley welcomed both Ms. Lepage and Ms. Guard to RMS and stated there will be apples in the fridge for them as well and will be happy to meet them in October.

Ms. Hartley welcomed Mr. Jason Chisholm as the newest member of Rochester School Committee and noted she is very happy to have him a part of the committee and looks forward to working with him this upcoming school year.

Mr. Chisholm stated he is happy to be a part of the committee and is looking forward to doing the work and he is excited to be a part of the committee.

#### **I. Approval of Minutes:**

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session: June 14, 2021 and July 19, 2021

##### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of June 14, 2021 and July 19, 2021

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of June 14, 2021

MOTION: by Anne Fernandes to approve the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021 as presented

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAINED: Jason Chisholm

MOTION PASSED

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of July 19, 2021

MOTION: by Robin Rounseville to approve the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021 as presented

SECONDED: Kate Duggan

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAINED: Jason Chisholm

MOTION PASSED

B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session: June 9 and June 14, 2021

##### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the Executive session minutes of June 9 and June 14, 2021

Chairperson Hartley stated these minutes will be approved during Executive Session.

#### **IV. General**

A. Opening Day Update

##### Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from Administration Superintendent, Michael S. Nelson stated the following:

“Like last year, it has been an interesting first week once again – this year, Mother Nature through us a curveball but we demonstrated the importance of being flexible problem solvers and I appreciate the communities support today as we made the decision we thought was best for all students and all families.

Mr. Nelson publically thanked the local public officials who helped make the decisions in terms of putting safety first.

Superintendent Nelson continued:

“It feels funny calling this our first official Rochester School Committee meeting of the school year since all of you joined us at the Joint School Committee meeting this past Thursday to discuss our schools’ Back to School 2021-2022 Re-opening Plan. I know that a lot of information was swiftly changing, but again, I cannot be more proud to work with this school community in terms of making difficult decisions, but ultimately, putting the greater good of all as our primary focus.

Before I discuss opening day – I want to briefly report out on the work that the leadership council completed this past summer. We spent three long days working together reflecting on the work that was done not only last year but in recent years, reflecting on what we have learned and where we want to go in moving forward in regard to our Vision 2023 Plan. We took time to reflect on our own leadership style – what we have learned about ourselves as leaders, especially in light of the pandemic and the importance of taking care of yourself, so that you can lead others.

We took part in training – our legal counsel, Attorney Paige Tobin spoke to the new laws regarding Civil Rights, Special Education and Anti-Bullying.

In looking at bridging the gap between pre-pandemic and now, we took a look at the social/emotional clinical review by Dr. Alex Hirshberg (from James Levine & Associates Mental Health Services) conducted last year. Dr. Hirshberg’s presentation to the Leadership Council focused on the areas of strength that we have in our school district and the areas that we can build upon. We were able to look at what he saw from an outside perspective and our current Strategic Plan.

Time was also spent discussing how to use professional development strategically this school year. We are going to shift our focus from talking about crisis management/leadership – we realize that COVID-19 is something we are going to take very seriously and adjust to in terms of keeping the health and safety of all at the forefront - we discussed the importance of shifting our lens from COVID-19 management to the important conversation of teaching and learning.”

Mr. Nelson thanked the Administrators for setting aside this time, and stated it was great to be able to bond with them. Mr. Nelson noted there are a lot of new members to the Leadership Team – Howie Barber, Dr. Pearson-Campbell, Mr. Davidson, Principals and Assistant Principals throughout our district – they all joined us in the midst of a pandemic and we were not able to learn a lot about each other and build relationships in terms of being able to support one another in moving forward.

#### OPENING DAY

Superintendent Nelson continued:

“We started the day by connecting with colleagues under our outside tents over coffee and breakfast foods. Staff members reported to one of three locations to hear opening remarks from the superintendent, welcomed new

teachers and staff members, and recognized the many employees that have served our schools for many years – from 5 to 42 years of service.

We closed our district-wide event with hearing a motivational speech from Mr. Keith Davis of the Say Yes Institute. Mr. Davis pushed our staff to recognize that all students have the ability to be winners, to achieve their goals, and need teachers like all of ours to be there for them - day in and day out. He stressed the importance of doing our jobs to the best of our abilities, to fill the gaps for students, and always be willing to give a student another chance to succeed.”

Mr. Nelson stated in closing, teachers reported back to their school buildings for teacher planning time and building specific discussions.

Mr. Medeiros stated before any of the classrooms were able to be put together, Mr. Ouellette/Custodial Staff, Mr. Simmons/Tech Team and Mr. Jones did a phenomenal job in preparing the building allowing the teachers/staff to come into the building and set up their beautiful classrooms with the technology they needed.

Mr. Medeiros stated the classrooms were quickly able to get set up with 3 feet distance between desks in the classrooms and the cafeteria set up with 6 feet distance between desks. Mr. Medeiros stated all of us at RMS feel as though we have all of the tools in our toolboxes to be able to function as a school during a pandemic. Mr. Medeiros stated teachers drew diagrams on their white boards of how they wanted their classroom set up, in a safe manner for both the students and staff.

Mr. Medeiros stated a Q&A session was held by zoom for parents/guardians – a power point presentation was given with a lot of visuals – showing what the lower and upper elementary classrooms looked like as well as the cafeteria; there were pictures of exiting and entering the building from recess, etc. Mr. Medeiros stated parents asked a lot of questions, and the feedback from the presentation was very positive and the parents felt we were prepared and they new what their students were going to be encountering.

Mr. Medeiros stated when the staff returned back to school, it was not all about mask breaks/snack breaks, it was about teaching and learning.

Mr. Medeiros stated they could not have asked for a smoother transition during the first two days of school.

Mr. West stated he was happy to see the children in the building; the teachers embraced the opening day experiences; and, things went very well.

Superintendent Nelson stated Central Office did their best to get to every school on opening day – Dr. Pearson-Campbell was at RMS to welcome students, families and staff members back first thing in the morning and both he and Howie Barber were able to visit all of the schools on opening day.

Mr. Nelson stated his takeaway on these past couple of days was the confidence of staff and noted you could tell they learned a lot from last year. Mr. Nelson stated there was a level of comfort he felt from staff, in being able to get back into their classrooms and begin teaching and learning.

Questions/Concerns/Comments from School Committee Members:

Chairperson Hartley stated how grateful she was of the Q&A presentation and it was reassuring that the leaders worked together to make sure that the opening of all schools was clear and consistent throughout the district.

Ms. Rounseville:

What are the buses looking like as far as how many students are riding them – drop-off/pick-up?

Mr. Medeiros stated over the summer they received quite a few emails from parents/guardians indicating that they wanted their children to transition back to riding the bus and that certainly helped with our traffic flow. Mr. Medeiros noted our buses are back to being full, but not over-crowded at this time. There are no school buses that are almost vacant – the capacity of ridership is pretty evenly distributed.

Mr. Medeiros stated they were able to hold an in-person Open House and extended a “thank-you” to the parents/guardians and community members for following the strategies that were implemented to ensure everyone’s safety, not only our teachers but our families as well. Mr. Medeiros stated parents were happy to be able to see the school, noting that for some parents it was their first time walking the halls at RMS.

Superintendent Nelson stated in addition to refocusing on teaching and learning this year, there are so many things happening at RMS and in our school district. Mr. Nelson stated he has challenged our staff and administration to make sure that we recognize great things that are happening at our schools as well.

#### B. Approval of Student Handbook

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the Student Handbook for the 2021-2022 School Year

Superintendent Nelson stated a first draft of the Student Handbook was submitted to the School Committee members and his recommendation would be for the members to take the draft, review it, and then offer back any feedback to Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Nelson and at the next scheduled school committee meeting they could have a discussion and the committee could review it and consider taking official action on it.

Chairperson Hartley and school committee members agreed to the above.

Ms. Rounseville:

Is the handbook printed and handed to families, or is it accessed on line?

Mr. Medeiros stated it is accessed on line and for those families, who do not have access to the Internet, they are more than happy to send a hard copy to those families and it also can be translated if necessary.

#### **V. New Business**

##### C. Business

##### 1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a report from Mr. Barber

Mr. Barber stated from a financial reporting perspective, since we are at the year-end close still, we are making sure that FY21 is clean and we have been working with the Town Administrator as well to make sure everything is properly posted and closed out.

Mr. Barber stated we are also in the process of submitting the E&D report to the state.

Mr. Barber stated as far as transportation, Cheryl Sweeney of Amaral Bus Company did a lot of work over the summer regarding the ridership, making sure all of the accommodations have been put into place for our students, noting last year we were at a 30% ridership, and beginning this year, we are at 100% ridership.

Mr. Barber stated as far as technology, all of our chromebooks have been returned, cleaned up and reset for the beginning of this school year.

Mr. Barber presented the Food Service Director's Report by Jill Henesey dated August/September 2021 as follows:

- DESE provided all Directors an update on the USDA School Meal Flexibilities:
  - USDA has granted us the ability to provide ALL students with a Free Reimbursable Breakfast & Free Reimbursable Lunch for this academic year. Extra items will be available for purchase this year (limited snacks, beverages and second entrees)
- New Point of Sale System, Titan – cloud based technology that has live data and transactions, id/barcode scanners to eliminate pin pad touch points. Temporary student id's will be provided by Lifetouch Portraits, permanent id's to follow
- Lower parent transaction fee \$1.95 per family transaction, parents can monitor child's account purchases, add funds, set up automatic payments, transfer money from one child's account to another, apply for Meal Benefits and reprint important letters they have received
- Food and Nutrition Website – featuring an interactive Menu, Menu Mobile App, Online Meals Application, Nutrition Education for parents, students and staff and more. Very important to check often for updates
- Nation-wide supply chain disruptions and price increases are having an impact on our program. Changes to posted menus may happen without notice. Please have patience and understanding. We will ensure that all students are provided a well-balanced, nutritious meal.
- District-wide, all of our cafeteria staff engaged in professional development training prior to student's arrival. Training consisted of updated meal patterns, new point of sale training, bar code scanning and more.

Questions/Concerns by School Committee Members:

Chairperson Hartley:

How were parents notified of the new company (Titan)?

Mr. Barber stated an email went out to parents/guardians this past Monday afternoon.

Mr. Barber presented the Facilities Director's Report by Gene Jones dated September 2021 as follows:

- All firefighting systems have been inspected and tested including the ANSUL (kitchen fire suppression system), fire sprinkler, kitchen hoods and stationary fire extinguishers
- The boilers have been cleaned, serviced and inspected
- Annual air quality testing of facility scheduled
- HVAC Assessment scheduled

- Covid-19 protocols set for HVAC, Cleaning, Sanitizing and traffic control
- Competed crack seal, seal coating and striping of all parking lots and roads
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Mr. Nelson stated they were able to utilize some new revenues to purchase air purifiers for every learning space at RMS, as well as the other schools in the district. They have been ordered and shipped, and we are awaiting the arrival of them any day now. Mr. Nelson stated this is another safety health factor for all of our students and staff.

Jason Chisholm:

Will there be an announcement to families of the arrival of these air purifiers?

Mr. Nelson stated there would be an announcement to families when the air purifiers have arrived, that they are now in place, and similar to the HVAC, we will be tracking the number of hours they are in use in order to change the filters and when it comes to the HVAC and air purifiers air quality inspection which will take place this weekend, all of the reports are shared with staff members as well as published on the district's website on the "re-opening page" for the community to take a look at.

Mr. Medeiros stated in one of the slides during the Q&A presentation, air purifiers was mentioned, stating one would be placed in every learning space at RMS when they arrive.

Mr. Chisholm noted in the spirit of making families aware of the good things we are doing would not be a bad idea – for example: mother at home who is hypervigilant and quite often will ask what do you think about the air purification... what do you think about what the HVAC is like at school for the kids? Mr. Chisholm thinks this would be powerful information to be sent out periodically.

#### D. Personnel

The following staff members were hired for the 2021-2022 school year

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Paige Teves	Classroom Teacher	08/30/21
Alison Guard	Principal's Secretary	08/16/21

The following staff members retired/resigned/non-renewal during the 2020-2021 school year

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Karen Lefebvre	Classroom Teacher: Gr. 4	Retirement
Karen Della Cioppa	STEM Teacher	Retirement
Donna Abaray	Principal's Secretary	Retirement

The following staff changed positions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Old Position</u>	<u>New Position</u>
Michael Forns	Paraprofessional	Elementary Teacher
Lisa Mazzuca	Paraprofessional	Academic Interventionist
	Remote Teacher (20-21 School Year)	
Scott Huckabee	Classroom Teacher	STEM Teacher
Amanda Audette	Classroom Teacher Gr. 3	Classroom Teacher Gr. 5



Mr. Medeiros stated there is one more three-hour lunch aide position that has been posted, and they will be interviewing candidates who have expressed interest in this position very shortly.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Hartley expressed appreciation once again for all of the work that was done over the summer to bring us to this point where we have, what I consider, to be a well-organized and safe school, having the teachers focusing on excellent teaching and learning.

Ms. Hartley stated she attended open house, so she was able to have a little walk around the school and noted it was a very quiet open house because we did not have our children here. Ms. Hartley stated the rooms are beautiful and they are all ready to go. Ms. Hartley noted staff were out in the hallways throughout the school and stated it all went very smooth. Ms. Hartley hopes that next year we will be able to have the full open house atmosphere.

Ms. Hartley reminded the school committee members and community members of the important Town Meeting coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and will be held at Rochester Memorial School in the cafetorium. Ms. Hartley stated the Rochester Board of Selectman met with the Joint Board of Selectman to consider and talk about the revised Old Rochester District Agreement. Ms. Hartley stated the Board made a Motion to place the revised Old Rochester District Agreement on the Agenda, and to support it as well. Ms. Hartley stated the Board also supported a Memorandum of Agreement.

Superintendent Nelson stated all three Boards of Selectman took a similar vote and this is very exciting since this has now been going on for three years and the last time the Regional Agreement that governs the 7-12 Old Rochester District between the three towns was in 1986. Mr. Nelson stated this is a big deal, not only to bring our Agreement into a place where it meets all current laws and regulations, it will also have some benefits to help the towns in terms of predictable budgeting as well as some other facets we believe are in the best interests for not only our towns but for the families and the students who attend those schools.

### **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Superintendent Nelson stated a lot of teaching happened over the summer beginning with our S.A.I.L. program directed by Mr. West and Mr. Letendre, which offered special education services as well as enrichment opportunities to over 150-180 students on an annual basis. Mr. Nelson stated this program ran six weeks for our students and it was great seeing students engaged over the summer months. Mr. Nelson extended a "thank-you" to Mr. West, Mr. Letendre, teachers, staff members and facilities, who not only prepped the building (ORR High School), but also once again, made this program a success over the summer.

Mr. Nelson stated we also offered an additional week of programming called "The Summer Acceleration Academy" for over 150 students and more importantly any family who showed interest in this program was offered a spot. Mr. Nelson stated we applied for different grants and also utilized our operating budget, again to really symbolize what we talked about earlier, which is shifting our focus to teaching and learning. Mr. Nelson stated this program was offered to our rising Kindergarten students, Grades 1-4 students, Grade 8 students and Grade 10 students. Mr. Nelson stated it was an intense week of learning in either a literacy academy or a math academy. Mr. Nelson stated so many of our own teaching staff/support staff participated in this academy and in many cases we were able to place Rochester students with Rochester staff, etc. Mr. Nelson stated we used data in terms of what students we thought

would benefit most from this academy and noted research shows this week-long intervention of acceleration is almost equivalent to a month long worth of learning. Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to the Wanderer for covering this event, as well as Mr. Davidson, Dr. Pearson-Campbell, Mr. West, Mr. Letendre, Mr. Tavares and the entire teaching and support staff for being a part of this academy. Mr. Nelson stated breakfast and lunch was provided for the students for this weeklong program, and we were able to offer these students enrichment opportunities that ran from 8:30am to 2:00pm.

Mr. Nelson stated this is what we view as a symbol of our commitment to using data to re-engage our focus solely on teaching and learning moving forward.

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Instruction reported as follows:

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated this was a TEAM effort by Central Office Administration, Administrators throughout the buildings, as well as our teaching and support staff to make this week long program a success. Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated although school was over in June, our teachers wanted additional opportunities in July.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated one of the things offered through our teacher collaborative, was on-line classes from June 2021 to June 2022, allowing teachers a full year to complete their PDP’s and keep up with licensure – the three courses that were offered were: Mental Health, English Language Learners and Differentiated Instruction; and, teachers had the opportunity to use Atlas Curriculum Mapping.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated it was exciting going through the building over the summer and seeing different interactions amongst the students.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated her focus this year is on Teacher Leadership in our schools and to focus on our three initiatives from the Strategic Plan – 1) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, 2) Global Citizenship, and 3) Project-Based Learning.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated during PD on September 22 teachers will have/be able to: access to experts in project based learning focusing on writing across content areas; reflect on student performance using data across grade levels; opportunities to learn new strategies to support reading in early literacy grades; and, continue learning about strategies for Global Citizenship and Social Emotional Learning.

Mr. Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services reported as follows:

Mr. Davidson stated on top of Special Education and Civil Rights Law, Ms. Tobin provided training on Title 9 and Bullying. Mr. Davidson stated an update on these new laws and regulations have been updated on the District’s website and we will continue to update the website as we receive notices from the Department of Education or Ms. Tobin’s office.

Mr. Davidson reported on Early Childhood Enrollment for FY22 as follows:

- Rochester Enrollment
  - Typical Developmental Students: 16
  - IEP Students: 8
  - Total: 24
  - Waitlist: 8 students

Mr. Davidson stated due to the cancelation of school today because of inclement weather, the Project Grow classes have been pushed back one additional day and will begin next Wednesday so that home visits can take place on Tuesday.

Mr. Davidson noted the following:

- Kindergarten will begin on Tuesday, September 7.
- Pre-School Screenings at RMS will take place on October 19, 2021
- Tri-Town Early Childhood Council meeting will take place on October 19, 2021 from 6:00pm-7:00pm via zoom

Mr. Davidson stated Dr. Pearson-Campbell and he worked with multiple teachers in the district along with Doreen Lopes (Early Childhood Coordinator), relating to Building Equitable Support for Children with Disabilities – the TEAM is very proud of the work done relating to this topic and noted the following:

- The Early Childhood Team utilized 298 Grant Funds to support instruction around Equitable Supports and Anti-Bias Practices
- Each classroom through the tri-town district will receive library books for their classroom, as well as home/lending reading library books for families
- Supplies will be given to each of the tri-town classrooms

Link to some of the Supplies - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/q9HPHednTv2s8Mg57>

Questions/Concerns/Comments by School Committee Members:

Kate Duggan:

Ms. Duggan stated she heard great things about the Acceleration Academy that took place over the summer from both parents and students. Ms. Duggan asked if this program is going to take place next summer?

Superintendent Nelson stated they were fortunate enough to be able to provide the Acceleration Academy using grants and the operating budget funds. Mr. Nelson stated now we will be able to look at different data points – MCAS scores, Aimsweb, formal/informal assessments, etc. – and be able to see what different interventions or areas of programming we may need that we can utilize our ESSR Funds for. Mr. Nelson stated we want to be able to bridge where we have been and where we are going and the ESSR Funds will allow us to bridge that gap. Mr. Nelson stated this Acceleration Academy will be data driven, and yes, we would like to offer it next summer as well.

Ms. Rounseville commented on how much work was done over the summer and stated the Pre-School resources are just beautiful.

Mr. Nelson stated through a separate grant, Mr. Davidson was able to extend the school day for many of our students who attended the S.A.I.L. program called “Community Connections”.

Mr. Davidson stated this camp ran for four weeks and was directed by Melissa Cieto, Special Education Teacher from Sippican School. Mr. Davidson stated the program ran in four different segments from 12:15pm to 3:15pm: Week 1 – Kindergarten and Grade 1; Week 2 – Grades 3, 4 & 5; Week 3 – Grades 5 & 6; and Week 4 – Grades 7 & 8.

Mr. Davidson stated through the grant they were able to hire high school aged students as role models to be “counselors”, and Julie Taylor, ORR Jr. High Guidance Counselor was part of the teaching staff as well. Mr. Davidson stated the entire program was based on “social skills” and one of the biggest parts of the roadmap that Dr. Pearson-Campbell speaks about is the social/emotional piece and really belonging within our district. Mr. Davidson stated we were able to connect high school students with elementary students and we were able to accommodate every student who signed up.

Mr. Chisholm asked if the grant funds were only enough for this summer or is it possible to extend it to next summer as well? What would it take to make that happen?

Mr. Nelson stated the Acceleration Roadmap, from what we heard from the Department of Education, that it is not a 1-year roadmap but a multi-year roadmap. Mr. Nelson stated the grant funds being offered for this is for multiple years.

Chairperson Hartley stated the “golden moment” for her was on the consistency that each of the pre-school programs would be receiving support instruction around Equitable Supports and Anti-Bias Practices. Ms. Hartley stated it is really important in developing our program and developing our students - a sense of who they are and what we are here. Ms. Hartley stated the most important thing is having consistency for our students in transitioning from the elementary schools to the JHS. Ms. Hartley stated having all of our leaders work together and develop these understandings has an impact on all of our schools.

Mr. Davidson stated the entire purchase was really driven by our three pre-school teachers and Doreen Lopes. Mr. Davidson stated it was a yearlong commitment that Ms. Lopes signed us up for and once a month we joined pre-school staff around the state from different districts and we chose what we wanted to focus on.

#### **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:**

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

Mr. Medeiros stated his Principal’s Report for this meeting was dedicated to the re-opening of school and his presentation at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Medeiros asked the committee members if they had any additional questions – there were none.

#### **VIII. School Committee**

##### **B. Committee Reports**

##### **1. Budget Subcommittee**

Chairperson Hartley stated the following:

No report at this time.

##### **2. ORR District School Committee**

Kate Duggan stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2021.

##### **3. SMEC**

Anne Fernandes stated they met on June 22, 2021 and reported the following:

- Approved the meeting minutes
- Looked at staff appointments and reductions
- Considered the operating spending plan and revenue update – reviewed it and approved it
- Leasing of the Rogers School did not manifest this year, therefore a new RFP was approved to take that position
- The Board received and approved as presented the second reading of the FY22 Budget
- The Board reviewed and approved one Policy Revision
- Next meeting Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

4. READS

Mr. Nelson stated the first meeting of the school year is scheduled for September 16, 2021.

5. Tri-town Foundation

Robin Rounseville stated the following:  
They have not met.

6. Early Childhood Council

Kate Duggan stated the next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021.

7. Policy Sub-Committee

Kate Duggan stated they met on August 23, 2021 to discuss the EBCFA (Face Covering Policy). It was in preparation of the Joint School Committee meeting and it turned out that the policy was not voted on due to the state level mandate. The next meeting date has not been determined as of yet.

8. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee

Kate Duggan stated they have not met recently.

C. School Committee Re-Organization

Recommendation:

That the School Committee re-organize for the 2021-2022 school year.

Superintendent Nelson explained the process, noting that his position is only to ask the committee members for nominations for the Chairperson's position, and once a Chairperson is elected, he turns the meeting back over to the newly elected Chairperson who will continue the process of nominating members for the various positions available.

Superintendent Nelson entertained a nomination for Chairperson for the 21-22 school year for the Rochester School Committee.

MOTION: by Anne Fernandes to nominate Sharon Hartley as Chairperson for the 21-22 school year.

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Hartley if she would accept the position if appointed? Ms. Hartley responded yes.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any other nominations for the Chairperson at this time – there were none.

IN FAVOR: 5:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Chairperson Hartley entertained a nomination for Vice Chairperson for the 21-22 school year for Rochester Memorial School

MOTION: by Robin Rounseville to nominate Anne Fernandes as Vice Chairperson for the 21-22 school year.

SECONDED: Jason Chisholm

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chairperson at this time – there were none.

IN FAVOR: 5:0  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: by Kate Duggan to nominate Diana Russo as School Committee Secretary for the 21-22 school year.

SECONDED: Anne Fernandes  
IN FAVOR: 5:0  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to nominate Diana Russo as Recording Secretary for the 21-22 school year.

SECONDED: Anne Fernandes  
IN FAVOR: 5:0  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

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Chairperson	Sharon Hartley
Vice Chairperson	Anne Fernandes
School Committee Secretary	Diana Russo
Recording Secretary	Diana Russo

Chairperson Hartley stated the following will be addressed as one slate and voted on in its entirety at the end.

ORR District School Committee	Jason Chisholm Kate Duggan (Alternate)
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Mass. School Supt. Union No. 55	Anne Fernandes Robin Rounseville Sharon Hartley
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READS	Michael Nelson (appointed in May)
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Sick Leave Bank	Robin Rounseville Anne Fernandes
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SMEC	Anne Fernandes
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Early Childhood Advisory Council	Kate Duggan
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Sole Signatory	Sharon Hartley Anne Fernandes
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MASC Delegate/Legislative Liaison	Jason Chisholm
School Physician	Dr. Reynolds/Dr. Mendes (Wareham Pediatrics)
Health & Safety Committee	Robin Rounseville Kate Duggan
Collective Bargaining (Board of Selectmen)	Brad Morse
Grievance Subcommittee	(Committee as a whole)
Capital Planning Committee	Anne Fernandes
Policy Subcommittee	Kate Duggan
Warrant Review Committee	(Committee as a whole)
Tri-Town Education Foundation Committee	Robin Rounseville
Budget Subcommittee	(Committee as a whole)
Town Liaison	Sharon Hartley
Superintendent's Goals Sub-Committee	Sharon Hartley Anne Fernandes
Healthy Tri-Town	Robin Rounseville Sharon Hartley
Anti-Racism Subcommittee	Kate Duggan

Superintendent Nelson suggested for the ORR District School Committee that an “alternate” be named as well. Mr. Nelson stated just in case the designated person for that committee is not able to attend a meeting and there is an important vote, Rochester would be able to have equal representation.

Question by Mr. Chisholm:

On some of the committees there are more than one name. What is the basis for that?

Chairperson Hartley stated it is a “case-by-case” explanation for many committees but generally it is necessary to have more than one person. For example: “Sick Leave Bank” – that is an action where we are working with a question from the Teacher’s Union, and in some cases, it is best for us to work as a “Committee as a Whole. Ms. Hartley stated if we have less than a majority, committee members designated can come back to the committee as a whole and we can have council, give advice and give an answer. Ms. Hartley concluded in many cases it is helpful for us to not all be together but for two people to be designated.

Superintendent Nelson stated the contract calls for two people for the Sick Leave Bank and noted the Early Childhood Advisory Council has one member appointed from each of the elementary school committees – Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester – so there is equal representation. Mr. Nelson stated this is the primary reason, if it is not contractual.

Ms. Hartley stated the Rochester School Committee has had a collaborative committee for so many years, where they really enjoy being together and making decisions together. Ms. Hartley stated when the committee meets together on the Budget Sub-committee, they are all able to hear the information and immediately discuss amongst the committee and make decisions together. Ms. Hartley stated the Rochester School Committee is a very dedicated committee who works well together.

MOTION: by Robin Rounseville to approve the above committee slate as revised/presented above  
SECONDED: Jason Chisholm  
IN FAVOR: 5:0  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

### VIII. School Committee

#### IX. Future Business

##### A. Timeline

Chairperson Hartley reported:

The next meeting(s) of Committee will be held as follows:

<u>Rochester School Committee</u>	<u>Joint School Committee</u>
October 7, 2021 (hybrid)	September 23, 2021
Rochester Memorial School	Remote via zoom
16 Pine Street	Time: 6:30pm
Rochester, MA 02770	
Time: 6:30pm	

##### B. Future Agenda Items:

- MCAS Results Report (November/December – depending upon receipt of results)
- Initial Budget Review (January)
- School Lunch Statement (January/June)
- Approval of Chairperson’s Annual Report (February)
- Interim report on School Committee progress toward goals (February)
- Budget Approval (public hearings) (February)
- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

#### X. Open Comments

Chairperson Harley stated there is a policy for “Open Comments”, noting Open Comments section will be limited to twenty minutes and people are given three (3) minutes to speak. Ms. Hartley noted we invite anyone who wishes to speak to go to the chat area of your screen, put your name and address in the chat and you can also add the comment.



Chairperson Hartley stated the committee takes the comment(s) very seriously; we appreciate that you took the time to come to the meeting; and, we will listen to your questions/comments. Ms. Hartley stated we do not answer your questions; they will go into our records; we will see them all; and, we will consider and think carefully about your comments and questions.

Superintendent Nelson stated many times people put comments into the chat feature without being recognized by the Chairperson. Mr. Nelson noted these comments would not be recognized unless the Chairperson recognizes that person in accordance with our policy.

There were no comments or questions.

#### XI. Information Items

##### LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021

Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021

Rochester Memorial's Student Handbook – FY21-22

Facilities Director Report – September, 2021

Food Service Director Report – September, 2021

Principal's Report – September 2, 2021

Meeting of the Regular Rochester School Committee meeting ended at 8:12pm

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Rochester School Committee at 8:12pm only to go into Executive Session for the purposes of #3 – to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and #7 – to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements to return only to adjourn

SO MOVED: Robin Rounseville

SECONDED: Kate Duggan

IN FAVOR: 5:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary