

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
March 21, 2019**

Regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was held on Thursday – March 21, 2019 at 6:30pm., at the Rochester Memorial School – 16 Pine Street, Rochester, Massachusetts.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sharon Hartley, Chairperson; Anne Fernandes, Vice-Chairperson; Tina Rood and Robin Rounseville

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Douglas R. White, Superintendent of Schools; Michael Nelson, Director of Student Services; Paul Kitchen, Business Administrator; Derek Medeiros, Principal; Charles West, Assistant Principal; 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**

**MOTION:** by Chairperson Hartley to begin the meeting with the FY20 Budget Public Hearing  
**SO MOVED:** Ms. Fernandes  
**SECONDED:** Ms. Rounseville  
**IN FAVOR:** All  
**OPPOSED:** None  
**MOTION PASSED**

Dr. White stated in building the FY20 Budget, the following was taken into consideration:

Vision 2023 Strategic Plan  
Superintendent’s Goals  
Rochester Memorial School Improvement Goals

- Promote academic and social emotional rigor
- Support sustainable technology and security needs
- Monitor enrollment projections and sustain class sizes that support good educational practice
- Monitor and adjust special education services to support all students
- Develop long range Capital Improvement Plans to meet the present and future facilities needs

This budget supports:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning –  
Life and Career Skills, Learning and Innovation, Technology and Core Subjects
- Social and Emotional Learning –  
Relationships, Behavior Management, Partnerships and Safety and Security

Global Citizenship –  
Global Awareness, Civic Literacy and Citizenship, Personal Responsibility and Empathy

Dr. White stated the proposed FY20 Budget is \$6,459,584 (\$203,476 or 3.25% increase from FY19 Budget of \$6,256,108).

**REGULAR DAY:**

Program 004 – Superintendent’s Office: Increase of 16,385.00

- As a result of conversations around what we may do regarding our Asst. Superintendent retiring and that position, and how we might handle our curriculum, assessment and instructional needs by hiring two positions for these responsibilities
- Presently, they are looking at spreading out responsibilities to existing personnel, which may actually decrease the above amount.

Program 010 – Teachers – Staff Alignment Retiree/Replacements: Decrease of \$24,759.00

Program 013 – Kindergarten – Staff Alignment/No Grant 701 Offset: Decrease of \$50,621.00

- Last years’ budget had 4 Kindergarten teachers – this year with lower enrollment, there will only be 3 teachers, for a savings of approximately \$50,000.00

Program 016 – Art Program Contract Adjustments: Increase of \$5,371.00

Program 022 – Reading – Shifting of Staff: Increase of \$12,178.00

- Needed additional support around reading – a paraprofessional was moved to this program which resulted in an increase

Program 040 – Media Services-Contract Adjustments: Increase of \$10,721.00

Program 079 – Transportation – New Contract: Increase of \$25,434.00

- When building this budget, we thought there would be a 5% increase in transportation (which would include additional increases for Bristol Aggie transportation) for the total above. However, later on in this meeting, if we choose to approve a new bus contract, there could be an approximate savings of an additional \$20,000.00

Program 088 – Operation/Maintenance – Utilities/Rental Offsets/Outsourcing: Increase of \$6,356.00

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:**

Program 103 – Learning Support Center – Contract Adjustment/Shifting of Staff: Increase of \$184,722.00

- Shifting from Out of District to In District

Program 127 – Psychological Services – Contract Adjustment: Increase of \$18,080.00

Program 130 – Sped Transportation – Known Cases: Decrease of \$3,275.00

Program 133 – Program Placements – Known Cases: Decrease of \$47,661.00

<b>TOTAL MAJOR DEPARTMENT INCREASES/DECREASES:</b>	\$ 152,931.00
<b>ALL OTHER DEPARTMENT CHANGES LEVEL FUNDED/ CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS:</b>	\$ 50,545.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE:</b>	<b>\$ 203,476.00 (3.25%)</b>

Dr. White further broke down the proposed FY20 Budget as follows:

<b>FY 2019 Appropriated Budget:</b>	<b>\$6,256,108.00</b>	
	<b>FY19 TO FY 20</b>	
	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Professional Staff Salaries	\$ 184,236.00	4.52%
Clerical Staff Paraprofessionals	\$ 34,303.00	7.48%
Other Salaries	\$ 1,656.00	2.92%

Contracted Services (Utilities)	\$ 10,338.00	1.67%
Supplies/Text/Computers	\$ (2,800.00)	(2.45%)
Transportation/SPED Tuition	\$ 24,257.00	(2.61%)
TOTAL RECOMMENDED INCREASE:		\$ 203,476.00 3.25%
<b>FY 2020 REQUESTED BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$6,459,584.00</b>	

Dr. White stated the following breakdown of the proposed FY20 Budget for Regular Day/Special Ed:

	TOTAL	INCREASE	PERCENTAGE
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 6,459,584</b>	<b>\$ 203,476</b>	<b>3.25%</b>
Regular Day	\$ 4,359,780	\$ 22,513	0.52%
Special Education	\$ 2,099,803	\$ 180,963	9.43%

Dr. White noted they are constantly looking for ways to ensure the operations of the building, grounds and transportation are efficient and safe, and stated the following:

	FY19 TO FY20
Special Education Transportation decrease of:	\$ (3,275.00)
General Education Transportation increase of:	\$ <u>25,434.00</u>
Note: Dr. White stated earlier that this amount could decrease if the committee agrees to approve a new bus contract later during this meeting	
Subtotal Transportation:	\$ 22,159.00

Dr. White stated in looking at the past several years, our electricity/utilities is up approximately \$3,000.00 as follows:

Electricity (offset from rental account)	\$ 1,000.00
Heat	\$ 2,000.00
Other Utilities	\$ -0-
Subtotal Utilities:	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
Total Transportation and Utilities increase of:	\$ 25,159.00

Dr. White noted in Special Education there is an increase of \$180,963.00 and stated the following:

	FY19 TO FY20
Out of District Cost for Students decrease of:	\$ (9,302.00)
Circuit Breaker FY20 (OFFSET)	\$ <u>(38,358.00)</u>
Program 133 – Subtotal Out of District Tuition decrease of:	\$ (47,660.00)

Program 100 – Special Needs Administration increase of: \$ 9,438.00

Note: Dr. White reminded the committee and community members the reason for this increase was because Responsive Classroom (\$5,200.00) was added to this line (it was previously budgeted to a regular day budget line)

Program 102 – Project Grow increase of:	\$ 6,917.00
Program 103 – Learning Support Center increase of:	\$ 184,722.00
Program 118 – Speech increase of:	\$ 9,299.00

Program 121 – Support Services increase of:	\$ 3,443.00
Program 127 – Psychological Services increase of:	\$ 18,080.00
Program 130 – Special Education Transportation decrease of:	\$ (3,275.00)
Subtotal Special Education Programming increase of:	\$ 228,624.00

Dr. White noted the decrease in Out of District costs for students and the Circuit Breaker offset – leaves a total increase in Special Education of:

Total Special Education increase FY19 TO FY20 **\$ 180,963.00**

Mr. Nelson reported on percentages of Enrollment Data and Students with Disabilities (SWD) and stated in 2018 DART Enrollment Data, Rochester Memorial fell in the middle of the data report, with Student Enrollment of 498 and SWD 17.6%.

Mr. Nelson provided the committee and community members a grid from FY15 through FY18 of Special Education Enrollment as follows:

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT				
Enrollment	2015	2016	2017	2018
All Students	476	484	504	498
SWD	89	84	89	87
SWD %	18.7	17.2	17.5	17.6

Mr. Nelson stated as of January, 2019, SWD is a little over 19% based on enrollment right now.

Dr. White stated the Rochester Budget is supported by other revenue opportunities, and Mr. Kitchen noted the offsets are available in three ways:

Reminder:

The Fiscal 2020 Rochester school operating budget of \$6,459,584 is the amount requested for funding by the Town

Federal, state and local grants:	\$ 187,749.00 (majority 240 grant)
Circuit Breaker reimbursement:	\$ 38,358.00
Revenues from revolving accounts:	\$ 57,000.00 (\$30,000 rental- \$18,000 project grow - \$9,000 tuition)
Total offsets for Fiscal 2020:	\$ 283,107.00

Dr. White states the total cost of running the district is:

- the sum of the requested operating budget \$ 6,459,584
  - plus the offsets \$ 283,107
- TOTAL: \$ 6,742,691

Mr. Kitchen noted additional Grants/Awards/Gifts as follows:

	FY18 Actuals	FY19 Allocation	Increase/Decrease
Circuit Breaker – Current Receipts	\$ 62,170	\$ 38,358	\$ (23,812)
Federal and State Grants:			
Title IIA	\$ 10,181	\$ 8,376	\$ (1,805)
IDEA	\$103,329	\$110,844	\$ 9,515

Early Childhood	\$ 746	\$ 2,695	\$ 1,949
Special Education Program	\$	\$ 5,443	\$ 5,443
Title I	\$ 37,488	\$ 20,477	\$ (17,011)

Mr. Kitchen stated in FY20, Title IIA will still be offered, however there will no longer be funds available in FY21; and, Title I funds is still a wild card – there will be a substantial deduction.

Dr. White stated as far as student enrollment at Rochester Memorial School, with FY13 being the highest at 504 students – it has now pretty much leveled off ranging from 459 to 484 from FY14 through the present. Dr. White also noted that Rochester Memorial is the only elementary school in the district that has leveled off – Marion and Mattapoisett has gone down substantially.

Mr. Medeiros is happy to state that RMS will be able to run classrooms in FY20 with the same staff they have this year, with a few adjustments between grades. Mr. Medeiros reported on current class size and FY20 enrollment and class sizes as follows:

		Current Enrollment	Current # Of Classes	Average Class Size	FY20 Projected Enrollment	Projected # Of Classes	Projected Class Size
Grade	PK	27	1	27	27	1	26
Grade	K	62	3	20.6	48	3	16
Grade	1	78	4	19.5	62	3	20.6
Grade	2	60	3	20	78	4	19.5
Grade	3	80	4	20	60	3	20
Grade	4	70	4	17.5	80	4	20
Grade	5	8	3	22.6	70	4	17.5
Grade	6	75	4	18.75	68	3	22.66
<b>RMS TOTAL</b>		<b>520</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20.74</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20.42</b>

Dr. White noted in FY18 one additional teacher was brought in and they shifted three paraprofessionals. Dr. White reviewed the grid below to the committee and community members.

	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual		FY18 Actual	FY19	Additions/ Deletions	FY20
Teachers	43.8	45.40		45.90	46.28	1	47.28
Teacher Asst's	15	15		11	10.00	3	13.00
Admin Staff	2	2		2	2	0	2.00
Secretaries	2	2		2	2	0	2.00
Custodial	4	4		4	1	0	1.00
<b>Full Time</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>68.4</b>		<b>64.90</b>	<b>61.28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>65.28</b>

Dr. White further stated the FY20 Regular Budget will support 62.27 of the FTE's (Full-Time Equivalent), and the remainder of the FTE's budget will be supported by Revolving Accounts/Grants and Awards in the amount of 3.01 for a total of **65.28**.

Dr. White showed the Special Education increases from FY16 through FY19 (requesting an additional \$180,000 for FY20 from FY19 - stating in FY19 the budget was \$1,918,840, and they are requesting \$2,099,803 for FY20) for reasons which have been discussed previously in this presentation.

Dr. White concluded with the following information, and asked the school committee members and the community if they had any questions or needed any clarification on any part of the presentation.

Rochester Proposed Budget:	\$ 6,459,584
Breakdown in Percentages:	
Professional Salaries:	66%
Support Salaries:	7%
Transportation/Out of District:	14%
Contracted Services:	10%
Supplies:	2%
Other:	1%

Chairperson Hartley asked the committee members and the community if they had any questions or comments regarding the proposed FY20 Budget. There were none.

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to close the FY20 Budget Public Hearing at 6:55pm to go in to the Regular Meeting  
 SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes  
 SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville  
 IN FAVOR: All  
 OPPOSED: None  
 MOTION PASSED

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session: January 3, 2019**

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of February 7, 2019

Chairperson Hartley noted she did send to the committee members a copy of the Chairperson’s Report.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting: February 7, 2019 – Approved of Regular Meeting  
 MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve the minutes of February 7, 2019, as written  
 SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville  
 SECONDED: Ms. Rood  
 IN FAVOR: All  
 OPPOSED: None  
 MOTION PASSED

**B. Approval of Budget Minutes – February 7 and February 27, 2019**

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the budget sub-committee minutes of February 7, 2019

Approval of Minutes: Budget Meeting: February 7, 2019 – Approved of Budget Meeting  
 MOTION: by Ms. Rounseville to approve the minutes of February 7, 2019, as written  
 SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes  
 IN FAVOR: All  
 OPPOSED: None  
 MOTION PASSED

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the budget sub-committee minutes of February 27, 2019

Approval of Minutes: Budget Meeting: February 27, 2019 – Approved of Budget Meeting  
MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve the minutes of February 27, 2019, as written  
SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes  
SECONDED: Ms. Hartley  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

Prior to the proposed FY20 Budget being approved, Ms. Rood mentioned she was happy to hear the establishment of a Capital Improvement Committee and their plan they came up with in supporting the Go Math Initiative and funding it for three years. She wanted to extend a “thank you” to that committee.

#### **IV. General**

##### **A. Approval of FY20 Budget**

###### **Recommendation:**

That the School Committee review the proposed FY20 Budget.

Chairperson Hartley stated based on the new proposal of a decrease in the amount of \$15,000 relating to how the district will proceed with curriculum instruction next year, as well as the decrease of student transportation in the amount of \$20,000 for a total of a \$35,000 savings in the proposed FY20 Budget, a motion will go forward as follows:

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to reduce the proposed FY20 budget presented this evening by \$35,000.00  
SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes  
SECONDED: Ms. Rood  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve the FY20 Budget for the Rochester School District in the amount of \$6,424,584.00  
SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville  
SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

##### **B. Approval of Transportation Contract**

###### **Recommendation:**

That the School Committee review and approve the transportation contract for fiscal years 2020 through 2022.

Mr. Kitchen proposed to the committee to approve a bus contract with Amaral Bus Company, Inc., located at 1090 State Road in Westport, MA, which has been determined the lowest responsible bidder for student transportation for the Town of Rochester and the Old Rochester Regional School District. Both Braga Bus Company and Whaling City Transit also provided bids.

Mr. Kitchen noted Amaral Bus Company will provide a \$500 bond of insurance; their buses will not be any older than 8 years old – (which Amaral Bus Company stated they would be providing 1 year old buses); and, based on the per route/per day rate, Amaral Bus Company, Inc., came in at the lowest bid – which would save Rochester School District approximately \$24,000.00 in student transportation. Mr. Kitchen further stated that he contacted other districts who presently use Amaral Bus Company (Westport, Seekonk, Acushnet, Bristol Aggie and Fall River) in which he received very positive feedback from the districts he contacted. Mr. Kitchen felt as though leaving a buffer of \$4,000.00 (or a little more) to cover any other unforeseen budget needs –he feels very comfortable presenting to the committee and community members that a \$20,000.00 savings in transportation costs would be the recommendation to deduct that amount from the proposed FY20 Budget should they choose to go with Amaral Bus Company, Inc.

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve and award Amaral Bus Company, Inc., of Westport, MA for the student transportation contract for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 as described by Paul Kitchen

SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes

SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

### C. Project Grow Tuition

#### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve an increase for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Nelson stated over the past few years, he has kept the school committee up-to-date on the steady decrease of monetary funds through the several grants that are used to assist in funding the Early Childhood program in the ORR School District.

Mr. Nelson's greatest concern is the steadily decrease in the CFCE Grant (Coordinated Family and Community Engagement) Grant, which the bulk of that grant supports Ms. Lopes' salary, her support staff salary, as well as Professional Development opportunities. Mr. Nelson further stated the 274 and the 298 "Entitlement Grants" have diminished to support Professional Development; and, presently, the 262 – Early Childhood Special Education Grant (which partially offsets some of the paraprofessionals in the Early Childhood programs) and the 391 – Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments Grant, have decreased considerably. Mr. Nelson stated the 391 Grant, in recent years offered \$50,000, and now (past three years) have offered \$10,000 per district (Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester) – and next year will be the final year of that Grant.

Mr. Nelson stated since he has been in the district (5 years), his office has not come to the school committees to request an increase in tuition for the Early Childhood program, but at this time, with Grant decreases, he feels it is necessary to do so. Mr. Nelson would also like to stay competitive with the other early childhood programs offered in the district, as well as local private community programs.

Ms. Lopes provided background on the district's Early Childhood program as follows:

- It is a four-hour integrated pre-school program, which has typically developing students as well as students with individualized education plans.
- The current rate per day is \$25.00 and the program runs 177 days.



- Ms. Lopes has held the position of Early Childhood Coordinator for the past eleven years, and the \$25.00/day rate has been in existence since then and she doesn't know when the last increase was prior to her taking the position.

Ms. Lopes stated the proposed daily rate would be an increase to \$35.00/day, and she provided to the committee comparisons with other community based-rate programs.

Ms. Rounseville asked how payments are made by families throughout the year.

Ms. Lopes responded they inform families what it costs for the Project Grow program for the full year and they offer them the opportunity to pay in five installment payments throughout the school year, with the last payment being in March. Ms. Lopes stated families have the option to pay on-line in full, which enables the families to present documentation to their employer for tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Nelson shared with the committee, that presently they have full-enrollment for FY20 in all three Project Grow classrooms, with waiting lists in each of the towns.

Chairperson Hartley asked if this approval has been presented before the other two towns, and when would this increase take place.

Mr. Nelson responded the Rochester School Committee is the first committee this request has been presented to, and the increase would take place beginning FY20.

Ms. Rood wanted to know how often is this program revisited for the sustainability of the program. Ms. Rood also asked if this was being looked at now because of the decrease in grant funds. Ms. Rood wanted to know if the state has given reasons why these grants have been steadily decreasing.

Mr. Nelson responded the most drastic change that they did not anticipate was the grant that most supported the Early Childhood program, and that in order to continue the three programs to the best practices that have been for many, many years, they have to increase the tuition in order for these programs to continue to exist at the highest caliber as they do now. Mr. Nelson stated he has only heard that there are new developments coming (as far as funding) and they will learn more information in coming months, but he has been hearing this for the past couple of years.

Mr. Nelson stated in looking at other competitive programs in the area and the tuitions they request, he feels comfortable with the proposed increase that his office is asking for at this time.

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve the proposed Project Grow Tuition increase rate from \$25.00/day to \$35.00/day starting FY20.  
 SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville  
 SECONDED: Ms. Rood  
 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 \$291,371.00. Mr. Kitchen met with Mr. Medeiros regarding the negative balance lines and he has prepared a “budget transfer” document to review with the committee this evening for their approval. At this time, Mr. Kitchen is not concerned about the budget.

There were no questions asked of the school committee members.

## 2. Budget Transfers

### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve budget transfers.

Mr. Kitchen reviewed with the committee members budget transfers he would like to make at this time in the regular day budget in the total amount of \$27,150.22 as follows:

	Credit	Debit
001 – School Committee		125.00
004 – Supt’s Office	(240.86)	
007 – Admin Regular Day Supplies		798.70
007 – Admin Regular Day Substitute Coord.	(1,950.00)	
010 – Classroom Teachers - Substitute C/R	(4,021.28)	
010 – Classroom Teachers - All Staff	(4,577.08)	
037 – Mathematics - Textbooks		8,124.32
040 – Media Services - Books & Magazines		243.36
043 – Maintenance of Equip - Supplies		59.99
055 – Social Studies - Supplies		1,375.29
085 – Miscellaneous - Attendance Officer		1,575.00
088 – Operation & Maintenance – Water System		300.00
088 – Operation & Maintenance – Grounds		52.75
088 – Operation & Maintenance – Building		5,056.09
088 – Operation & Maintenance – Paper		5,000.00
093 – Computer Program – Software		1,575.19
093 – Computer Program – Educational Equip		2,128.10
093 – Computer Program – Telephone		736.43
097 – Programs w/Others – Tuition: B.Aggie	(16,361.00)	
TOTAL:	(27,150.22)	27,150.22

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve regular day budget transfers in the amount of \$27,150.22, as presented

SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville

SECONDED: Ms. Fernandes

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Kitchen reviewed with the committee members budget transfers he would like to make at this time in the special needs budget in the total amount of \$15,523.09 as follows:

100 – Special Needs – Dir. Of Student Services		.02
100 – Special Needs – Administrative Asst	(1.59)	
100 – Special Needs – Legal Expenses		800.00
100 – Special Needs – Paraprofessional	(8,999.98)	

100 – Special Needs – Teachers		10,004.62
100 – Special Needs – Bus Monitors		4,718.45
100 – Special Needs – Teachers	(630.00)	
100 – Special Needs – McKinney Vento	(5,891.52)	
TOTAL:	(15,523.09)	15,523.09

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to approve special needs budget transfers in the amount of \$15,523.09, as presented

SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes

SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:**

Chairperson Hartley stated the following:

Ms. Hartley received a letter of resignation from Meagan Bennett effective immediately. Ms. Hartley stated Ms. Bennett will be missed and that she has been a thoughtful and articulate member of the school committee for many years.

Ms. Hartley went on to explain that Ms. Bennett had one more year to her term as a school committee member, and since the deadline has expired to run for school committee, anyone who is interested in filling in for one year, can go to the Town Clerk and express their interest, in order for an appointment to be made.

Ms. Hartley thanked the budget sub-committee members for their time and stated she enjoyed the process of working with fellow community members on the committee. Ms. Hartley stated it has been a positive year and she appreciates working with everyone; that it has been meaningful and impressive to work with everyone to try and solve how we will move forward next year with regard to our curriculum instruction office; and, she was proud to have worked on both of those areas.

**CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Dr. White stated that tomorrow in Boston, they will be taking on the state budget around education and talking about changing around the Chapter 70 formula to support special education.

Mr. Nelson stated the Grade 7 student support staff from the Jr. High School and the Grade 6 student support staff from Rochester Memorial met and they had meaningful conversations on each of the seventeen (17) students with IEP’s who will coming up to the JHS to ensure those students have a smooth transition in the fall.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:**

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

Mr. West attended the FORM Choral Concert on March 5<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Medeiros attended the FORM Instrumental Concert on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Medeiros stated he is always amazed at the Instrumental Concert in seeing all of the bands get together from the three elementary schools, the JHS and the HS, and the performance they display. Mr. Medeiros also stated it was nice to see a great showing from the community as well attend this performance.

Mr. Medeiros stated on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Brogioli, Mr. Coellner and Ms. DeChellis visited RMS for the annual Grade 6 Parent Informational Night. This event provided Grade 6 parents/guardians with important information related to the JHS (approximately 20-25 parents attended this informational

night). Mr. Medeiros also stated the last Parent Informational Night would be taking place at the JHS on March 28<sup>th</sup>, where parents/guardians would have the opportunity to tour the JHS, as well as receive important information related to the JHS.

Mr. Medeiros stated on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Gene Jones attended the town's Community Resilience Building workshop facilitated by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD), and a second meeting is being held tomorrow – Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which Mr. Medeiros will be attending as well.

Mr. Medeiros provide the committee with a “snap shot” of the schedule for ELA MCAS for the month of April:

Grade 3 – ELA: April 2 and 3

Grade 4 ELA: April 9 and 10

Grade 5 ELA: April 23 and 24

Grade 6 ELA: April 25 and 26

Mr. Nelson stated the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 4 elementary Responsive Classroom workshops took place, with the last one scheduled to take place in June, 2019.

Ms. Rood added the Vocabulary Parade took place last week, which was fun, entertaining and exciting for the students. Ms. Hartley noted there was a great story and great photos in the Wanderer on this event as well.

Mr. West noted prior to the Vocabulary Parade at the all school meeting, the DI (Destination Imagination) Teams were recognized for all of their accomplishments.

At the request of Mr. Medeiros, a moment of silence was held in honor of Chloe Harding a Rochester Memorial Student who recently passed away.

Chairperson Hartley noted in their packets there is a Food Service Director's report by Ms. Henesey, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, and asked the committee if there were any questions at this time regarding this report.

Ms. Rood is concerned that the deficit amount (negative accounts) has increased over February's report, and stated normally at this time of the year, this number begins to decrease. Ms. Rood indicated that she looked at past reports in previous years for the same timeline, and the negative accounts were decreasing by March in those reports.

Ms. Rood clarified that the “Student Meal Account” as a whole has a surplus in the program itself.

Mr. Kitchen will look into the negative accounts with Ms. Henesey and report back to the committee.

Chairperson Hartley asked the committee if there were any questions on the Facilities Director's Report by Gene Jones, Director of Facilities, dated March, 2019 in which he reported the following was done:

- Completed two snow removal operations.
- Conducted routine maintenance on facility equipment and systems.

Ms. Rood was happy to report that the light in the parking lot is no longer flashing – and she is happy to see that it has been fixed!

There were no other questions/concerns at this time by the committee.

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **B. Committee Reports**

#### **1. Budget Subcommittee**

Chairperson Hartley stated this information has been presented above.

#### **2. ORR District School Committee**

Ms. Rood stated they approved a trip to Italy sponsored by the language department; a unified MIAA track and field team (all inclusive), in collaboration with the Special Olympics, was approved, noting that ORR is the 7<sup>th</sup> local league to have a unified track team; a bike curriculum has been added to the physical education class; the Tri-town Grant applications are out; a “Solar Canopy” proposal was brought before the ORR School Committee members – Mr. Kitchen will provide additional information, design and photos of the proposal to the next committee meeting; and, an update on the Facilities Project will take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>, as well as a vote on this project.

#### **3. SMEC**

Ms. Fernandes stated they have not met – they will meet on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. READS**

Dr. White stated they met on March 14<sup>th</sup> and they continue to look at feasibility studies around space, other funding mechanisms, as well as alternative sites; they looked at restructuring of their academic leadership; added an Academic Director of Student Services position; and, SMEC will be hiring a new Business Manager.

#### **5. Tri-Town Foundation**

Ms. Rounseville stated they have not met, but reiterated the Tri-Town Foundations Grants are available.

#### **6. Early Childhood Council**

No report.

#### **7. Policy Sub-Committee**

No report.

## **IX. Future Business**

### **A. Timeline**

Chairperson Hartley reported:

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is Thursday – May 2, 2019 @ 6:30pm (after elections) 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**

- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Project Based Learning Process (Spring)
- Reading Program (Spring)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

**X. Open Comments**

Ms. Rood put in a “plug” for the ORR Drama presentation of “Anything Goes”, which is opening on Thursday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup> and running through Sunday afternoon.

Dr. White thanked the committee on their hard work regarding the FY20 Budget.

**XI. Information Items**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2019
- Budget Minutes of February 7, 2019
- Budget Minutes of February 27, 2019
- Rochester School Committee Meeting Agenda – March 21, 2019
- Principal’s Report – March, 2019
- School Business Administrator’s Report – March, 2019
- Food Service Director Report – March, 2019
- Food Service Profit & Loss Statement – February, 2019
- Facilities Director Report – March, 2019
- Draft ORR Minutes of February 27, 2019

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm  
SO MOVED: Ms. Fernandes  
SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary