

ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

16 Pine Street, Rochester, MA. 02770

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2020

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Sharon Hartley – Chairperson

Tina Rood

Danni Kleiman

Anne Fernandes – Vice Chairperson

Robin Rounseville

ALSO PRESENT

Other Attendees:

Dr. Douglas White – Superintendent

Derek Medeiros – Principal

Michael S. Nelson – Assistant Superintendent

Charles West – Assist. Principal

Lori Walsh - Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Rochester School Committee was called to order on Wednesday, April 2, 2020 by Chairperson Hartley at 3:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom meeting.

APPOINT NEW SECRETARY:

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to Appoint Lori Walsh as School Committee Secretary.

SECOND: Ms. Rounseville

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 23, 2020 – Regular Session

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes as amended.

SECOND: Ms. Rounseville

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH UPDATE

Dr. White wanted to take this time to thank the Cafeteria workers that are coming in and cooking and preparing breakfast and lunch. They are packing them up and getting them ready to be picked up for the students. They pickup lunch and breakfast and the breakfast is for the next morning.

Ms. Rounseville asked if they were wearing masks and gloves.

Superintendent White said that they absolutely are and they are practicing proper sanitizing procedures per the CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

FACILITIES UPDATE

Dr. White discussed with the School Committee the cleaning and sanitizing of the facilities. As they get used there are lists to be checked off when they get cleaned by who cleans them and all three Towns are doing the same thing with the lists. As of now, closure will be until May 4th for the Schools.

Sanitation machines are also being lent out to be used in the Schools.

REMOTE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Dr. White said that the Children will be out until May 4th. He also went on to discuss that just under 300 Chrome Books were lent out across the communities. He is working with the Commissioner and the Union Representatives about remote learning.

The Students need screen time and connection with the Teacher. The Teachers have been working hard coming up with a schedule that is half the time of a full day. The Teachers also provide a priority hour time for the Children.

Ms. Rounseville suggested that the children have one site that they can check to get all their information. Maybe put a message on the School Website.

Ms. Rounseville asked Principal Medeiros if the Teachers were comfortable with the platform that they are using.

Mr. Medeiros, "yes they are". He also said that there is a list of tutorials especially for zoom under our Old Rochester web site under resources. He also thanked the Tech Department for their hard work. Tutorials and help sheets for zoom have been sent to the Parents.

Mr. Nelson stated that our priority is providing individual support and small group support. We need to use all resources we can for now until things change. There is also a social emotional end to this. Maybe have a page with information and links that will be helpful. Also have a Teacher reading a book to some of the children. Also, a suggestion is making packets for Pre-K to grade 1 for Students so maybe when they come and pickup their Lunch they can pick up their packets.

Dr. White said that messages should go out with Report Cards and if Teachers are having a hard time they can go to the Superintendent for help.

SCHOOL VACATION

Dr. White stated that the students should be back by May 4th and then they should take their April vacation. If they aren't back by May 4th then they will knock 4 or 5 days off the School year. They need to make a decision. Will discuss at another meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the financial report with the School Committee. He stated that this should be monitored on a program by program basis.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the Administrators Report with the School Committee. He talked about the Virtual classroom (New Teacher Induction Training) and next years Parent Survey being in place.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

SMEC – March 29, 2020

Dr. White and the School Committee went over the School Committee Report for SMEC. Specifically the increase rate of pay and the revised policies.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Chairman Fernandes gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Mr. Kleiman

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

NEXT MEETING

Rochester School Committee Meeting - Thursday, May 7, 2020

Joint School Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 11, 2020

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.

Submitted by Lori Walsh, Recording Secretary