

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

**MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2021**

Regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was held on Thursday – March 4, 2021 at 6:30pm., by Zoom

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Hartley– Chairperson, Anne Fernandes – Vice-Chairperson, Robin Rounseville and Katherine Duggan

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools; Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Instruction; Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services; Derek Medeiros, Principal; Charles West, Assistant Principal; Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary; teachers, parents and members of the press and public.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm., 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 video-taped, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT- Kelcey Robertson, Jr.

Ms. Hartley stated Kelcey was honored by the New York Times as one of eighteen kids who “Makes the World a Better Place”. Ms. Hartley stated Kelcey wanted to hold a fundraising project and over the summer he set up a produce stand (with his mom), picked and bagged greens from his family garden and by the end of the day had raised \$700.00. Ms. Hartley stated Kelcey did not stop there and after a few weeks he raised \$2,000.

Kelcey then worked with the “Tri-town Against Racism” to pick out books for the Rochester Memorial School’s Media Center to celebrate diversity – something that Kelcey is very committed to.

Ms. Hartley stated we are so proud and pleased to be able to honor Kelcey today in his accomplishments and stated there was a wonderful article in the New York times with Kelcey’s photograph. Ms. Hartley stated as a School Committee we are very proud and inspired by Kelcey and congratulated him for this accomplishment.

The Rochester School Committee presented a certificate to Kelcey which read:

“The members of the Rochester School Committee recognize Kelcey Robertson, Jr. for outstanding student leadership. He is hereby awarded this recognition certificate by the School Committee.”

Ms. Hartley stated when she saw the article and saw Kelcey over the summer, he really lived some of the characteristics and values of Rochester Memorial School, in particular, the responsibility of his project that he carried out from beginning to end and the empathy for his fellow students at Rochester Memorial School. Congratulations Kelcey!

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session: January 21, 2021

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of January 21, 2021

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to approve the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021 as presented

SO MOVED: Anne Fernandes

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes – Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session:

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

C. Approval of Budget Minutes:

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the Budget Minutes of January 21, 2021. There were none.

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the Budget Minutes of February 4, 2021. There were none.

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the Budget Minutes of February 17, 2021. Robin Rounseville indicated that she was not present at the meeting, and her name should be taken off of those minutes.

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to approve the Budget Minutes of January 21, 2021 and February 4, 2021 as presented

SO MOVED: Anne Fernandes

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to approve the Budget Minutes of February 17, 2021, (removing Robin Rounseville’s name as a listed attendee), as presented

SO MOVED: Anne Fernandes

SECONDED: Kate Duggan

IN FAVOR: 3:0

ABSTAINED: 1

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes; Robin Rounseville - Abstained

IV. General

A. Reopening Update

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from administration. The school committee requested that the building administration report on the arrival and dismissal procedures.

Reopening Plans by: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent

Mr. Nelson thanked Chairperson Hartley and asked that Principal Medeiros join him tonight in presenting on the reopening update.

Ms. Hartley agreed.

Superintendent Nelson stated:

“The last time we met as a school committee, we were making decisions regarding pivoting our youngest learners from the hybrid learning model to a full, in-person learning model.

Many individuals made major contributions to making the pivot nothing but a success. Our kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students have returned to school five days a week.

We ordered new materials and equipment, re-purposed learning spaces, moved classrooms, asked staff members to adjust mid-year, re-routed our buses, redesigned arrivals and dismissals and much more to make the pivot happen. All that effort was absolutely worth it!

I am happy to report tonight that from my perspective the pivot has been a tremendous accomplishment for Rochester Memorial School. Our youngest learners are back in school five days a week.

I cannot thank the many individuals who have made this possible enough – our teachers, the association presidents, administrators, facilities, this school committee, and of course our students and families, and all of the other staff members who made it possible.

Nevertheless, we recognize that we need to continue to look for new ways to improve not only the learning model for our youngest learners, but for all our learners.

Most recently we received updated transportation guidance from the Department of Education that lifts some of the previous restrictions. This guidance moves us closer towards a new normal. With that being said, as a school community we continue to monitor the most recent guidance and we are elated that educational teachers and staff members are now prioritized for vaccinations starting on March 11th.

As most of you may know already, Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley from the Department of Education, shared with Massachusetts a “phased-in vision” for students to return fully to school in-person this school year, potentially starting with elementary schools in April. For Rochester Memorial School, this would mean grades 3 through 6, knowing that all other grades at this time are now full, in-person.

While we wait for more in-depth guidance from the Department of Education, I have already connected with the teachers’ association leadership, communicated with the school community at large via email yesterday, our town nurses and school nurses, and I have charged the administration to fully plan for this possibility. As mentioned in my email to the school community yesterday, we

anticipate Commissioner Riley requesting from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education the authority to determine when hybrid and remote models no longer count towards the structured learning time requirements. Most likely this will happen tomorrow. If granted this authority, it is anticipated he will roll out a phased-in approach to returning students to the classroom, with supporting COVID-19 mitigation strategies and safety protocols remaining in place.

With full, in-person learning on the horizon, it is important to note that we anticipate remote learning being an option for families for the remainder of this school year.

Moreover, we continue to monitor local and statewide COVID-19 data. At the close of the school today, Rochester Memorial School reported one individual in isolation as a result of testing positive for COVID-19, 10 individuals are presently quarantining due to close contacts, and two individuals are awaiting testing results due to demonstrating COVID-19 like symptoms. We have seen data trends improve in recent weeks and we are hopeful that the numbers will continue to move in the right direction.

Regarding our current enrollment numbers:

We currently have 54 remote learners at Rochester Memorial School amongst all the different grade levels. As for in-person learning, we have 435 students in either full, in-person or hybrid learning models.

Presently, we have 29 home-schooled students and 5 students have returned since the K-2 full, in-person return.

At this time, I'd ask Principal Medeiros to speak from his perspective regarding day-to-day happenings at Rochester Memorial and the recent K-2 pivot that has occurred."

Mr. Medeiros presented a power point on grades K-2 returning back to school full-time as follows:
Kindergarten (Ms. St. Yves classroom):

The Media Room was transformed into a classroom and noted the students are maintaining the social distancing guidelines. Mr. Medeiros stated there are dots on the floor for students to stand on during moving breaks and/or when there is inclement weather, they are used for PE class.

Kindergarten (Ms. Weigel's classroom):

We were very fortunate this classroom was big enough that all we needed to do was add additional desks.

Grade 1 (transformation of the Band Room and Music Room)

Mr. Medeiros stated these two rooms were our biggest transformations. Mr. Medeiros stated these classrooms have great visuals on the walls, and dots on the floors as well. Mr. Medeiros stated students have foam pads (which can easily be sanitized), and are used to sit on the floor for reading/math groups or other activities with their teachers and peers, allowing the students to maintain the 6 feet social distancing guidelines.

Grade 2

Mr. Medeiros stated the "open classroom" which was used as two classrooms (it had a divider that was used to make two classrooms) is now being used as one classroom, and the gym has been transformed into an additional grade 2 classroom.

Mr. Medeiros showed photos of two hallways, which has student work displayed on them and stated how nice it is for the students to see when they pass by to go out to recess or during arrival/dismissal times.

HIGHLIGHTS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- We are proud of how the transition back to school or full in person learning for students/staff in our kindergarten, first grade and second grade has gone.
- Our recess and lunch shifts have been successful in managing the increase of students during each shift. Classes have sustained their designated play areas while still maintaining social interactions with all classmates across grade level classes.
- We have made some tweaks to our arrival/dismissal procedures in order to ensure a timely and steady traffic flow, i.e. sibling drop-off/pickup, adjusting dismissal times for parent pickup.
- Our students have been outstanding at following hallway traffic routines as well as the utilization of signage/dots to ensure distancing resulting in minimal hallway congestion.

Mr. Medeiros stated one of the pieces that needed adjusting was arrival and dismissal of the students, and noted they have worked with the Rochester Police Department and minor suggestions were discussed around traffic flow. Mr. Medeiros stated as of now, traffic on Pine Street has been cut down to 4-6 minutes, which is a huge decrease in the amount of time from when this first began. Mr. Medeiros stated one adjustment was if there were siblings in different grade levels that were being picked up, the older of the siblings would meet their younger sibling and exit the school at that pickup area, which allowed the parent to only have to make one stop at the school.

Mr. Medeiros stated that since the transportation guidelines have changed slightly as to the increase in the number of student ridership, there have been additional families that have requested bus transportation, which this too will allow for less car traffic flow at the beginning and the end of the day. Mr. Medeiros extended a huge “thank you” to Amaral Bus Company noting they have been absolutely phenomenal ensuring that our students get on the bus and making sure there are no students on the wait list.

Mr. Nelson stated there are a lot of developments going on right now with the Department of Education and Governor Baker, and noted he will keep the school committee aware of any new regulations that may be adopted as we make progress towards a potential pivot. Mr. Nelson stated he will work with Ms. Hartley to call any additional school committee meetings as we move forward to discuss such planning.

Ms. Hartley extended a “thank you” to Mr. Medeiros for sending out a note to the re-opening committee letting them know that he will be reaching out to them once he hears anything about the next pivot.

Ms. Hartley asked at this time if there were any questions/comments by the school committee members?

Ms. Rounseville stated she appreciates all the thought that has gone on regarding drop-off and pickup, and noted the first few days when student attendance was increased, there was quite a traffic line and stated this week there has been a notable difference. Ms. Rounseville stated she appreciates all of the little adjustments that have taken place and it really has made a difference.

Ms. Fernandes stated it is a beautiful thing to see kids and teachers back in the classroom! Ms. Fernandes stated she would love to have a video of them ploughing through the halls (of course six-feet apart), and stated how grateful she is and extended a “thank you” to everyone for making this possible.

B. FY22 Draft Budget

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from the administration

Ms. Hartley stated it has been a positive experience putting this budget together and noted it is not usually a fun event, or an event that we say is positive. Ms. Hartley stated we have had really great conversations and have done great work with our town leaders.

Mr. Nelson stated the following:

“First I want to again acknowledge that Mr. Barber our Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations, who has been leading this is unavailable tonight. As a result, a detailed draft budget review will be placed on hold tonight and I appreciate the school committee’s understanding. I do note that many of you have participated in just about all of the sub-committee meetings anyhow, and that participation is also appreciated by the committee at large.

The subcommittee has met numerous times in recent months to collaborate on the FY22 budget process not only with central office administrators but our building administration, and our school committee representatives. As a sub-committee, we have discussed what we know of the financial landscape both at the local level and the state level and we assessed our needs, discussed our stakeholder priorities as a subcommittee, and have made decisions collaboratively on how best to navigate the budget process.

We recently met with Rochester’s town administrator and FINCOM representative and presented our budget development process and our current draft budget as it currently stands. Presently, the Rochester Memorial School FY22 budget currently calls for a 2.65% overall increase compared to FY21 budget. It is important to note that the Bristol Aggie tuition and transportation costs for Rochester residents, are accounted for through a separate account line, but are also paid for by the Town of Rochester. Overall, the presented budget was developed with a level service mindset, with one key exception and that being the inclusion of an interventionist that will support both math and literacy programming if the budget that is currently drafted is approved. The conversation was positive and our town official partners supported our budget direction at the conclusion of the meeting.

The school committee is not expected to take any formal action on the budget tonight. At future school committee meetings, we will discuss the FY22 draft budget in greater detail and hold our public budget hearing for the school committee to take official action.”

C. Approval of Donations

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the following donations:

Donation 1:

Mr. Medeiros stated the first donation is from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and stated RMS has collaborated with them for the past four to five years at which time they would come to our school, do a presentation and link the presentation to lessons connected with our 3rd grade curriculum. Mr. Medeiros stated this year the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra has come up with a new concert called Bird Flight Patterns and Music, stating it is an educational concert

exploring the connections between music/science and exploring how bird flight and music motion is one of the same.

Mr. Medeiros stated Terry Wolkowicz reached out to him a month ago stating the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra would like to donate a free admission for the students at Rochester Memorial to participate in this concert video. Mr. Medeiros noted it is a \$150.00 value for schools, but because of our collaboration in the past, Ms. Wolkowicz would like to donate a free admission for RMS.

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to approve and accept the donation from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra – Bird Flight Patterns and Music video

SO MOVED: Robin Rounseville

SECONDED: Anne Fernandes

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

Donation 2:

Mr. Medeiros stated conversations regarding Rochester Memorial's "Outdoor Classroom" space has been discussed in the past, and noted that many teachers in the building collaborated and applied for a grant through the Tri-town Foundation. Mr. Medeiros stated they were awarded that grant to start an "Outdoor Classroom" and due to the press highlighting that wonderful work, Mr. & Mrs. O'Connell sent to RMS a letter and a check in the amount of \$400 towards a contribution to this project. The letter read as follows:

Dear Principal Medeiros:

The check in the amount of \$400.00, mailed to you on January 28, 2021, is a contribution to RMS to allow the purchase of additional materials in support of the Outdoor Classroom project. We hope that the Outdoor Classroom project helps reduce the risk and increase enjoyment of the students.

Ms. Hartley stated this was one of the largest grants awarded by the Tri-town Foundation, in the amount of \$2,000, and we were really proud and excited to award these funds. Ms. Hartley thanked Ms. Smith, Ms. Weigel, Ms. Forns and Ms. Varonas for their hard work in applying for these grant funds and asked Mr. Medeiros once additional materials are purchased from the donation by Mr. & Mrs. O'Connell, if photographs could be taken so that everyone can see the additions to the outdoor classroom.

Mr. Medeiros stated he would provide this information, once materials are purchased.

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to accept the donation of \$400 by Mr. & Mrs. O'Connell to purchase additional materials for the "Outdoor Classroom"

SO MOVED: Robin Rounseville

SECONDED: Anne Fernandes

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

Donation 3:

Mr. Medeiros stated those of you who had children at RMS or spent time at RMS over the years would remember Mrs. Jacqueline Beckford, who drove bus #6 for many years, and who was one of the originators of the instrumental bus “sendoff” that we hold at Rochester Memorial School. Mr. Medeiros noted Ms. Kim Amato, who is Rochester Memorial’s Special Education Secretary, is the daughter of Mrs. Beckford.

Mr. Medeiros stated Ms. Jenny Rusinoski, the Special Education Secretary at Center School/Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett, reached out to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School, and asked if they would make a bench honoring Mrs. Beckford. In addition to the bench, a small plaque would be placed on the bench reading:

In Loving Memory of
“Mrs. B. – Rochester Bus 6”
Jacqueline Marie Beckford

Mr. Medeiros stated he would ask the students of Rochester Memorial to help decide where the bench would be placed in front of the school.

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to accept the lovely donation of a Garden Bench by the Special Education Secretaries in memory of Mrs. Jacqueline Beckford (Mrs. B).

SO MOVED: Anne Fernandes

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

V. New Business

None

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Ms. Hartley stated as she started to write the Annual Chairperson’s Report, she realized how passionate she is about the Town Report for Rochester and the historical nature of the Town Reports. Ms. Hartley stated in particular, if you think of the Town Report as a historical document, education is one of the keystones in any community. Ms. Hartley noted when you look at a Town Report, there are many pieces to the report, and for her what speaks most is the school report and particularly, the Chairperson’s Report.

Ms. Hartley stated this past year is one that will stand out in history and provided to the School Committee members and Administration the following report:

Report of the

ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The year 2020 was a year that we will long remember. This was a year of challenge and change for Rochester Memorial School.

The year began as usual with regular school activities and procedures. However, by the end of February, we became aware of a new contagious virus known as COVID-19. On March 13th Memorial School was closed and we immediately shifted to remote instruction. Until the end of

the school year in June, students remained at home and their teachers presented virtual lessons and provided instructional materials online. School events and after school activities were cancelled or held virtually. School Committee meetings were held in hybrid format for several months and then virtually through a Zoom platform. Formal events such as Sixth Grade Graduation and Kindergarten Orientation took place on Zoom. Our Facilities Director and custodial staff were tasked with developing new procedures to clean and sanitize the entire school building.

For the next six months - from March until August - school leaders, educators, staff, and community health officials worked together to gather feedback from families and to plan new instructional options following specific guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The school district provided professional development to support staff with new health, safety, and instructional practices. Before school opened in September, the district offered families three options: hybrid learning (a combination of days in school with classroom instruction and days at home with remote learning), all remote learning, or home school instruction.

This major shift in safety and educational practices happened simultaneously with a period of significant leadership transition in the Old Rochester Regional School District: replacing four district administrators. School Committee members served on search teams and participated in the process to hire four new central office leaders: Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Mr. Howard Barber; Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell; Director of Student Services, Mr. Craig Davidson; and Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael S. Nelson.

At the end of June 2020, Dr. Douglas White, formally retired from his position as Superintendent of Schools. We are grateful for his ten years of dedicated service and particularly for his leadership during the renovation and addition to Memorial School as well as his focus on the use of data and collaborative teams to improve teaching and learning.

In July, we welcomed our new Superintendent of Schools, Michael Nelson, who served previously as the Director of Student Services for the Old Rochester School District. We were fortunate that Mr. Nelson, having served as a district leader, already knew our schools, staff and many members of the Tri-town community. During this most challenging year, Mr. Nelson has provided positive, confident, and energetic leadership for our school district.

2020 Rochester School Committee members included Sharon Hartley, Chairperson, Anne Fernandes, Vice Chairperson, Danni Kleiman, Tina Rood, and Robin Rounseville. During the spring election, Danni Kleiman chose not to run for re-election and Katherine Duggan was elected to the open position.

During 2020 the Rochester School Committee took the following specific actions:

- Approved the FY21 School Budget of \$6,309,641
- Approved PTO projects including the addition of two inclusion/communication boards on the school playground
- Voted not to participate in the School Choice Program for FY21
- Approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the support staff
- Approved an Anti-Racism Policy
- Approved a re-opening plan for the FY21 school year
- Approved a calendar change for the FY21 school year: 170 days with a start date of September 16th and the addition of ten days of training for staff

- Approved with appreciation donations of school supplies by the Rochester Lions Club and Kelly Medeiros
- Approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Rochester Memorial Teachers' Association

In closing, as Rochester School Committee members, we are most grateful for the extraordinary dedication of our leaders and staff this year, the spirit and resilience of our students and families, and the strong support of the townspeople of Rochester.

Sharon Hartley, Chairperson
 Anne Fernandes, Vice Chairperson
 Katherine Duggan
 Tina Rood
 Robin Rounseville

Ms. Hartley stated it was both a pleasure and shocking as she began writing this report, and thinking about all that happened in this one-year period of time. Ms. Hartley extended a “thank you” to everyone here this evening, for all that everyone gave – their time and energy to help us be where we are today.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

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

- During our districtwide professional development day on March 1, educators were provided with various activities to support Global Citizenship for reflection, and connecting what they learned to be used in the classroom. One of the activities included watching Rita Pierson’s inspiring video called “Every Child Needs a Champion” and teachers were asked to write their champion speech to their classroom.
- We also had Eugene Hamilton, who discussed how he ventured to a college town and met teachers who inspired him to have friendships to support his understanding of working with other people. Our teachers wanted more time with Mr. Hamilton, to continue the conversation about Global Citizenship, because he brought in another perspective that makes you ponder.
- I had the opportunity to visit classrooms and the teachers have a better understanding about various cultures and have used the mini-lessons to inspire and incorporate these lessons into the various writing assignments.
- Our Black History month calendar is listed on the RMS website that allowed students from the PreK-12 grades to learn about African American history in science, military, sports, authors, and in other avenues. The message was to move forward and continue to inspire all students, educators, families and cultures, preparing them for 21st Century Learning and beyond.

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

We held 2 community events in February:

- On February 23, 7:00-8:30pm by Zoom – Speaker: Christina Brown – Tri-town Black History Month Community Conversation on Identify and Belonging.
 Mr. Davidson stated there were 62 participants – including administration, staff from all of the districts, community members, community stakeholders and also our students from across all of the buildings.
- February 25, 6:00-7:30pm by Zoom – Speaker: Sarah Fiarman – Who, me racist?

Mr. Davidson stated at this community event there were 61 participants, most of which were the same participants/stakeholders as the February 23rd event.

Mr. Davidson stated he and couldn't be more proud of the turnout at each of these events.

Early Childhood Office Update:

- In February, building principals across all of our districts held a virtual principal's presentation for families entering Kindergarten – discussions held were on the registration process as well as the next steps for children to get accustomed to our school districts
- In April, emails will be sent to families regarding a “meet and greet” to be held in June, and screening sessions will take place on campus, following social-distancing guidelines.
- On June 2 and 3, we will utilize our outdoor tent spaces, with 45-minute timeslots, which will allow us to have families come and visit the schools, as well as participate in a bus ride, so that students will experience a full feeling of what a day would look like.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

- Principal Sirois and Mr. Medeiros will be participating in Lesley University School Leaders seminar virtually on Mondays and Tuesdays – January 25-26 and March 15-16. The focus of the seminar is to train administrators, teacher leaders, and directors in the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Continuum, as well as the Literacy Quick Guide.
- RMS will celebrate Read Across America Day, with a week-long event during the week of March 1. The morning will begin with a quote by a historical figure, politician, etc., read by Mr. Medeiros on the importance of reading. At the end of the day before dismissal, students will have DEAR time, where the entire school stops for 10-15 minutes to read.

VIII. School Committee

B. Committee Reports

1. Budget Subcommittee

Chairperson Hartley stated this report was covered by Superintendent Nelson above.

2. ORR District School Committee

Mr. Nelson stated the meeting took place on February 17, 2021 virtually and there were three general topics:

- Review and take action on the school health unit application approval, which allows nurses to train staff to dispense meds both on campus and fieldtrips, based off her training and professional judgement
- Initial conversation regarding school choice
- An FY22 Draft Budget discussion and presentation from Mr. Barber

3. SMEC

Anne Fernandes stated the following:

The next scheduled meeting is March 30, 2021

4. READS

Mr. Nelson stated a meeting was held on January 28, 2021 and reported the following:

- Approved the most recent Meeting Minutes
- Superintendents heard updates from the Special Education Administrators regarding their most recent programming

There were discussions on Action Items:

- Review of the FY22 Budget and FY21 update
- Reviewed a potential conflict of interest declaration
- The Executive Director made recommendation regarding new staff and needed hirers

Informational standpoint:

- Heard reports regarding COVID-19
- Status of in-person learning
- Status of COVID-19 updates
- Program updates
- Heard information regarding their upcoming Coordinated Program Review that they will work with the Department of Education on

5. Tri-town Foundation

Robin Rounseville reported as follows:

- The Grant deadline is April 9, 2021
- Robin Martin, on behalf of Abington Bank, took a look at the Tri-town Foundation and the bank has offered to donate to the foundation \$10.00 for every checking account opened – so far, 68 checking accounts have been opened to date
- The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 16, 2021

6. Early Childhood Council

Kate Duggan stated they last met on January 26, 2021 and reported the following:

- Heard about resources presented by Sonia Amaral from the Meeting Street Early Education Group

2021 Kindergarten Transition Plan:

- Parent virtual Info nights and online registration starts February 3, 2021
- Mr. Davidson provide more up-to-date details on that earlier

2021 Project Grow/Tri-Town Application Process is Open

- Accepting applications on individual school websites
- The Tri-Town registration opens March 1, 2021
- Overview of virtual playgroups were discussed
- In person screenings are coming up at Sippican & Center Schools

The next Early Childhood Council Meeting will be held on March 23, 2021

7. Policy Sub-Committee

Kate Duggan reported as follows:

The Policy Sub-committee last met on February 25, 2021 and the following policies were discussed:

1. JF- School Admissions
2. JFBB-1 School Choice
3. JH- Student Absences and Excuses (MASC) & JE- Attendance (ORR)
4. JHD- Exclusions and Exemptions from School
5. JICFA- Prohibition of Hazing
6. JICH- Alcohol Drugs and Tobacco
7. JIH – Searches and Interrogations
8. JEB – Entrance Age revisited; policy subcommittee agreed not to change this policy

The next meeting was scheduled for March 1, but will be rescheduled

8. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee

Kate Duggan reported the following:

The committee met on February 10, 2021 and the following was discussed:

- Talked about the Black History Month program that has been taking place
- Discussions on the Black History Month calendar for the students – 2 different age groups
- Discussed the two virtual presentations by Christina Brown and Sarah Fiarman
- Discussed the initial survey data that was sent to the district's older students – regarding equity, diversity and inclusion and will continue looking over those results in the spring
- Working with consultant Christina Brown - we discussed the timeline of the remainder of the school year and set future meeting dates through June
- The next scheduled meeting is to take place on March 9, 2021

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Chairperson Hartley reported:

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is Thursday – April 8, 2021 @ 6:30pm; held remote through Zoom

The next meeting of the Joint School Committee is Thursday – April 29, 2021 @ 6:30pm; held remote through Zoom

B. Future Agenda Items:

- Budget Approval (public hearings) (April)
- 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

None

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021

Budget Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021

Budget Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021

Budget Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2021

Facilities Director Report – February, 2021

Food Service Director Report – March, 2021

Principal's Report – March, 2021

RMS: K-2 Update Return (slideshow)

Donation Approvals:

Garden Bench for Mrs. Jacqueline Beckford

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

Monetary Donation from Mr. & Mrs. Ed O'Connell – for Outdoor Classroom Project

Meeting of the Regular Rochester School Committee meeting ended at 7:31pm

XII. Executive Session

Recommendation:

That the School Committee go into Executive Session for reason numbers 3 and 7.

MOTION: by Sharon Hartley to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:31pm, and go into Executive Session for the purpose of #3 and #7 – to return only to adjourn

SO MOVED: Anne Fernandes

SECONDED: Robin Rounseville

IN FAVOR: 4:0

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Roll Call: Sharon Hartley-Yes; Anne Fernandes-Yes; Robin Rounseville-Yes; Kate Duggan-Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary