

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

**MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2019**

Regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was held on Thursday – May 2, 2019 at 6:30pm., at the Rochester Memorial School – 16 Pine Street, Rochester, Massachusetts.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Douglas R. White, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Elise Frangos, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Michael Nelson, Director of Student Services; Paul Kitchen, Business Administrator; Derek Medeiros, Principal; Charles West, Assistant Principal; Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary; members of the press and public.

Chairperson Hartley 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.

MEETING TO ORDER

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session: March 21, 2019

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of March 21, 2019

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting: March 21, 2019 – Approved of Regular Meeting
MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve the minutes of March 21, 2019, as amended.
SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

IV. General

A. Acceptance of Donation

Recommendation:

That the School Committee accept a donation from the Harding family for the Rochester Memorial School Playground.

Chairperson Hartley noted this item will be placed on the June, 2019 agenda.

B. Approval of Fundraiser

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve a fundraiser request from a parent to raise funds for Sargent Camp.

Mr. DellaCioppa presented to the school committee members a fund raiser by Krispy Kreme Doughnuts to defray the costs for Sargent’s Camp. Mr. DellaCioppa stated there are a group of

parents that are willing to fund raise for Sargent Camp (one thing they will be doing is returning cans to King Can) and the other fundraiser they are willing to participate in is the Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser “Let’s Raise Some Dough”.

Mr. DellaCioppa stated there are parents willing to drive to Connecticut to pick up the donuts, and they will bring them back to RMS for distribution. Mr. DellaCioppa stated Mr. Barnacle, the band teacher of the high school, did this same fundraiser to raise money for the Tennessee trip and it was very successful. Mr. DellaCioppa stated if this is approved, they would like to have this fundraiser completed by the end of this school year.

By Chairperson Hartley to entertain a Motion regarding the Krispy Kreme fundraiser.

MOTION: by Ms. Rounseville to approve the Krispy Kreme fundraiser as presented.
SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

C. Project Based Learning

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update on Project Based Learning.

Mr. Medeiros presented several video’s from different grade levels regarding “Project Based Learning”.

Grade 1: Holiday Journey- Holidays Around the World (which the entire first grade took part in). Mr. Medeiros stated a lot of content areas were covered – research, social studies, geography and writing.
Grade 2: Monthly STEM Challenge – Build a basketball tower using only rolled, folded or crumpled newspaper and masking tape. The tower had to be eight inches tall or more and had to hold a basketball for 20 seconds or more. Mr. Medeiros noted that many of the “STEM Challenges” get displayed in the Media Center or in the hallways so that family members and other students/staff can see work done by our second graders.

Grade 3: Took on a meteorology project in Ms. Audette’s class and they worked on specific science standards. Mr. Medeiros noted a lot of writing, reading, data analysis and geography was used for this project. In their weather report they looked at a week and wrote down key pieces of information; they generated a 5-day forecast of highs and lows; they added in graphics; they watched clips of various meteorologists; they wrote down useful phrases; and, the students drafted their own scripts and presented them.

The members of the school committee were very happy to see the video presentations by the students.

D. School Choice Vote

Recommendation:

That the School Committee take a vote on school choice for the 2019-2020 school year. Currently the Rochester Public Schools does not participate in school choice.

Dr. White stated every year by June 1st, districts have to report to the Department of Education whether or not a school district is going to accept “School Choice” students.

Dr. White’s recommendation, with the uncertainty of enrollment at this time, is to continue to not participate with “School Choice” at this time. Dr. White reminded the committee that once you bring in “School Choice” students, they are in the school system for the duration of their education/graduation.

Chairperson Hartley entertained a Motion regarding “School Choice” for the upcoming school year.

MOTION: by Ms. Rounseville to opt out of "School Choice" for the upcoming school year due to enrollment concerns
SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

E. Process of Appointing New School Committee Member

Recommendation:

That the School Committee discuss the process for appointing a new school committee member.

Chairperson Hartley stated they will soon appoint a new school committee member and at this time, they have had one person come forward and express their interest. Ms. Hartley stated there is still time, and if anyone else is thinking about if they would like to be on the school committee, please show their interest. Ms. Hartley will contact Ms. Russo in the Superintendent's office to have this position posted, and by agreement with the school committee members, Ms. Hartley will speak with the Select Board to see if they can meet briefly just before the Town Meeting to discuss appointment of this position.

F. School Committee Dates 19-20

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the school committee dates for the 2019-2020 school year. Chairperson Hartley suggested going back to the monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of every month.

Dr. White agreed to return back to monthly meetings with the understanding if Administration from the Superintendent's office does not have anything to report on, they can be excused from that particular monthly meeting.

The proposed dates are: September 5, 2019, October 3, 2019, November 7, 2019, December 5, 2019, January 9, 2020, February 6, 2020, March 12, 2020, April 2, 2020, May 7, 2020 and June 4, 2020.

Chairperson Hartley entertained a Motion to hold school committee meetings monthly beginning the next fiscal year.

MOTION: by Ms. Rounseville to return to monthly school committee meetings to be held on the first Thursday of every month.
SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

G. Reading Program Update

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from Administration about the Reading Program.

Dr. White stated there have been many conversations with Administration, staff of RMS, as well as with School Committee members, Ms. Hartley and Ms. Fernandes, around reading and literacy.

Mr. Nelson provided the school committee members a letter from the Department of Education – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, as well as a handout on Specific Learning Disability: Dyslexia.

Mr. Nelson explained that it is okay to use the terms “dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia” in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) evaluation, eligibility determinations, or IEP documents. Mr. Nelson stated previously we would use the language, “Specific Learning Disability in Reading”. Mr. Nelson stated recommendations from the Department of Education have been provided in how to screen and intervene students with dyslexia, and the Department of Education has started to share more resources from a public school standpoint regarding this process.

Mr. Medeiros stated the two screening assessments recommended by the Department of Education are the Shaywitz Dyslexia Screen and the Colorado Learning Disabilities Questionnaire-Reading Subscale (CLDQ-R). Mr. Medeiros stated the reading department and administration researched the Shaywitz Screen and they have been able to purchase this program, and have been using this assessment tool when the staff sees initial symptoms and/or characteristics of dyslexia.

Mr. Nelson stated the Shaywitz is also used as a tool for dyscalculia and dysgraphia, which are specific learning disabilities in mathematics, written expression and expressive thought.

Ms. Fernandes – Even though guidelines have not been presented, how will this impact current practice?

Mr. Nelson stated we are now able to say, “Yes, this student has been diagnosed with dyslexia or we are seeing characteristics of dyslexia,” and we are able to utilize the webpage the DOE is recommending.

Dr. White explained the sequencing around reading and how students are being assisted between the three tiers - Tier I, Tier II and Tier III:

Tier I:

Classroom instruction – we are looking at teachers to focus on foundations, writing, phonics and reading lessons guided through Reading Street.

Tier II:

Doing work during FLEX time – students will receive their instruction in small groups, 4 to 6 students, and instruction can be led by a reading specialist, classroom teacher, SPED teacher or a paraprofessional.

Tier III:

When a student is continuing to struggle (not having success) – make the reading groups smaller or even individualized, and provide students with instruction by a SPED teacher or reading specialist.

Dr. White stated benchmark assessments are being provided three times a year – fall, winter and spring; they have added additional staff to support reading in the building; continued support will be provided during intervention time; benchmark assessments will be continued on a regular basis; and, as a district, we will be evaluating our current researched-based reading programs.

Ms. Fernandes wanted to know what the timeline was for researching the math researched-based program and what would the timeline be in looking at researched-based reading programs.

Dr. Frangos stated the math research was over a five-month period, with a team of 30 staff members, PreK-Grade 6 (from each of the various elementary schools). Dr. Frangos stated they had vendor presentations and received piles of materials for teachers to try. Grade level teams were assigned to look at various math assessments and they used those materials with actual students. The team felt as though the Go Math program they chose was technology and student friendly, met the needs of diverse learners, highly engaging, and it was felt it fully aligned with the common core of the mathematics framework.

Dr. Frangos stated Marion and Mattapoisett have been using Reading Street, as well as supplementary core text – for Tier I.

Ms. Fernandes asked if there has been Professional Development on guided reading – There has not been.

Dr. White stated part of the work that is going to happen over the summer in breaking up the curriculum instruction, is setting a timeline and support as to where they will be going in these areas.

Ms. Hartley noted it is our commitment to see every child as an individual learner; it is not all about one individual – it is about a team; and, if we all work together we can make magic happen.

H. June Meeting Change – June 6th

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review a change to the June 13th meeting of the Rochester School Committee. The new date for the Rochester School Committee will be on Thursday, June 6th at 6:30p.m. This will be the last meeting of the year.

I. READS Appointment

Recommendation:

That the School Committee appoint Dr. White to represent READS for the 2019-2020 school year.

By Chairperson Hartley to entertain a Motion pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at READS Collaborative are to be appointed annually. Douglas R. White, Jr., is appointed to serve as the Rochester representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2019/2020 school year.

MOTION:	by Ms. Hartley to appoint Dr. Douglas R. White as stated above.
SO MOVED:	Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED:	Ms. Rounseville
IN FAVOR:	All
OPPOSED:	None
	MOTION PASSED

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review the Financial Report.

Mr. Kitchen reported the budget balance at this time is \$204,549.00

Mr. Kitchen noted this budget balance reflects budget transfers approved by the school committee members at the last meeting.

Mr. Kitchen noted under “Operation & Maintenance – “Electricity”, \$38,876.00 has been encumbered, leaving a deficit of \$22,795. Mr. Kitchen stated the electric bill has been averaging \$9,000/month for the past three months, and in following this pattern, this line will end up in a small deficit.

Mr. Kitchen stated there will be some funds available for Mr. Medeiros to order instructional needs.

Chairperson Hartley questioned “Learning Support Center – Bus Monitors” line for its deficit and asked if there was an additional monitor placed on a bus.

Mr. Medeiros indicated there was an additional monitor placed for a student’s medical needs.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Hartley stated they all attended the select meeting with the selectmen and the town moderator (as an appointing committee) and they appointed Mr. David Hughes to the Old Colony School Committee; Ms. Hartley and Ms. Fernandes attended a meeting with Dr. White regarding the reading progress at RMS; and, Ms. Hartley announced she received a letter of resignation from Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary for the Rochester School Committee as of June 30, 2019.

Ms. Hartley introduced Mrs. Carol Hardy of the "Friends of the Council on Aging" who talked about a field trip they are offering to the Grade 3 students at Rochester Memorial.

Mrs. Hardy stated she was a teacher at RMS from 1975 to 2006, and she would like to present to the committee members a project called "Rochester 340", which will be a celebration for the Town of Rochester for its 340th birthday on June 4, 2019. Mrs. Hardy stated Rochester is one of the oldest towns in the whole country and the Friends of the Council on Aging applied for a grant to have a birthday celebration for the Rochester community. Mrs. Hardy stated at this time, they have secured two buses for a field trip for the Grade 3 students of RMS (because their curriculum includes town government) to tour the Town of Rochester and learn the history and see historical sites throughout the town. Mrs. Hardy stated if the grant is approved on May 20th they will be able to have a greater celebration. Mrs. Hardy stated the students will tour the town, stop at the Council on Aging for the party, and the students will bring a bagged lunch to eat at the ballpark (weather permitting) or they will be able to eat at the Council on Aging.

Mrs. Hardy stated the route for the tour is:

Start on Pine Street at RMS to Snipatuit, to North Avenue (Brisbee Corner), over to Neck Road – cut across Hiller Road to East Over Farm, come up Mary's Pond and in to the town (where there are a lot of historical buildings, etc.,) go down Dexter Lane to the COA, continue up New Bedford Road to Cushman Road then back to RMS.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Dr. White noted the following two dates:

1. Town Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 20th at 7:00pm at Rochester Memorial, and
2. The Senior Class of Old Rochester Regional High School's graduation is taking place on Saturday, June 1st at 12:00. All are welcome!

Mr. Nelson stated the SAIL program has officially launched its registration for both enrichment students as well as services for our special education students in the tri-town. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. West, Mr. Letendre and Ms. Erin Bednarczyk for creating a new web page for the SAIL program.

Dr. Frangos was proud to state the "Bikeology" curriculum came to fruition for 450 students at the Jr. High School. Dr. Frangos stated students learned about riding bicycles, bike safety, signaling, helmet safety, how to adjust seats and how to ride properly in all kinds of traffic. Dr. Frangos stated simulations were set up in the hockey rink and around the driveways at the JHS.

Dr. Frangos noted this partnership came together through generous donations from Ocean Spray, W.H. Dunn Insurance - donated 30 helmets, Arbella Insurance - financed the trainer, UMass Dartmouth and the Mattapoisett Bike Path Committee - donated the 30 bikes.

Dr. Frangos stated we are the second in the state to have a Bikeology curriculum that is developed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Dr. Frangos stated students had a pre and post assessment and that it has been integrated into grades 7 and 8 curriculum and in a few weeks it will be embedded into grades 9 and 10 curriculum as well.

Dr. Frangos noted the next book that the book club will be reading is Are You Dyslexic?, by Sally Shaywitz, which is a very conversational, interesting and easy book to read, and stated to the viewing audience that having dyslexia does not hamper a person's ability to succeed in life.

Mr. Kitchen stated he had the opportunity to walk the grounds and inside RMS with Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Jones, and they will be updating the interior and exterior cameras from 13 cameras to 25 cameras to cover additional areas of the playground, front of the building and general areas within the building. Mr. Kitchen noted the original 13 cameras will be replaced with video-recording cameras, as well as an additional 22 cameras.

Mr. Medeiros noted the additional cameras will take care of some of the blind spots and provide additional security around the outside of the building.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

On Wednesday, May 1st, ORRHS students Jendell Teixeira and Tori Monteiro presented to all RMS staff during our monthly staff meeting, discussing how they have felt as minority students in our school system over the years. They discussed their vision for a mentoring program and multi-cultural club for all minority students in the district K-12. Mr. Medeiros thanked Mrs. DellaCioppa and the drama club students for an outstanding performance of "Sherlock Holmes-Mystery at the Manner" and praised the students for their hard work in the many hours of hard work they put in as well as remembering their lines and roles and extended a thank you to all of the students who helped on the tech crew and stage crew - the evening production of this play will be on May 3rd at 7:00pm.

Mr. Medeiros stated the annual Fitness Fun Day is running earlier this year (on May 15th) because it is running in collaboration with the Boosterthon. Mr. Medeiros extended a thank you to Mr. Woodward, along with the RMS PTO for organizing a Fun Run activity that will help raise funds for RMS – parents are encouraged to come.

Mr. Medeiros provided the committee the dates for the mathematics and science MCAS 2.0 schedule and stated that Grade 3 has completed ELA and math.

Mr. Medeiros requested the committee to approve the RMS PTO's approval to accept a donation from Old Colony Vocational carpentry department. Mr. Medeiros stated the Old Colony carpentry students would like to make an Adirondack chair in memory of Chloe Harding which would be placed in the grade 2 garden for student use.

MOTION:	by Chairperson Hartley to accept the donation of the chair in memory of Chloe Harding on behalf of the students from the carpentry department of Old Colony.
SO MOVED:	Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED:	Ms. Rounseville
IN FAVOR:	All
OPPOSED:	None
	MOTION PASSED

VIII. School Committee

B. Committee Reports

1. Budget Subcommittee

Chairperson Hartley stated this work has been completed.

2. ORR District School Committee

No report

3. SMEC

Ms. Fernandes reported the following on their April 30, 2019 meeting:

1. Minutes of SMEC January 29, 2019 meeting were approved, as submitted

2. Staff Appointments and Reductions were approved, as submitted
3. FY19 Amended Spending Plan was approved, as submitted
4. FY20 Teacher and Paraprofessional Salary Rates were discussed, and approved to increase by 2%, as submitted
5. Authorization was extended to the Executive Director and Director of Finance to negotiate leases on behalf of the Board; those leasing drafts will be presented to the Board at its next meeting
6. First readings of the FY20 Spending Plan and Tuition Proposal were conducted
7. Amended a Policy Revision for Emergency Closings was discussed and approved, as submitted
8. A Maternity Leave Request was discussed and approved, as submitted
9. Program and Service updated/location changes - many new referrals have been made for SMEC's programs. SMEC is looking at leasing a former school in Dartmouth, and they are leasing 2 classrooms and a therapy room at Old Hammondtown School
10. SMEC's DESE Annual Report to DESE, each of SMEC's categorical responses met DESE'S requirements
11. ADH (Adult Daily Health) License was renewed
12. The next scheduled SMEC Board and OPEB Trust meeting is Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 5:30

Ms. Fernandes also stated that DESE's Annual Report came back and everything looked okay.

4. READS

Dr. White stated they have not met.

5. Tri-Town Foundation

Ms. Rounseville stated the Grant Review Committee is going to meet next Saturday to look at the grant proposals; and, the next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 28, 2019.

6. Early Childhood Council

No report.

7. Policy Sub-Committee

No report.

C. School Committee Re-organization

Chairperson Hartley has postponed the reorganization until the June meeting.

Chairperson Hartley also stated a meeting regarding the financial impact on the potential 40R Project is scheduled to take place on May 8th at 7:00pm at the First Congregational Church hall; and, the Rochester Town Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 20th at 7:00pm.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Chairperson Hartley reported:

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is Thursday – June 6, 2019 @ 6:30pm and will be held at the Rochester Memorial School – 16 Pine Street, Rochester, MA.

The next meeting of the Joint School Committee is Thursday – June 4, 2019 @ 6:30pm and will be held in the Media Room of the ORR Jr. High School – 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett.

B. Future Agenda Items

- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

X. Open Comments

None

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Meeting Minutes of Mach 21, 2019

Rochester School Committee Meeting Agenda – May 2, 2019

Principal’s Report – May 2, 2019

School Business Administrator’s Report – April 24, 2019

Food Service Director Report – May, 2019

Food Service Profit & Loss Statement – Period Ending March 31, 2019

Facilities Director Report – April, 2019

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm

SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes

SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary