

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

**MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2019**

Regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was held on Thursday – January 3, 2019 at 6:33pm., 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; Dr. Elise Frangos, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Michael Nelson, Director of Student Services; 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.

Ms. Hartley stated the committee members met at 5:00pm for a budget meeting prior to the regular school committee meeting, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

MEETING TO ORDER

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session: November 15, 2018

Chairperson Hartley asked if there were any changes to the minutes of November 15, 2018

Approval of Minutes:	Regular Meeting: November 15, 2018 – Approved of Regular Meeting
MOTION:	by Chairperson Hartley to approve the minutes of November 15, 2018, as amended.
SO MOVED:	Vice-Chair, Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED:	Ms. Rounseville
IN FAVOR:	All
OPPOSED:	None
OBSTAINED:	Ms. Hartley
	MOTION PASSED

IV. General

A. School Calendar Review

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review the “draft” school calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. The school calendar was reviewed at the last Joint School Committee meeting on December 13, 2018.

Dr. White stated the “draft” calendar presented before the committee for FY19/20 closely resembles this years’ calendar as follows:

August	22	-	New Teacher Orientation
	26	-	Teacher's Meeting
	27	-	Opening Day – All Schools
	30	-	No School (Long weekend going in to Labor Day)
September	2	-	Holiday – Labor Day
	18	-	Professional Development (Early Release Day)

Dr. White stated they have found success with the Professional Development days in running them the Friday going into a long weekend – they have received support from parents around the opportunity for them to have a long weekend, therefore:

October	11	-	Full Day Professional Development for Staff (No School for Students)
	14	-	Holiday (Columbus Day)
	24	-	Early Dismissal for Elementary Schools – K-6 (Parent/Teacher Conf)
	25	-	Early Dismissal for Elementary Schools – K-6 (Parent/Teacher Conf)
November	11	-	Holiday – Veteran's Day

Through our data collection information – the Wednesday before Thanksgiving has been very low attendance in the schools – therefore:

	27	-	Vacation
	28	-	Vacation (Thanksgiving)
	29	-	Vacation
December	23	-	Vacation
	24	-	Vacation
	25	-	Vacation (Christmas)
	26	-	Vacation
	27	-	Vacation
	30	-	Vacation
	31	-	Vacation
January	1	-	Vacation (New Year's Day)
Resume classes on Thursday – January 2, 2020			
	17	-	Full Day Professional Development for Staff (No School for Students)
	20	-	Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
February	6	-	Professional Development (Early Release Day)
	17	-	Vacation – President's Day
	18	-	Vacation
	19	-	Vacation
	20	-	Vacation
	21	-	Vacation
March	4	-	Professional Development (Early Release Day)
	19	-	Early Dismissal for Mattapoisett Elementary (Parent Teacher Conf)
	20	-	Early Dismissal for Mattapoisett Elementary (Parent Teacher Conf)

April	10	-	No School
	20	-	Vacation - Patriot's Day
	21	-	Vacation
	22	-	Vacation
	23	-	Vacation
	24	-	Vacation
May	25		Holiday – Memorial Day
June	3		Professional Development (Early Release Day)
	12		Last Day of School – 180 th Day (Pending no Snow Days, etc.)
June	19		185 th Day

Dr. White stated this “draft” calendar for FY20 is open for discussion at this meeting; it will be presented and discussed at the Joint School Committee meeting in March; and, it will be shown between now and then to Union members, as well as all School Councils.

Ms. Hartley questioned the December break – she noted the students would be returning back on Thursday, January 2nd, and stated in the past, schools have often had these two weeks off. Ms. Hartley asked if the Professional Development day on January 17th could possibly be moved to Friday, January 3rd, and not have students return back to school until Monday – January 6th. Ms. Hartley stated it is hard to have students come back for just two days and make significant progress.

If the January 17th Professional Development day was changed to Friday, January 3rd, and students were given the full two weeks off, the last day of school would tentatively be scheduled for Monday – June 15th – (without snow days, etc.).

Ms. Rood mentioned that having Good Friday off is always a difficult discussion and feels strongly about not having that day off. Ms. Rood stated that it is just not a national holiday.

Dr. White stated anything is open for discussion.

A. Curriculum Position Discussion

Recommendation:

That the School Committee discuss the curriculum position for the 2019-2020 school year.

Ms. Hartley stated, “As we know, Dr. Elise Frangos is headed for retirement and we are grateful for all her work, we recognize that we need to think about how we are going to replace Dr. Frangos and what we should do for that position.”

Ms. Hartley noted there are several ideas before us. Ms. Hartley noted perhaps two Curriculum Instruction people with expertise in math, science and ELA.

Ms. Hartley noted we have asked for a reconsideration of how to be sure that there is an Assistant Superintendent leadership in our District and can encompass all the needs that we have in those areas.

Ms. Hartley concluded there will be future discussions regarding this position on how and if we will restructure that position.

Dr. White noted in considering this position across multiple Districts, conversations need to happen in all of the Districts as well as the need to understand there is a funding mechanism if we are going to change the model. Dr. White noted currently in the budget process we are having conversations as to whether or not funds can be placed to create two positions and if that is the case, we may move forward and look to

fill these positions with qualified individuals. If not, then we may be in the similar situation in having the one position throughout the District, PreK-12.

B. Resolution in Support of Full Funding for our Public Schools

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the resolution in support of full funding for the Rochester Public Schools.

Ms. Hartley stated she met with Jim DellaCioppa and Deb Bacchiocchi a few weeks ago and they presented working for a resolution and they also gave an explanation of the MTA's proposed increased state's spending.

Mr. DellaCioppa explained you have your foundational budget and your minimum required distribution (Chapter 70 money). Mr. DellaCioppa stated this proposed legislation would increase another 1.1 billion dollars by the end of 2023, through the cities and towns across the Commonwealth, and for Rochester Memorial that would be approximately \$125,000. Mr. DellaCioppa further stated the MTA is trying to get momentum to get legislators see that school committees across the state are pushing for this, along with local teacher associations.

Ms. Rood stated these "grass roots strategies" seem to be helping in letting the state know where education is struggling.

Ms. Fernandes asked if there was a next step from the committee - Mr. DellaCioppa stated not really, but through a resolution showing the committee's support for the measure for the legislation that the MTA has proposed.

Ms. Hartley read the following for the record:

Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public Schools

WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

WHEREAS, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a rich school experience that addresses their academic, social and emotional needs;

WHEREAS, the state's foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services; and

WHEREAS, an updated foundation budget formula would bring **Rochester** up to \$25,000 in additional state aid each year, allowing this district to move closer to providing all students with the education to which they are entitled as residents of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature failed to pass any foundation budget legislation in the last session, leaving districts, educators and students without the funds necessary to support the schools our students deserve in every district in the state;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Rochester School Committee urges the Legislature to approve and fully fund a new foundation budget formula by May 1, 2019.

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to entertain a Motion to support a Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public School.
SO MOVED: Vice-Chair, Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED: Ms. Rounseville
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

Mr. DellaCioppa is not sure if Mattapoissett or Marion have joined in, however, he stated the District has and he was not sure of the exact number of school's state wide that have joined.

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review the Financial Report.

Dr. White noted with the many budget transfers that happened last month, this months' budget looks pretty clean (areas are not overdrawn any longer). Dr. White stated if there are program lines that are overdrawn, monies can be transferred within that particular program without the need of school committee approval, with the exception of Program 13 (Kindergarten Program) and Program 22 (Reading Program).

Dr. White noted the following:

Program 13 – Teacher's Salaries – deficit in the amount of \$9,758.76

Program 22 – Teacher's Salaries – deficit in the amount of \$7,232.03

Total: \$ 16,990.79

Dr. White requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$16,990.79 be taken out of Program 10 (All Staff) to cover the above programs.

There were no questions by the school committee members.

MOTION: by Chairperson Hartley to entertain a Motion to transfer \$16,990.79 for salary allocations from the "All Staff" program line to the Kindergarten and Reading teacher salary lines as presented by Superintendent White.
SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville
SECONDED: Vice-Chair, Ms. Fernandes
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Hartley reported as follows:

In December Ms. Hartley attended the Town Tree Lighting, which is sponsored by the Selectmen, and stated once again it was a beautiful event and it was led by Rochester Memorial's band and chorus students. Ms. Hartley noted prior to the event, there is a writing contest for students, and the student chosen gets to light the tree. Ms. Hartley noted Santa always arrives on time and cookies and beverages are donated and enjoyed by all; on December 18th, Ms. Hartley attended the four chairs meeting with Dr. White, and similar discussions were talked about, as has been this evening; on December 20th, Ms. Hartley along with other school committee members, attended the traditional holiday concert at RMS.

Ms. Hartley noted today, January 3rd, she attended an interesting presentation of the potential Chapter 40R Project, called “Rochester Crossing”, in which both the Select Board and Planning Board attended, (it was a meeting open to the public as well), wherein a proposal of 208 housing units would be built in the Town of Rochester, which would have a definite impact in our school. Ms. Hartley stated this meeting was taped and will be available for viewing by the public soon, and encouraged the committee and community members to watch this video.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Dr. White asked the committee to review information provided to them from the Rural School Committee, which talks about how rural schools are looked at and funded. Dr. White stated there is a group of Superintendents and Legislators who are looking into this, and stated he feels Rochester Memorial falls into this “rural school” role. Dr. White noted to the committee members if they would like letters written from his office or from the Rural School Committee with their name on it, he would be happy to do that and send it along.

Dr. Frangos stated her New Year’s resolution is “GRATITUDE”, and was particularly grateful for the holiday gift she received from Grade 3 students at RMS, with the guidance of Ms. Joanne Smith the art teacher, which was an example of art and project based learning. Dr. Frangos stated she is going to frame it and cherish it because of the words on it that will inspire her for the year ahead – “Cheer, Empathy, Unity, Gratitude, Create, Imagine, Togetherness, Wonder, Vision, Awareness”.

Dr. Frangos invited the school committee members to the Professional Development day on Friday – January 18, which has many offerings throughout the day. Dr. Frangos noted Dr. Laurie White from Yale University will be the first guest speaker in the cafeteria at the high school. Dr. Frangos noted in the afternoon, the school committee members may want to join an offering by Meg Hall, who has orchestrated a student panel of 20 students called “Mirrors and Windows”, representing students with different gender orientations or who have transitioned. Dr. Frangos invited all of the school committee members from all of the towns to Ms. Hall’s professional development presentation.

Mr. Nelson stated Project Grow will start its advertisement to register students for next year starting this month and they will be piloting a new Family ID software, where parents will be able to register students on-line and ideally be able to pay on-line as well.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

He thanked Mrs. Williamson, Ms. Audette, Mr. DellaCioppa and Mr. Ouellette for all of their efforts in putting together another great holiday concert, and stated the boys and girls in the 5th and 6th grade chorus did an amazing job performing all of the pieces and demonstrated outstanding musical talents; the Student Council held a canned food drive again this year in December and they collected over 1100 cans that will be picked up by Martha’s Pantry of New Bedford; on January 11th @ 6:30pm, the annual Grade 6 versus staff basketball game will take place. There is a \$1.00 donation at the door to benefit the Nurse Thayer Memorial Scholarship; the Grade 4 choral concert will take place on January 24 – the theme of this year’s show is Broadway music; the Kindergarten orientation for all incoming K students will take place on January 30th from 6-7pm. Parents/guardians will receive registration packets, tour the classrooms and get a snapshot of a typical kindergarten day; the Department of Ed will be performing a mid-cycle review special education audit on Monday, January 14. They will be touring the building followed by an interview with me; and, the next School Council will be held on Monday, January 7.

Mr. Medeiros concluded with news from Mrs. Murphy, Rochester Memorial’s School Nurse, and read the following:

“The mission of the National Board of Certification of School Nurses is to advance the quality of school health services or school nurse practice by providing a rigorous, national, credentialing process to validate competency based on professional standards.

Mr. Medeiros stated they learned yesterday that Mrs. Murphy passed that national exam and has met the highest national standing for school nursing care.

Mr. Medeiros and the committee congratulates Mrs. Murphy on this accomplishment.

Mr. West stated he will be presenting at the Professional Development day regarding teacher/student relationships and gender differences at the younger grade levels and the developmental expectations at these early ages and how this impacts teacher/student relationships.

Ms. Rounseville requested an update on the dental services offered to the students at RMS.

Mr. Medeiros replied that it went great and stated they were able to use a classroom down in the “A” wing normally used by our health office, which the dental team had easy access to be able to move their equipment in and out of the school. Mr. Medeiros stated they had 15 to 17 students participate and they had positive feedback from families who also asked if they would be offering this again in the spring. Mr. Medeiros stated they would be returning in the spring.

VIII. School Committee

B. Committee Reports

1. Budget Subcommittee

Chairperson Hartley stated the Budget Subcommittee just met tonight and will be looking forward to several more meetings and thanked Dr. White for all of the preparations.

2. ORR District School Committee

Ms. Rood stated they met at the beginning of December. Ms. Rood noted that a teacher at the Jr. High, requested the Jr. High have a ski club, and proposed this to the committee for approval – which the committee approved; the Jr. High School is once again going to Europe over April vacation and presented a fundraiser proposal of selling 10 used gaming systems on EBay, which were donated to the Jr. High School by UMass Dartmouth – this proposal was approved by the committee.

Ms. Rood stated the big item of the night was the facilities update regarding the capital projects that needed to be done at the high school (TURF project, as well as addressing items that need to be done in the building – lighting, etc.). Ms. Rood noted Mr. Devoll reviewed class sizes at the high school and some of the impacts in some of the classes.

Ms. Rood stated the month of December was filled with exciting performances – concerts, the drama play as well as the super bowl game; and, the Jr. High School held their annual Senior Citizen Tri-town Thanksgiving luncheon.

Ms. Rood concluded that Dr. White recognized senior, Sydney Green of Rochester, who received the Superintendent’s Certificate for Academic Excellence.

3. SMEC

Ms. Fernandes stated they met on November 29, 2018 and the following was discussed:

1. Minutes of SMEC October 30, 2018 meeting were approved, as submitted.
2. Staff Appointments and Reductions were accepted, as submitted.
3. FY18 Independent Financial Audit was presented, reviewed and approved, as presented by a representative from Benoit and McArdle, Certified Public Accountants
 - a. The audit highlighted that “the Collaborative maintains excellent personal and financial data records, as well as extremely well-maintained documentation supporting all areas of the audit”
 - b. Several procedural recommendations were made by the representative from Benoit and McArdle
4. FY18 Annual Report Draft was presented, reviewed and approved in its draft form
5. FY19 Amended Spending Plan was presented, reviewed, and approved as submitted

6. DESE's Mid-Cycle Review was briefly discussed, as "no findings"; however, DESE's final report has not yet been received.
7. The next scheduled SMEC Board meeting is Tuesday - January 29, 2019, at 5:30.

4. READS

Dr. White stated the Annual Report is in the committee's packet for their review and stated the big item being discussed at this time is the potential new building project and whether or not they will be able to provide funding in support to make it happen.

Dr. White concluded there will be a FY20 budget proposal coming up in the next month.

5. Tri-Town Foundation

Ms. Rounseville reported they have not met – the next meeting is scheduled for Monday – January 7th.

6. Early Childhood Council

No report

7. Policy Sub-Committee

No report

Chairperson Hartley noted there is a Food Service Director's report, as well as a Facilities Manager's report, and asked the committee if they had any comments or questions on either of those reports - there were none. Ms. Hartley further stated, "We are at a point and time that we do not have any concerns on our food service budget, which is a nice thing. In the far past, they did have concerns and it is nice to have this going smoothly at this time."

Dr. White noted he meets with Jill Henesey weekly and that in looking at the entire budget, they were able to hire a permanent sub who can work throughout the district, and has been trained in each of the district's kitchens. Dr. White also stated as of January 2nd, lunches have increased .25 cents in each of the districts.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Chairperson Hartley reported:

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is Thursday – February 7, 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 – March 7, 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

- Initial Budget Review (February)
- Approval of Chairperson's Annual Report (February)
- Interim report on School Committee progress toward goals (February)
- Budget Approval (public hearings) (February)
- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Project Based Learning Process (Spring)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

X. Open Comments

Chairperson Hartley shared that she was at the boys’ basketball game last night between Old Rochester and Somerset, in Somerset, and as the game was about to begin, the technology room made an announcement that their technology equipment was not working properly. The coach for Somerset stated the game needed to begin, and the students from Somerset sitting on the other side of the court began to sing the Star-Spangled Banner, and our side said let’s stand. We all began singing the Star-Spangled Banner without any accompanist. Ms. Hartley said it was a very beautiful moment at an athletic event at a high school. Ms. Hartley stated it was the highlight of the game!

Ms. Hartley concluded thanking everyone for being at the meeting and taking many hours to talk about our school, and our school’s needs.... Happy New Year to everyone ... and have a great night.

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Rochester School Committee Meeting Agenda – January 3, 2019
- Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2018
- School Business Administrator’s Report – December, 2019
- Food Service Director Report – January, 2019
- Food Service Profit & Loss Statement – November, 2018
- Facilities Director Report – January, 2019
- Draft ORR Minutes of October 24, 2018 and December 5, 2018
- Letter from Massachusetts Rural Schools Coalition
- READS Annual Report
- Principal’s Report – January 3, 2019

MOTION:	by Chairperson Hartley to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm
SO MOVED:	Vice-Chair, Ms. Fernandes
SECONDED:	Ms. Rood
IN FAVOR:	All
OPPOSED:	None
	MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary