

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

**MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2019**

VIDEO <https://vimeo.com/358329658>

The Rochester School Committee and Administration opened the meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5:45 p.m. for a walkthrough of the Rochester Memorial School located on 16 Pine Street, Rochester Massachusetts lead by Gene Jones, Facilities Director.

The regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Hartley at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Sharon Hartley CHAIRPERSON	Anne Fernandes VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Tina Rood	Danni Kleiman	Robin Rounseville
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ABSENT

Committee Members:

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ALSO, PRESENT

Dr. Douglas White SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	Michael Nelson DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES	Derek Medeiros PRINCIPAL	Charles West ASSISTANT PRINCIPLE	Jenn Seco RECORDING SECRETARY
Gene Jones DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES	Suzanne Szyndlar TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	Woody Hartley SELECTMAN	Brad Morse SELECTMAN	Laurel Farinon CONSERVATION
Members of the Press	Members of the PTO			

MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Hartley opened the regular meeting with a positive overview of the facility tour which took place earlier. She stated that things look in great shape and along with some new features that were added this new school year.

Chairperson Hartley welcomed Jenn Seco as the new Recording Secretary to the school committee.

Chairperson Hartley with the approval of the School Committee moved a few agenda items in order to accommodate attendees.

PERSONNEL – New Teachers

Principal Medeiros introduced the new staff to the school committee.

-Marisa Russo, 1 st Grade - Special Education	-Elizabeth Corbett, 4 th Grade, Special Education
-Jocelyn Mare, 2 nd Grade	-Kathryn Sebastiao, 3 rd Grade, Long Term Sub
-Dulce Nunes, 4 th Grade, Paraprofessional	-Emily Condry, 5 th Grade

Chairperson Hartley and Dr. White welcomed all the new staffs to the Rochester School District. Dr. White also invited anyone interested in learning more about the new staff members, to check out the video that can be found on the Rochester School website.

Agenda item IV. A.

SOLAR PRESENTATION

Presented by Matt Shortsleeve, VP of Development for Solect Energy

The purpose of this presentation is to propose the possibility of bringing solar energy to Rochester Memorial School. Mr. Shortsleeve explained that his company does solar development, installation, and financing management.

The presentation consisted of a summary explanation of procurement, contracting, economic and environmental benefits. *Please refer to PowerPoint presentation, Solect Energy SMART PPA dated 8/5/2019, that was included in the School Committee packets.*

Power Options is authorized by the Massachusetts clean energy center to conduct procurements. Solect Energy was selected by Power Options as a provider to deliver services to their members. Therefore, Rochester can contract directly with Solect.

Solect Energy was able to evaluate the site, review the current overall electric bill in order to understand the need. Mr. Shortsleeve outlined all the steps involved in the process of contracting with Solect Energy to bring solar energy to Memorial School. .

Overall the consumption of electricity will offset 60% of what the school currently use on an annual basis and any net metering will be credited on future invoices. Mr. Shortsleeve's stated that the sooner the process begins, the more savings per block of incentives. Right now, is Block 3 - 4.9 cents for the term if this Block is reached by installing this year. Block 4 will be 1 cent higher in cost. Mr. Shortsleeve explained that if the district comes in at 4.9 in year one, it's about a thirty thousand dollar savings. It will also help apply for more grants because the school is taking green measures. In order to apply for the incentive, the town and school will need to have a contract and an interconnect agreement with the utility company.

The first step is for the school committee to authorize the superintendent to negotiate to enter into an agreement for solar with Solect at Rochester Memorial School.

A concern was brought forward from Mr. Morse about the older part of the roof and having panels on them. Per Mr. Jones, the roofs are inspected, and he feels they will sustain 20 years. He also stated that once the Solect engineers come in they would give us more information such as weight distribution per square footage and what the impact of heavy snow can cause along with the weight. Another of Mr. Morse's concerns and questions was if there was to be a large amount of work that needed to be done on the roof where the panels were installed who would incur that cost? Mr. Shortsleeve replied that the school is responsible (i.e. removal, storage, reinstallation). He explained that the panels are far enough apart for work to be done.

Dr. White also asked, if system goes down, what happens then? Mr. Shortsleeve replied that a service team will maintain the system. If it goes down Solect will pay the difference. Dr. White also asked what happens in 20 years. Mr. Shortsleeve replied that the panels are taken away at expense of Solect Solar, the agreement can be extended, or the school can buy it which is all explained in the contract.

MOTION: Ms. Tina Rood

That committee authorizes the superintended to enter and start negotiating on the school's behalf for putting a solar array on top of the school if the engineering reflects that it is possible.

SECOND: Ms. Danni Kleiman

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Note: The select board will add this to their agenda for their next meeting.

GREEN COMMUNITY

Ms. Tina Rood asked for clarification from the Select board members that were present how ORR would be able to become a Green Community. Members of the Selectboard replied that because ORR is in Mattapoisett and due to its zoning bylaws (lacking the stretch code), neither the town of Mattapoisett nor ORR can be a green community. In order to make this happen at ORR, the ORR School Committee needs to advocate to have Mattapoisett to becoming a green community. For more information, Ms. Rood can connect with Laurel Farinon.

Note: Bring this issue up to the joint committee. ADD to the Agenda for the 9th.

TOWN ELECTION

Question to Selectboard from Ms. Rood: Why is the Town Election before the Town Meeting?
According to the Select board they are looking to make this change, and it will be on their agenda soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I.A. Regular Session

Minutes of June 6, 2019 - "RSC 09052019 June Minutes"

MOTION: Ms. Danni Kleiman approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 6th as amended

SECOND: Ms. Anne Fernandes

VOTE: passed (Ms. Rood abstained)

Minutes July 11, 2019- "RSC 09052019 July Minutes"

MOTION: Ms. Danni Kleiman approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 11th

SECOND: Ms. Anne Fernandes

VOTE: pass with 1 abstaining (Ms. Robin Rounseville)

I.B. Executive Session

Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Anne Fernandes approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for June 6th as presented

SECOND: Ms. Danni Kleiman

VOTE: passed (Ms. Rood abstained)

Executive Session Minutes July 11, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Tina Rood approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for July 11th as presented

SECOND: Ms. Anne Fernandes

VOTE: pass with 1 abstaining (Ms. Robin Rounseville)

FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY

Laurel Farinon, representing the facilities manager Andrew Daniel, distributed a copy of a Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy that the town of Rochester must adopt as part of their commitment as a Green Community.

Ms. Farinon explained that the School Committee must adopt the policy in order for the town to proceed.

Rochester Memorial does not have vehicles at this time but if they do in the future, they will purchase only fuel efficient vehicles.

MOTION: Ms. Robin Rounseville That the Rochester School Committee adopt the Fuel-Efficient Vehicle policy

SECOND: Ms. Tina Rood

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

REVIEW OF OPENING DAY

Dr. White shared that opening day was outstanding. It began with the staff meeting with their colleagues over a continental breakfast followed by a brief welcoming speech in the ORR auditorium.

Recognition of the staff of 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service and introduction to new staff followed by a video. In this video the new staff introduced themselves and who their lighthouse was. Dr. White went on to explain that one of our own administrators, Rose Bowman, was recognized and connected with a former student of hers from second grade. This student, Steve Pemberton, was also the keynote speaker.

The highlight of the morning was eleven students telling their story about what it's been like to be a student in the Tri-Town and who their light house was to this point and what they expect going forward.

On the first day of school Dr. White and Mr. Nelson visited all the schools welcoming students.

Principal Medeiros followed by adding they also have had a nice smooth start. The school looks great and they already have student artwork in the hallways.

Agenda item IV. C.

OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

Principal Medeiros gave an overview of this year's well attended open house that took place on the first day of school. He says it's like the parents having a first day of school along with their kids. He explained that PTO attended with lots of good information of what's coming up this year. Assistant Principal West gave a presentation on bullying.

Agenda item IV. D.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairperson Hartley explained the steps that had been taken thus far in order to start the process of finding a new superintendent. It is Dr. White's last year and finding someone new can be a lengthy process to find the right person who will fit in our district.

The four chairs have met and will soon be connecting with consultants for help and guidance. This preliminary information will help with the next step which will be to form a Search Committee.

Agenda item IV. E.

BRISTOL AGGIE BUS CONTRACT

Dr. White discussed the bid for \$34,920 from the Fall River Braga Transportation Bus Company. Please refer to "RSC 09052019 Bristol Aggie Bus Contract". Rochester had budgeted \$34,000.

MOTION: Ms. Anne Fernandes to approve the Bristol Aggie Bus budget for \$34,920

SECOND: Ms. Tina Rood

VOTE: pass

Dr. White explained that there is a bus concern in Rochester, he went on to explain that a certain bus has stops with an excess number of children along with the cars that are dropping off/picking up. The safety of the students is a concern. The development mentioned a total of almost 70 kids with only two bus stops. The bus company suggests adding an additional bus at a cost of \$65,000 which is not in the current budget. Dr. White asked the bus company to look at different routes and/or spreading out the children through multiple stops within the development. Also, he wanted the committee to keep in mind that the community continues to grow and a year from now a bus may need to be added.

Principal Medeiros stated that the number of students match the addresses. The numbers may fluctuate when children ride their bikes or get dropped off in winter months.

Dr. White explained that the busses are a two-tier system which determines the time they arrive in the morning. An option would be to start the school day a few minutes later in order to allow for more bus

time. Chairperson Hartley also suggested checking who belongs on which bus may help make some adjustments.

Dr. White wanted the committee to be aware of these concerns in order to find a solution together.

Agenda item V. 1.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the FY19 financial report. Please refer to “RSC 09052019 FY19 End of Year” which is closed out.

He also reviewed the first month of the FY20 financial report. Please refer to “RSC 090502019 FY20 Budget”. In the next couple of months lines will be adjusted and sorted out as things change. Updates will follow.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Hartley gave an overview of what’s been happening in the summer months with lots of productive meetings leading up to the beginning of the school year. She also went on to say that opening day was wonderful. She thanked everyone and acknowledged the work that it takes to put together such an event. She especially enjoyed the video. It was new creative way of introducing the staff and putting it out on the web was a clever way of sharing with families.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Dr. White described going out to the different schools, seeing all the work that goes into preparing and the excitement of the students and families was great.

Dr. White and Mr. Nelson lead the induction for the new teachers preparing them for the new year and meeting their mentors. The new teachers also shared what they need in order to be productive which will help build the rest of the years program making it a great incentive for them.

Mr. Nelson discussed the professional development plan, September 18th half day will focus on the Safety Team which the principals will oversee. October’s focus will be Project Based Learning. Mr. Nelson is in the process of identifying a keynote speaker to kick that off. Looking forward to January, Diversity Talks will provide the keynote speaker. This initiative is student led and focuses on cultural proficiency. He is also looking to consult with an agency called Change Works for some training and team building for the new TLC members and for the cultural proficiency teams.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Medeiros referred to a few key points in his principal report - e.g. new staff, open house. He referred to the walkthrough and how pleased he is with the new cleaning company. He also acknowledged the hard work it takes to keep up with offering 21st century opportunities to all students.

Twenty-five new families have enrolled at Rochester. Currently the school is over 500 students.

As a staff they will be looking at Teaching Children to Care and Power of our Words. Mr. Nelson elaborated on the Responsive Classroom two-day workshops; first on Improving Teacher Language, the other is either Responding to Misbehavior or Preventing Bullying. Also, Ms. Jocelyn Mare has interest in becoming a certified responsive trainer teacher which will help possibly design training modules inhouse.

Ms. Rood brought up concerns about classroom size to Principal Medeiros. He responded by saying that they have been fortunate to be able to move dual licensed skilled teachers from general ed to special ed but if size continues to grow, we will need to address the need in the future.

Agenda item VIII. B.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Subcommittee No Update

ORR District School Committee

Per Ms. Rood the meeting will be on 9/11. She stated how disappointing it was that their vote did not pass this summer and the needs for updates are essential. The committee will continue to look at those issues.

SMEC

Per Ms. Fernandes the next meeting will be 9/30

READS

No update

Tri-Town Foundation

Per Ms. Rounseville the next meeting will be 9/9

Early Childhood Council

No update

Policy Sub-Committee

No update

Joint Committee

Next meeting will be 10/9

RMS PTO

The PTO presented a folder to the committee with proposed new future programs which Principal Medeiros is aware of.

Ms. Rood asked if there is a strategy in addressing the \$46K positive in food service, for instance new equipment or items that need to be replaced since it is important to continue to invest in capital items.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Danni Kleiman to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Tina Rood

VOTE: pass

Meeting ended at 8:48

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:30

Submitted by:

Jenn Seco

Recording Secretary