

**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**November 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**16 Pine Street**  
**Rochester, MA 02770**

**Members Present:** Sharon Hartley, Chairperson, Anne Fernandes, Vice-Chairperson, Robin Rounseville, Kate Duggan and Tina Rood.

**Members Absent:** NONE

**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 Asst. to the Supt., Derek Medeiros, Principal, Rochester Memorial School, Charles West, Asst. Principal, Rochester Memorial School, teachers, parents and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairperson Hartley. Ms. Hartley read the following statement which is also posted on the agenda:

*This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee and Administrators will have the option of meeting in person at Rochester Memorial School, 16 Pine Street, Rochester, MA 02770 or via zoom. Please note that public access is available through zoom ONLY through the link above.*

Ms. Hartley welcomed everyone joining the school committee through zoom and also informed everyone that the following school committee members were participating in the meeting via zoom, Robin Rounseville, Tina Rood, Kate Duggan, Anne Fernandes, and herself, she also stated that Superintendent Michael Nelson and that all other administrators were joining the meeting through zoom. Ms. Hartley expressed that although there is no “recognition of achievement” officially on the agenda, she would like to express her gratitude to everyone at Rochester Memorial School as well as all the support staff and administrators at Central Office that support our school, she expressed that everyone is working incredibly hard, to help our children learn while also keeping them safe. Ms. Hartley also expressed that we now have a “dashboard” that is updated on a weekly basis to show COVID-19 statistics and data by town and school and she expressed that Superintendent Nelson would talk more about this later in the meeting.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of Minutes- Regular Session:**

**June 2, 2020 Minutes**

MOTION: by Ms. Fernandes to approve the June 2nd minutes as amended

SECOND: by Ms. Rounseville

(Roll Call Vote: Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Rood: yes, Duggan: yes, Fernandes: yes)

**October 1, 2020 Minutes- these were held until the next meeting.**

**IV. General**

**A. Reopening Update**

Mr. Nelson read the following statement:

*Thank you for the opportunity to address the school committee this evening regarding our school's reopening: Thus far, Rochester Memorial School has been very fortunate regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the school specifically. We have not had a confirmed positive case as of this meeting related to Rochester Memorial - we have remained as diligent as we know how – as we are aware that the past two weeks Rochester has been identified as a red*

community in accordance with the Department of Health's metric system. This week Rochester's town data has not been released to the best of my knowledge. As a school system – we have had nine positive cases as of today - since the start of school on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Each time there is a case our school officials communicate with town and health officials about the scenario, conduct contact tracing, and notify our school community about the developments. We continue to stress the importance of social distancing – maintaining at least six feet from one another to the best of our abilities – utilizing specific building traffic patterns to decrease social closeness. Hand washing and sanitizing continues to be prioritized for everyone. Face coverings and masks continue to be a staple requirement for all students grade 2 and up and expected for all students in all grades – unless exempted due to medical, disability or safety reasoning. Our students, teachers, school nurse, staff members, custodial staff and our families have been truly great about implementing our safety and health protocols with consistency. We continue to urge all school community members to remain vigilant and take COVID-19 symptoms very seriously each and every day. As of the close of the school day this afternoon – we have zero staff members currently in quarantine and the following number of students in quarantine is 2. We have 8 students symptomatic and awaiting test results. Altogether, since school started we have had 50 students cleared to return to school after displaying symptoms and three staff members cleared to return. I want to thank the town nurses and our school nurse for their leadership around managing COVID-19 scenarios. Their professional approach has been very much appreciated.

Our substitute numbers have remained stable since our last meeting – with no increases or decreases. Presently our enrollment numbers overall are the following:

Homeschool students - 26

Hybrid – 420

Remote – 60

As we move forward – we continue to monitor all available data points and key indicators that could impact decision-making regarding operating learning models.

Last week, I released a Dashboard that was built to organize one place for our data points and key indicators to be housed. We plan on releasing the Dashboard on a weekly basis – ideally the day after the Department of Health's weekly public health report is released.

Key data and indicator points include:

-local covid-19 data

-county covid-19 data

-state covid-19 data

-current stakeholder recommendations or approvals: including the BOH, school physicians, superintendent, and school committee

-DPH metrics (including the daily incidence rate & the positivity rate)

-staff and student school data regarding positive cases and quarantining

-and operational mitigation factors (including air quality, HVAC status, PPE, staff availability, executive orders and agency guidance, and transportation guidance, and others).

Hopefully this data and information is helpful to our school community in understanding the factors that are at play as we navigate operating the schools in a COVID-19 environment.

Additionally, as you recall this school committee approved a Back to School 2020-2021 Plan in August – the district recently released an addendum to that plan that includes feasibility data regarding our school buildings and guidance interpretation. Moreover, the addendum provides additional in-person options for the school committee to consider this school year.

Specifically, the addendum includes a:

-a letter to the school community from the superintendent

-an executive summary of main points

-an overview of the addendum and ongoing considerations when changing learning models

-rationale information

-ideology regarding pivoting from learning model to model

-information regarding the Dashboard I just explained

-Five specific options to consider regarding in-person learning

1. What a full return could look like (no programming modifications)
2. Full return of students maintaining 3-6 feet of social distancing
3. Full return of students maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing
4. Additional opportunities for lower elementary grades
5. Targeting in-person opportunities (scheduling modifications, after school programming, etc.)

Also we included feasibility data for each school building in the district regarding learning spaces, school staffing, current transportation ridership, and fiscal/resource information.

At this time – we are not recommending a learning model change – but wanted to share this update with the committee.

*The thought process is that the Dashboard data points and key indicators should continuously be monitored by key stakeholders and help drive decision-making based on trends – knowing that ultimately student, family, and staff member safety is our number one goal.*

*In closing, having our students in the school building continues to be one of our main focuses – while recognizing that each student and family has a choice regarding which learning model makes sense for them.*

*I thank the committee for their ongoing support and assistance as we work together on behalf of our students and families. That concludes my report this evening.*

Ms. Hartley thanked Mr. Nelson for all his work on the dashboard as well as the addendum of the in-person learning model, Ms. Hartley opened up the floor to the rest of the committee to ask questions.

Ms. Rood also thanked Mr. Nelson for the information and expressed that the dashboard was very helpful and useful information to have. Ms. Rood asked about the cost in the addendum and asked if the cost was per teacher? Mr. Nelson expressed that yes that cost is per teacher at a step 2 Masters based on the most recent collective bargaining agreement. Ms. Rood also asked if the in-person learning model ever became something we used, would we still have to offer the remote learning model? Mr. Nelson expressed that yes a remote learning option would need to be included for families that needed to have that option, Ms. Rood expressed that she thought it was important for the community to understand all that.

Ms. Duggan expressed she was really excited to read this plan and expressed she thought it was a well detailed plan, she expressed that a lot of parents especially those of younger students are struggling, she asked what might you say to a parent of these younger students of when this plan might be able to take effect, especially if the numbers are low.

Mr. Nelson stated that he agrees, and that's why one of the options identified is the lower elementary, however he stated that all students are a concern, and what we want is for all our students to be in the building full time in-person, he wanted to make that very clear, Mr. Nelson expressed that he and his administration are aware that remote learning or hybrid-out days can very challenging for our younger students, as well as for the teachers and support staff managing those classrooms, he expressed the information in this addendum is helpful for the committee to be able to analyze and monitor COVID numbers and consider if that's a direction they want to consider as we move forward, Mr. Nelson expressed that as you review the addendum and review possible changes it's always important to point out the issue of equity and stability, once you move one piece there are others you have to consider, he expressed that everything has to be considered.

Ms. Hartley expressed great gratitude for the teachers and staff during this very difficult time, Ms. Hartley stated that she and Mr. Nelson had a meeting just today with Ms. Bacchiocchi and Mr. DellaCioppa and they expressed how hard the teachers are working and that they are truly supporting each other, Ms. Hartley expressed that her worries with the younger population, especially kindergartens and 1<sup>st</sup> graders, kindergarteners because this the year they develop social skills as well as “learn how to learn” skills, so when they go home they struggle doing things on their own, she expressed she's just as worried about this years 1<sup>st</sup> graders because they missed almost ½ a year last year, and they had some assignments online and teachers and leaders did their best, however these children did miss a great deal of content, learning and social time with their peers. Ms. Hartley expressed if she could bring back two grades those would be the ones she would love to bring back. Ms. Hartley also expressed that parents are doing their absolute best, however in some circumstances they are not able to be with their children when they are home during hybrid-out days, therefore these children may be with grandparents or other caretakers, or some children might not have anyone with them which also creates a loss for children, she expressed that she would love to continue the conversation and hope that we don't stay in the hybrid model for the entire year.

## **B. MCAS Discussion**

Mr. Nelson reported that the school committee asked for MCAS discussion to be added to the agenda, he reported that superintendents are being told by the Commissioner of Education to plan for MCAS testing this school year, Mr. Nelson reported that the high school schedule has been released. Mr. Nelson also expressed that he understands that different groups have different opinions about the tests taking place this particular school year, however at this point that is the direction coming from Department of Education.

Ms. Rood reported to the committee that at the ORR School Committee meeting they learned at their October meeting that their students would be having to take the MCAS test, because they had been postponed and not cancelled from last spring. Ms. Rood expressed that in some cases these students will be looking at material that they have not looked at in a year and half. Ms. Rood explained that several studies have shown that administering these tests at this time will only show the economic divide in our state and not actually provide good useful information for our schools to use for better teaching and learning, she expressed that the time on learning this year in particular is so precious, she reported that right now everyone would have to come in to take the test and that also speaks to the safety of those families who have opted to participate remotely, and then beyond that the whole social/emotional piece is keep talking about, therefore for all of those reasons, MASC has on their docket this year an MCAS Resolution, where they are making a recommendation of a 3-year moratorium to the state. Ms. Rood expressed that the ORR School Committee and the ORPEA are working to write a joint letter to DESE and government representatives to express our concern, and Ms. Rood wanted to bring this information to the Rochester School Committee to see if they would be interested in doing the same.

Ms. Fernandes agreed with Ms. Rood and thinks that writing the letter is a great idea, she agrees that high stakes testing is not our main concern this year for all the reasons that have already been stated.

Ms. Hartley also agreed and expressed that she sees no benefit to our children or to our schools in administering these tests this year.

Ms. Rounseville also agreed and expressed there would be no useful knowledge coming from it and no true picture of where we are at, she expressed it would be a waste of time and resources, and that this year we have precious little of both, she expressed that she supports the letter.

Ms. Rood volunteered to put together a letter for the Rochester School Committee, everyone agreed and thanked Ms. Rood for taking on that task.

Motion to approve an MCAS Resolution

MOTION by Ms. Fernandes

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Rounseville

(Roll Call Vote: Hartley: yes, Rounseville: yes, Rood: yes, Duggan: yes, Fernandes: yes)

## **V. New Business**

### **C. Business**

#### **1. Financial**

Mr. Barber reported that as of October 31, 2020 the Rochester Memorial School currently has \$250,920 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2021 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year to Date Budget Report by Department, we are able to identify how our funds are currently encumbered and expended. This report recognizes that of the \$6,309,641 appropriated to the District, 82.57% is directly assigned and is spent/ encumbered to student instruction.

Facilities: Mr. Barber expressed that he and Mr. Jones, Facilities Director continue to work with the custodial staff to work on maintaining COVID-19 protocols, strictly adhering to HVAC, cleaning,

sanitizing our building, therefore helping us to stay pro-active instead of reactive. Mr. Barber also reported that the buses transporting Rochester students are being sanitized on a daily basis.

Food Service: Mr. Barber also gave an update on the food service, he reported that updated emails have gone out to parents and guardians announcing the expansion the registration for the meals and giving families more time to do their registration for meals, and we also scheduled an additional pick-up time at ORR from 4:30 to 5:30 for families to have that availability after work to pick up meals.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT-** Ms. Hartley reported that she had two meetings this month, one being the superintendent's goals sub-committee where she and Ms. Fernandes met with other members and the Superintendent, she reported they had a very informative discussion and will meet again soon and then will report at the Joint meeting in November. Ms. Hartley also reported that she met with the presidents of the educator's association today and superintendent Nelson regarding the educator evaluation as it was referenced in the current MOU, she expressed that was the first meeting and others will be scheduled soon.

**CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT -** Mr. Nelson reported that he has received information through his superintendent list serv regarding "snow days" for the current school year. Mr. Nelson reported that the commissioner has determined that for this school year only, 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 expressed this decision is made at the local level, he reported that he would be bringing this to the Joint School Committee on November 19<sup>th</sup> but wanted to share it with the Rochester School Committee to see how they felt. The Rochester School Committee members all agreed that it would be a good idea especially during this school year and are looking forward to hearing more about it at the Joint meeting.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell thanked Central Office Administrators for their help in pulling this full day professional development together, she expressed it was a true team effort. Dr. Pearson-Campbell gave an overview of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> full day professional development. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Office of Teaching and Learning hosted a full day of district-wide professional development that focused on Social & Emotional Learning & Global Citizenship. The three areas we will explore are: Cultural Proficiency & Anti-Racism, Student/Teacher Relationships & Empathy and Global Awareness & Personal Responsibility, she expressed that the keynote speakers were **Mr. Mirko Chardin** who facilitated a webinar on ***Beyond Access***. Mirko Chardin is the Founding Head of School of the Putnam Avenue Upper School in Cambridge, MA. Mirko's work has involved all areas of school management and student support, his greatest experience and passion revolves around culturally connected teaching and learning, recruiting and retaining educators of color, restorative practice, and school culture. Mirko was a keynote speaker at the 2017 UDL Symposium. He is also a race, diversity, and cultural proficiency facilitator & leadership coach for the Aspire Institute at Boston University's New Wheelock College of Human Development and Education' as well as for the Center of Artistry and Scholarship. He is a principal mentor for the Perone-Sizer Creative Leadership Institute and is an active hip-hop artist, releasing the album "Unhealthy Societies". Mirko also presents both locally and nationally on issues of cultural proficiency, equity, and the use of personal narratives and is also the co-author with Dr. Katie Novak of the soon to be released "Social Justice in the Hands of Educators" and **Dr. Kalise Wornum** who facilitated a webinar on ***Cultural Proficiency & Equity***. In 2017 Kalise received her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Management. Kalise received her B.A. in Humanities with a concentration in interpersonal communications from Bradford College and a Master's degree in educational administration from The University of Vermont. Kalise has worked at numerous colleges

/universities and K-12 districts which have given her a unique and in-depth understanding of the American educational system. As the Executive Director of Empowering Multicultural Initiatives with curriculum development and instructional responsibilities, she learned the importance of appropriate consistent professional development for teachers. This position also allowed her to work with and provide professional development to educators across the commonwealth and the New England area. Kalise next received her administration license after completing an ELI program through the Boston University/Education Collaborative program enabling her to better identify the perspectives of school leaders. Furthermore, she is currently the Senior Director of Educational Equity for the Public schools of Brookline and is frequently described as an incredibly energetic, informative, dynamic presenter. Her truly authentic entrance into this very complex and daunting conversation relaxes all and makes this seeming impenetrable topic extremely approachable. Dr. Pearson-Campbell also gave an overview of the in-house offerings, which were the following:

**Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell**, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, will facilitate a webinar on *Teaching & Learning Pandemic Pedagogy*.

**Mr. Philip Alessi**, School Psychologist at the Old Rochester Regional High School & Junior High School, will facilitate 2 pre-recorded webinars: one on *Executive Functioning* and the other on *Fostering Positive Relationships with Our Students*. Phil supports students' navigation in today's world of COVID-19 and remote learning.

She also expressed that educators had the opportunity to continue unpacking AIMSWEB benchmark data and or preparing to Pivot.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell reported that at the end of the day a survey was sent out to get feedback for the January full day professional development day.

Mr. Davidson reported that the Student Services Office received some great news this week, the district was selected to be part of the stakeholder group for the new IEP Improvement Project, he expressed that the state has been talking about this for multiple years and we have been selected to be one of the groups that will be taking part in the stakeholders guidance for the state in developing the new IEP for students with disabilities, he expressed that as part of that the district is also waiting to hear if we will be selected as one of the early adopters for the IEP improvement project, Mr. Davidson expressed that we should find out in the upcoming days. Mr. Davidson reported that the second thing his office has been working on is the dyslexia screener, he expressed that final guidance will be coming from the state at the end of this month, he reported that they are looking to approve screeners and program around dyslexia, he reported that as of right now Rochester Memorial uses the Shaywitz screener, which gives our staff the ability to universally screen, identify risk, progress monitor and report results in one seamless system and it's actually tied to our AIMSWeb benchmarking the we have been using districtwide, Rochester Memorial was using this screener last year and we will continue to utilize it this year, Mr. Davidson reported that this program is evidence based, teacher friendly, quick rating skilled designed for grades K-3, and it's part of the Pearson Company. Mr. Davidson expressed that once DESE releases their updated guidance I will be looking to setting up a committee to collaborate on with all the districts and take a look at all the protocols and programming that we will be utilizing for the upcoming years.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-**

Mr. Medeiros reported on the following:

Our school council advisors are also looking to align our student leadership practices with the ORRJHS in shifting to RMS student ambassadors. The focus for the student ambassadors will be on modeling components of our C.A.R.E.S. motto and school rules as well as organizing school spirit themes, instructional videos, etc.

On November 3rd, the Office of Teaching and Learning will host a full day of district-wide professional development that focuses on Social & Emotional Learning & Global Citizenship. The three areas we will explore are: Cultural Proficiency & Anti-Racism, Student/Teacher Relationships & Empathy and Global Awareness & Personal Responsibility. Grade level teams will also continue to unpack Aimsweb and Benchmarking data in order to inform instruction, interventions, etc.

Parent/Teacher conferences took place last week on Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Parents/guardians met virtually with grade level teams/teachers.

For more information please refer to “RSC 11052020 Principal Report”

Ms. Hartley thanked Mr. Medeiros and Mr. West for keeping everything running smoothly, and keeping everyone safe in regards to the drop-off and dismissal, she expressed she knows how much has to go on behind the scenes in order for everything to go according to plan and she appreciates all their hard work.

Mr. Medeiros also added that he had included an enrollment and staffing sheet and asked the committee if they had any questions about that.

Ms. Rood expressed that the SEL Newsletter was a great resource for families, she hopes that families are feeling supported during this unusual time.

Ms. Rood expressed that she had a chance to review the handbook and had some questions. Ms. Rood asked about the new mask mandate regarding anyone over 5 years old having to wear a mask, she asked if that mandate was translating to schools. Mr. Nelson reported that DESE released an email to Superintendents letting us know that in that executive order in section 7 part D these are some legal exemptions and one of them is public/private schools, Mr. Nelson expressed that our current policy would still be appropriate. Ms. Rood expressed that volunteers are a big part of the Rochester Memorial family and asked if we were allowing volunteers into the building at this time. Mr. Medeiros agreed, he expressed that the volunteers are what makes Rochester such a community school, he expressed that the partnerships with our families are very important, he expressed that unfortunately we have had to put a hold on that but as soon as we can open it up again we will certainly do that.

Ms. Rood also expressed that the handbook mentions lunch prices and it's important that families realize that this year lunch is free for everyone.

Ms. Rounseville asked if there has been any movement of students from hybrid to remote and vis versa, Mr. Medeiros indicated that yes they have had movements from all three directions, hybrid to remote learning, remote learning to hybrid and actually had a student from home school to hybrid, Mr. Medeiros expressed that they have been able to accommodate those changes pretty quickly on a case by case basis.

Ms. Rounseville asked if Mrs. Murphy's flu clinic had been well attended, Mr. Medeiros expressed that the clinic was very well attended, she had over 100 participants, she received a lot of good feedback from our families, he expressed Connie Dolan and Michelle Humphrey help Mrs. Murphy, and he thanked them.

Mrs. Hartley asked how are things going at recess and how are you anticipating recess as the weather gets colder. Mr. Medeiros expressed that Mr. West does an amazing job with recess. Mr. West expressed that recess is going extremely well, he reported that they have several activities such as a walking track, soccer (w/ social distancing) he expressed that in relation to the inclement weather we

are planning to do indoor recess and have students work at their desks on their chromebooks or drawing, he expressed that for the most part is been going very well. Mr. Medeiros expressed that he appreciates all of Mr. West's work during recess as well that of all the recess staff.

Ms. Duggan asked if there were any updates for the younger students. Mr. Nelson expressed that now the timeline is mid November, he expressed it's something that him and Mr. Barber talk about on a daily basis. He expressed that once they do get them they will be working with the technology department to set them up.

Ms. Rounseville expressed that we have focused on a lot of positives during this meeting and she's excited to hear all the good news, but she's also interested in hearing from administrators what their biggest challenges are on a daily basis. Mr. Nelson expressed that the majority of his day is spent handling COVI-19 scenarios which ties back to their number one priority which is to keep everyone safe. Mr. Nelson expressed that 80% of his day relates to COVID-19 matters. Mr. Medeiros agreed with Mr. Nelson and expressed that he spends a lot time reviewing protocol and procedures due to COVID. Mr. Medeiros expressed that he appreciates the teachers and the students and knows that they appreciate being in school even though it looks very different, Mr. Medeiros wishes for RMS to get back to what it looked like before for them as soon as it's safe to do so. Mr. West expressed that our teachers and families are up against great challenges and he expressed he is blown away by all the collaboration between our community, our families, our students, our teachers, it's amazing to see on a daily basis. He expressed that as an administrator he just wants to keep supporting our families and our staff with whatever they need to keep doing what they need to do. Dr. Pearson-Campbell expressed that she always says in spite of everything we are still moving forward, she expressed that there is also a lot of laughter at central office which helps.

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **B. Committee Reports**

- 1. Budget Subcommittee - NONE**
- 2. ORR District School Committee-** Ms. Rood reported that ORR met last month and that there was a great presentation on teaching and learning by teachers and administration and she recommended that everyone watch it.
- 3. SMEC -** Ms. Fernandes expressed they will meet on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. READS- NONE**
- 5. Tri-Town Foundation –** Ms. Rounseville reported that they met on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and discussed possible grants and possible virtual fundraising, they meet again on January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 6. Early Childhood Council-** Ms. Duggan reported that they met on October 27<sup>th</sup>, they talked a little about school reopening, talked about the Plumb Library is opening with visitors by appointment, and they also have curbside pickup, they also shared some resources from their website. Mr. Nelson also reported that the High School Pre-School program received their Chapter 74 funding approval. He expressed that him and Ms. Lopes have been working on this since last year and they just heard that it has been approved. Mr. Nelson expressed that this is great news for the district both in terms of funding as well as programming for our students.
- 7. Policy Sub-Committee –** Ms. Duggan reported that the Policy Sub Committee will meet on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 8. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee –** Ms. Duggan reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for that committee has not been scheduled yet. Ms. Rood reported that one of the pieces of homework was to listen to a podcast called "Serial" and they did a piece called "Nice White Parents" and it's about equity in schools and it's very well done and she encouraged everyone to watch it.

## TIMELINE

Ms. Hartley reviewed future timeline and stated the next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and the next Joint School Committee is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hartley asked her committee how they wanted to proceed with future meetings as we move into the winter months, she asked the committee if they would like to do hybrid or remote, she asked if they would like to make a decision meeting by meeting or for a number of meetings, Ms. Hartley opened up the floor for discussion. Ms. Fernandes expressed that the winter months can be precarious and then there's also mitigation to be mindful in regards to the virus, therefore Ms. Fernandes expressed she is in favor of meeting via zoom. Ms. Fernandes expressed that her main concern is keeping everyone healthy. Ms. Fernandes asked, is it helpful to central office administration and building administration if we do meet via zoom for at least the next few meetings? How do you feel about it? Mr. Nelson expressed that it does eliminate some additional pieces such as additional cleaning/sanitizing as well as the technology piece, as well as less travel time for administrators, and time is time. Ms. Rounseville expressed that out of considerations for others, she's willing to go to zoom on a temporary basis, for December possibly January, she expressed the less inconvenience we cause to administration and staff the better. There was a consensus that the Rochester School Committee will meet remotely in December and they will make a decision at that time about the meeting in January.

## OPEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Rood reported as the MASC Delegate that this year they are not holding the big 3-day conference down in Cape Cod, however they are holding one hour virtual meetings on a month basis. She reported that she just attended one on Chapter 70 Funding that was very informative, she reported that there will be having one this on School Committee and Superintendent Relations, she reported that this weekend they are holding the MASC Delegate and the morning session is open to everyone, and it just so happens that Kalise Wornum is speaking at that event, so if you wanted a chance to hear here you can sign up. She encouraged everyone to look on the website for more information.

Mr. Nelson reported that Diana Russo and Toni Bailey have agreed to help with the school committee meetings for the remainder of the year. Mr. Nelson expressed that they have set a schedule and divided up the meetings between the two of them. Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Russo and Ms. Bailey for their willingness to help knowing their expertise and professionalism.

Ms. Rounseville expressed she wanted to circle back to something that Mr. Davidson talked about and that was the dyslexia screener, Ms. Rounseville asked Mr. Davidson to give the school committee details about how the process happens, is it a referral or are all children screened. Mr. Davidson expressed that they are waiting for a little more guidance from the state, he explained that the Shaywitz screener is K-3 and it's usually done in the month of January and its done on all students K-3 in all of our districts this year. Ms. Rounseville thanked Mr. Davidson for the information and both her and Ms. Hartley expressed how great this news was to hear.

MOTION: by Ms. Rounseville at 7:54 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of exception #7

SECOND: by Ms. Fernandes

ROLL CALL VOTE:

5:0 (Hartley; yes - Rood; yes - Fernandes; yes – Rounseville; yes- Duggan; yes)

MOTION: by Ms. Rood to go come out of Executive Session at 8:15 pm and to adjourn

SECOND: by Ms. Fernandes

ROLL CALL VOTE:

5:0 (Hartley; yes - Rood; yes - Fernandes; yes – Rounseville; yes- Duggan; yes)

MOTION to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. by Ms. Rood

SECOND: by Ms. Fernandes

5:0 (Hartley; yes - Rood; yes - Fernandes; yes – Rounseville; yes- Duggan; yes)

Submitted by Diana Russo