

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2020

<https://vimeo.com/397445721>

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Sharon Hartley Anne Fernandes Robin Rounseville
CHAIRPERSON VICE-CHAIRPERSON

ABSENT Tina Rood

Committee Members:

Danni Kleiman Tina Rood

ALSO, PRESENT

Other Attendees:

Dr. Douglas White SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Michael Nelson ASST. SUPT.	Derek Medeiros PRINCIPAL	Charles West ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	Doreen Lopes COORDINATOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
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Staff Members Members of the
Press

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER

The Budget Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020 by Chairperson Hartley at the Rochester Memorial School Music Room.

FY21 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – PRESENTED BY Dr. White, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Nelson, Assistant Superintendent – (please refer to attachment A)

Superintendent White explained that the FY 21 Rochester budget actually went down as a result of taking out the Bristol Aggie tuition for Rochester Students grades 9-12, he explained that was a total of \$157,000 and that the town agreed to take that out of the regular K-6 budget. The total budget for FY21 is \$6,361,911. Ms. Hartley thanked Dr. White for his presentation of the budget hearing and explained that she was pleased that the Bristol Aggie tuition had been removed from the regular budget, she expressed it was something the school committee and the administration had been asking for quite some time.

MEETING TO ORDER

The Rochester School Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 12, 2020 by Chairperson Hartley at 6:55 p.m. in the Rochester Memorial School Music Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR MINUTES

Minutes of December 30, 2019

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the December 30, 2019 minutes as presented

SECOND: Ms. Rounseville

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Minutes of February 6, 2020

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the February 6, 2020 minutes as amended
SECOND: Ms. Rounseville
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

BUDGET MINUTES

Minutes of February 6, 2020

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented
SECOND: Ms. Rounseville
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Minutes of February 11, 2020

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented
SECOND: Ms. Hartley
VOTE: Passed (Ms. Rounseville abstained)

IV. GENERAL

A. KINDERGARTEN ENTRY PROCESS

Dr. White thanked Mr. Nelson, Ms. Lopes, the three elementary principals and kindergarten staff for all their efforts in for streamlining the kindergarten entry process. He also explained this is being shared as an FYI so that the committee is aware of the process. He then turned it over to Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Nelson expressed that over the past few years they have looked at practices that have worked really well in some buildings and others where there might be some wiggle room. Mr. Nelson expressed that more importantly they want to look at best practices and would want the entry process to be the same in all three elementary schools.

Ms. Doreen Lopes presented the Kindergarten Entry Protocol PowerPoint presentation (please refer to Attachment B).

Ms. Hartley thanked Ms. Lopes for all her detailed work on this initiative.

B. FY21 BUDGET APPROVAL

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to approve the FY21 Budget at \$6,361,911
SECOND: Ms. Rounseville
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

C. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

Dr. White & Mr. Medeiros explained that Wells Fargo had a made donation of \$150 to Rochester Public Schools as a match to a PTO Fundraiser.

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes made a motion to accept a donation of \$150 from Wells Fargo
SECOND: Ms. Rounseville
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

D. REVIEW FACILITIES POLICY

Ms. Hartley explained that at the last meeting there was a conversation about the fact that the Rochester Building Use Policy was different from all the other schools and that the other policy was currently being reviewed and revised by the Policy Sub Committee. Ms. Hartley wanted to bring this to the attention of the members and she asked Dr. White if he could share more insight about the revision of the policy. Dr. White expressed that the policy sub-committee is currently reviewing the policy and addressing the need to cover costs that of building use after the school day is over, the committee has made some suggestions, the superintendent suggested that before any action is taken on behalf of the Rochester School Committee that they wait until the Policy

Sub-Committee complete their work, their next plan is to meet with vendors/stakeholders and also have conversations with town officials about the budgets about sustain and maintain buildings, he suggested more work needs to be done by the Policy Sub-Committee.

Ms. Hartley expressed that when the building project was being completed in Rochester, the building committee wanted the school to be used after hours by recreational town groups, which is one of the reasons that the gym was built with such close access to the parking lot.

Ms. Rounseville expressed that it's important to look at profit and nonprofit when charging groups to use the buildings.

V. NEW BUSINESS

C. BUSINESS

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the financials with the committee, Dr. White explained that at the next meeting there would be a budget transfer to manage the negative balance in program 010 of \$43,716 and he also explained that program 088 would be made whole by transferring money from the use of building account. He explained that currently the budget has a balance of \$627,617.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Hartley reported that the district has been very busy the last month with the superintendent search, she expressed that the district will be very busy in the next few months with the transition of the new Superintendent, she congratulated Mr. Nelson on the new position and wished him well.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Nelson reported that the Project Grow enrollment for the 20-21 school year had been completed and that there is a complete classroom and that in Rochester specifically there is a waiting list, which is good news. Mr. Nelson also reported that they held their second ½ day professional development day which focused on Responsive Classroom and improving student/teacher language in the classroom which ties to a lot of the work being done here at Rochester Memorial by teachers and administrators. Mr. Nelson also reported that in Student Services they had a student led initiative organized by Janet McTarnaghan the district's Autism Specialist, it was with students identified as being on the spectrum with some of our paraprofessionals, special education teachers as well as some regular education teachers, Mr. Nelson described as a very powerful experience for all who attended. Mr. Nelson also reported that a lot of Building Based Curriculum work also took place in all six schools, continuing to document project based learning and also documenting existing curriculum in atlas rubicon. Mr. Nelson expressed that is office is also working on a few different surveys, one is about social emotional learning for both teachers and students in grades 3-12 which will go out at the end of March and the other survey is around Cultural Proficiency through Panorama and that survey will go out at the end of April beginning of May, it will be administered to students in grades 6 -12. Mr. Nelson also reported that Special Education Teams are busy setting up transition meetings.

Dr. White reported that on Friday, March 13th there is a conference call with the commissioner around COVID-19, he explained that in his last conference call the commissioner made clear that schools would only have to go to their 185th to make any days missed, he explained that for us that would be June 24th. The superintendent also reported that effective March 2nd any chronic absences would not be reported and would not count against a student or a district. The commissioner also asked that districts to cancel any out of state and out of country travel for the remainder and of the year, he asked that superintendents work with their local departments of health to address any concerns that come up. Dr. White expressed that the commissioner at this time is not promoting online learning for reasons of equity. Dr. White expressed that one of his concerns is how to provide meals to children on free and reduced lunch as well as students who have needs who are on IEPs. Dr. White explained that he met with his administrative team and is meeting with them again tomorrow and they will review field trips coming and make decisions on possible cancellations that need to be made. Dr. White asked Mr. Medeiros to report out on the Student Opportunity Act.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Medeiros reported on the Student Opportunity Act and stated that he will be meeting with staff and the student council to collect data and will report back at a later date. Mr. Medeiros explained that this act would be assisting students in the economically disadvantaged population.

Principal Medeiros shared an overview of news and important upcoming dates which can be found in more detail in the Principals Report (RSC 03122020 Principal's Report).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ORR District School Committee- NO UPDATE

SMEC – NO UPDATE

READS – Dr. White reported that the board met that morning and they took action to rent a new space and that took up most of their meeting.

TRI-TOWN FOUNDATION – Ms. Rounseville reported that they just confirmed a meeting for March 24, 2020.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL- Ms. Kleiman was absent , therefore Ms. Lopes informed the group that the Early Childhood Council have a scheduled meeting for March 23rd, and a Fair on April 4th, which will be hosted at the Jr. High School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Hartley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:05 pm for the purpose of negotiations with union personnel and only come out to adjourn the regular meeting with the roll call

ROLL CALL: 3:0

Sharon Hartley	Anne Fernandes	Robin Rounseville
YES	YES	YES

Chairperson Hartley made a statement to come out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. in order to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL: 3:0

Sharon Hartley	Anne Fernandes	Robin Rounseville
YES	YES	YES

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Fernandes gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Ms. Rood

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Next Joint Meeting is March 23, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, April 2, 2020

Submitted by Diana Russo