

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
November 15, 2018**

Regular meeting of the Rochester School Committee was held on Thursday – November 15, 2018 at 6:30pm., at the Rochester Memorial School – 16 Pine Street, Rochester, Massachusetts.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** 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.

Vice-Chairperson, Anne Fernandes, 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: October 11, 2018**

Vice-Chairperson Fernandes asked if there were any changes to the minutes of October 11, 2018

Approval of Minutes:	Regular Meeting: October 11, 2018 – Approved of Regular Meeting
MOTION:	by Vice-Chairperson Fernandes to approve the minutes of October 11, 2018, as written.
SO MOVED:	Ms. Rounseville
SECONDED:	Ms. Rood
IN FAVOR:	All
OPPOSED:	None
	MOTION PASSED

**IV. General**

**A. Capital Update**

Dr. White stated three items have been brought before the committee for capital improvements:

1. Upgrading of cameras for the safety of the building (which was last updated in 2014). This project would cost approximately \$86,817, which would be tied in to the Rochester Police Station; and,
2. Irrigation for the backfields, as well as by the playground area on the side of the building, which would cost approximately \$56,000.
3. Another way they could save money was to opt in to a three-year lease for the renewal of the Go Math Program, instead of only a one-year lease (purchase curriculum for longer than a year) for approximately \$32,000.00.

Ms. Rood thought the amount of \$56,000 was a bit high – Mr. Medeiros stated there are some pipes already underground, however they would need to add additional pipes to the sprinkler pop-ups, as well as a pump system. Mr. Medeiros noted that it would be for the backfield (soccer area), the side field (playground area), as well as some of the walkway paths.

Ms. Rounseville asked if the upgrade on the cameras could be done in phases – Dr. White stated they could be, and noted that the above quote is for the entire project.

Ms. Rood asked if the video surveillance would be a project that could be worked on with the police department – Mr. Medeiros stated it could be.

**B. Book Discussion:**

**Recommendation: That the School Committee discuss the upcoming book discussion scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm.**

This meeting is confirmed for November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm in the Media Center at Rochester Memorial School.

**C. Creation of Student Activities Drama Account**

**Recommendation: That the School Committee review and approve a creation of a Student Activities Drama Account.**

Dr. White stated there is a “Student Activities” account line, but there is not a specific line for a Drama account – so when there are monies received through donations, ticket sales (gate), this account line would give it a place to be held and expended from. Dr. White stated he has spoken with Cyndy Mello, Town Treasurer, who indicated that the committee would just need a Motion to approve the creation of this account line.

MOTION: by Vice-Chairperson Fernandes to approve a creation of a Student Activities Drama Account.  
SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville  
SECONDED: Ms. Rood  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

**D. Bristol County Agricultural High School**

**Recommendation: That the School Committee review and discuss the new policy regarding tuition effective for the 2018-2019 school year.**

Dr. White stated he received a letter from Adele Sands, Superintendent/Director of Bristol County Agricultural High School notifying a change in their tuition billing procedure. The letter stated that the Board of Trustees voted, starting in the 2018-2019 school year, tuition assessment will align with Chapter 70 funding, and by doing this, each district’s tuition assessment for the fiscal year shall be determined by the municipality’s previous year’s pupil enrollment multiplied by the present year’s approved tuition rate.

Dr. White stated we thought we were going to have a shortfall this year because we had more students enrolled than we had money for, but because of their change in tuition billing beginning this fiscal year, we actually have approximately \$16,000 savings because of the number of students enrolled last year (FY18), and in working on the budgets for FY20, we will have a better idea of student enrollment from this fiscal year, which we can budget the appropriate amount of

funds. Dr. White stated in next years' budget, the tuition will go up substantially due to the number of students attending this year.

Ms. Rounseville stated at least we will have a better idea of the amount (a more concrete number), than in the past – that it was always so tricky trying to budget for this tuition.

Dr. White also noted that Bristol County Agricultural High School will be doing a very large building project, which will mean that assessments in the future will increase.

**V. New Business**

**C. Business**

**1. Financial Report**

Dr. White noted in the financial report the committee has before them, they will see that many “teacher salary” lines are over budget. Dr. White stated he will be making several budget transfers within the same line, which does not require committee approval, and those teacher lines that need a budget transfer from a different program to a specific teacher salary program line, he will request for approval from the committee members.

Dr. White noted that with everything encumbered, the budget is in good shape with a balance of \$447,757 (7.16%). Dr. White stated to the committee that on any given day, this number could change with additional special education/programming, etc.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Transfer Amount</b>	<b>Transfer From</b>
01.305.007.2212.02.08	Aides Supervisory	\$ 2,069.74	
01.305.007.2212.02.09	Clerical	\$ 6,131.94	
01.305.016.2300.01.03	Art Teacher	\$ 3,690.00	
01.305.022.2300.01.03	Reading Teacher	\$ 1,954.94	
01.305.040.2300.01.03	Medial Specialist Teacher	\$ 4,776.00	
01.305.043.2300.01.03	Music Teacher	\$ 1,933.20	
01.305.049.2300.01.03	Physical Education Teacher	\$ 2,141.20	
01.305.052.2300.01.03	Science Teacher	\$ 1,815.00	
01.305.076.3203.01.11	Nurse	\$ 1,323.00	
01.305.102.2300.01.03	Project Grow Teacher	\$ 1,200.95	
01.305.102.2305.02.03	Project Grow Paraprofessional	\$ 8,876.30	
01.305.103.2300.01.03	LSC Teacher	\$ 5,333.40	
01.305.118.2300.01.03	Speech Teacher	\$ 5,160.00	
01.305.127.2800.01.03	Social Worker	\$ 3,045.98	
01.305.127.2801.01.03	Psychologist	\$ 3,942.00	
01.305.010.2301.01.03	All Staff		\$ 53,453.65
01.305.103.2303.02.08	LSC Paraprofessional	\$ 41,697.49	
01.305.133.9404.06.73	Collaboratives		\$ 41,697.69
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS FOR SALARY ALLOCATION:</b>		<b>\$ 95,151.34</b>	<b>\$ 95,151.34</b>

MOTION: by Vice-Chairperson to entertain a Motion to accept the budget transfers as presented.

SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville

SECONDED: Ms. Rood

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rood wanted to clarify to the town/community members that we are transferring money within the budget itself, and that they are not requesting additional funds.

Dr. White further clarified that Program 110 is for teacher salaries, but because it is a different Program, it needs to be brought before the committee for approval to disburse to all of the negative teacher salary lines listed above.

Dr. White further stated in Program 133 – “Collaboratives”, there was money available to cover the LSC Paraprofessional in Program 103. However, since we have been able to make some adjustments in the Special Ed program that has allowed us to bring back students to the district, this saved us some money from the Special Ed account.

## **VI. Special Topic Report**

### **A. MCAS Presentation**

**The Rochester Memorial School’s complete Accountability and MCAS report can be found on the Rochester School’s website.**

Dr. Frangos noted new MCAS System Highlights as follows:

Additional accountability indicators

- Provide information about school performance and student opportunities beyond test scores

Normative and criterion-referenced components

- Accountability percentiles and progress toward targets

Focus on raising the performance of each school’s lowest performing students

- In addition to the performance of the school as a whole

Discontinuation of accountability and assistance levels 1-5

- Replaced with accountability categories that define the progress that schools are making and the type of support they may receive from the Department

Districts classified based on district-level data

- No longer based on the performance of a district’s lowest performing school

Dr. Frangos stated accountability indicators that are now important and measured in schools Grades 3-8 are:

Achievement – ELA/Math and Science

Student Growth – ELA and Math

English Language Proficiency – Progress made by student towards attaining English language proficiency

Additional Indicator(s) – Chronic absenteeism (percentage of students missing 10% or more of their days)

Dr. Frangos stated the Department put out the 2018 percentile weighting as follows:

Achievement – 67.5%

Student Growth – 22.5%

ELL – no rating

Chronic Absenteeism – 10%

Dr. Frangos noted the Department does not differentiate between a student being out of school for the flu, vacation, excused absence, etc., - if a student is out 10% of the school year –which would be 18 days out of a 180 day school year, this will bring down the overall achievement of a school. Dr. Frangos also stated the Department does not have any flexibility on students who are medically fragile who miss days out of school either.

Dr. Frangos stated there are ratings for “All Students” and “Lowest Performing Students” and that the Department sets these ratings.

Dr. Frangos noted in Achievement – RMS met the goal in ELA and Math in both “All Students” and “Lowest Performing Students” by meeting 4 out of 4 target points. In Science, the target was not met – however we must remember that it was only last year that we created new Standards Based Curriculum and we should do better in the next testing round.

Dr. Frangos noted in Growth – RMS scored 3 out of 4 target points for ELA in both “All Students” and “Lowest Performing Students”, and scored 4 out of 4 target points for math in both “All Students” and “Lowest Performing Students”.

Dr. Frangos stated in the Additional Indicators (which is the attendance) – RMS scored 4 out of 4 in “All Students”, but did not meet the goal in “Lowest Performing Students” scoring 0 out of 4.

Dr. Frangos stated the Department averages the above target points and RMS scored 82% of possible points, which met the Criterion-referenced target percentage. Note: to meet the target –you have to be 75% or above.

Dr. Frangos noted that under “Categorization of Schools” we are in the 85% of all schools.

Ms. Rood asked how our schools placed under “Schools of Recognition” – schools demonstrating high achievement, significant improvement, or high growth.

Dr. Frangos stated it’s with terrific growth in the areas of ELA and Math.

Mr. Medeiros stated in Grades 3-6, 59% of our students are “Meeting” or “Exceeding” expectations in ELA.

Grade 3 – ELA:	6%	Exceeding Expectations
	53%	Meeting Expectations
	39%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	2%	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 4 – ELA:	12%	Exceeding Expectations
	43%	Meeting Expectations
	41%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	4%	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 5 – ELA:	4%	Exceeding Expectations
	48%	Meeting Expectations
	47%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	1%	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 6 – ELA	18%	Exceeding Expectations
	51%	Meeting Expectations
	30%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	1%	Not Meeting Expectations

Points of Pride:

All grades 3-6 achieved an average standard score above the 500 threshold consisting off 505, 506, 501 and 512 respectively for all students in he ELA MCAS 2.0 assessment.

Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 scored at the 81<sup>st</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level in our high needs subgroups, special education subgroup and/or economically disadvantaged subgroups.

Grades 3, 4 and 6 scoring at the 57<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, and 86<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level for all students in each respective cohort, as well as scoring in the 68<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level for all grades 3-6.

Student growth percentiles of 58.5 for grade 4 ELA, growth percentiles of 52 for grade 5 ELA and a school wide growth percentile of 53 as compared to the expectation of 50 for the ELA content area.

Mr. Medeiros stated in Grades 3-6, 55% of our students are “Meeting” or “Exceeding” expectations in Math.

Grade 3 – Math	17%	Exceeding Expectations
	33%	Meeting Expectations
	36%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	14%	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 4 – Math	7%	Exceeding Expectations
	40%	Meeting Expectations
	48%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	4%	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 5 – Math	1%	Exceeding Expectations
	47%	Meeting Expectations
	51%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	-	Not Meeting Expectations

Grade 6 – Math	13%	Exceeding Expectations
	58%	Meeting Expectations
	27%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	1%	Not Meeting Expectations

Points of Pride:

All grades 3-6 achieved an average standard score above the 500 threshold consisting of 501, 501, 500 and 509 respectively for all students in the Mathematics MCAS 2.0 assessment.

Grades 3-6 scored at the 66<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level respectively in our high needs subgroups, special education subgroup and/or economically disadvantaged subgroups. Grades 3-6 special education subgroups scored at the 66<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level while our 3-6 economically disadvantaged subgroup scored in the 83<sup>rd</sup> achievement percentile level.

Grades 3-6 scoring at the 50<sup>th</sup>, 61<sup>st</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level for all students in each respective cohort, as well as scoring in the 65<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile level for all grades 3-6.

Student growth percentile of 71 in grade 4, growth percentile of 64 in grade 5 and student growth percentile of 62 for all students grades 3-6 as compared to the expectation of 50 in the mathematics content area statewide.

2018 Aggregate Student Growth:

Math Aggregate Growth 61.6%

ELA Aggregate Growth 52.9%

MCAS 2.0 Action Items:

Teacher teams will continue to examine data and determine how to improve areas of struggle for students during Flex and address student challenges in daily instruction.

Teacher discussions on standards based grading and making determinations on common benchmarks in determining student proficiency.

We will use greater attention to stretch strategies to support advanced learners to impact rigor for all – Flex Time.

Continue RMS Clinical Team discussions regarding children exhibiting a pattern of absenteeism and develop strategies to address student needs.

Creation of digital data walls with a focus on our lowest performing 20%. Data points include performance on MCAS, benchmark assessments, DIBELS, attendance, standards based reporting and Freckle assessments.

Distribute family engagement survey to all families generated through Panorama focal points.

RMS Community Connection team as well as the RMS School Council will continue to meet to discuss current family engagement strategies. Establishment of a Rochester Memorial family engagement liaison for the purpose of analyzing new family engagement metrics.

Mr. Medeiros stated in Grades 3-6, 47% of our students are “Meeting” or “Exceeding” expectations in Science.

Grade 5 – Science	15%	Exceeding Expectations
	32%	Meeting Expectations
	51%	Partially Meeting Expectations
	3%	Not Meeting Expectations

#### Points of Pride:

Our grade 5 achieved a composite performance index score of 8-5 for all students on the Science assessment.

Grade 5 scored a composite performance index score of 68.8 and 71.7 in our high needs and special education subgroups.

The students performed well on Earth & Space Science questions, outperforming the state in both sub categories i.e. Earth’s Place in the Universe and Earth’s Systems. Our students also outperformed the state in the Technology/Engineering category by 9 points as well as outperforming the state in Engineering Design by 9 points.

The infusion of our STEM specialist as well as the conversion of our library to a truly functioning media center has contributed positively to much of this science data. We will also continue to demonstrate improvement through the use of the district science units generated by our science ambassadors on Atlas Rubicon.

#### Science MCAS Action Items:

Completed standard based Units are mapped on Atlas Rubicon and are being fully implemented.

STEM specialist assisting all grade levels with science units/lessons.

Increased STEM/STEAM hands-on opportunities that will propel achievement. We have disseminated DESE produced STEM Look for Guides so teachers are teaching all standards for which they are responsible for in each content area.

Look for Guides will be used by admin for learning walks and evaluations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:**

Vice-Chairperson Fernandes reported the following for Chairperson Hartley:

On Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Hartley represented the Rochester School Committee as a member of the search committee for the School Business Manager; on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Hartley attended the Massachusetts School Committee Association & Superintendent’s Association Joint Conference, and had the opportunity to attend two sessions – 1) Getting the Most Out of Your School’s Business Office, and the General Session with guest speaker – Marc Brackett, who spoke on “Emotional Intelligence”.

Ms. Hartley extended a “thank you” to Mr. Medeiros for hosting the Town Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Rochester Memorial School.

## **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Dr. White stated he had the opportunity to attend the presentation by Marc Brackett at the Superintendent's Association Joint Conference and noted that Marc was fantastic in his presentation not only with his life experience, but also with his work that he is doing at Yale regarding Emotional Intelligence. Dr. White stated we need to be more cognoscente of how people are feeling and how that will impact not only who they are but what they are capable of doing.

Dr. White concluded he is very close to securing the business manager's position.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Mr. Medeiros reported the following:

Mr. Ed Jacobs from the Plymouth County District Attorney's office attended the November staff meeting and introduced the program "Handle with Care" to the staff; on October 28<sup>th</sup>, a representative from the Boy Scouts attended all three lunch shifts, presenting the program/sign-up information was handed out to all students in grades K-6, as well as Scout bracelets were handed out to the students; Mr. Medeiros thanked the Rochester PTO for setting up and organizing the Halloween Dance; on November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Energize Guys will present to all student in grades 2-5 (this presentation includes important information on energy conservation); the annual town tree lighting ceremony will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm (the chorus and band from RMS will be participating in this event); on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra will be performing for all students in grades 3-5 (this concert connects mathematics with the different instruments styles founding he symphony orchestra; and, the annual RMS Holiday Concert will take place on December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm in the cafeteria.

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **B. Committee Reports**

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

Has not met.

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

Ms. Rood stated there were MCAS presentations by both the High School and Jr. High School as well as School Improvement Plan presentations. Ms. Rood stated she was very happy to see how they all reflect the vision of the entire district and that it is very evident that everyone works together to make sure we know where we are coming from and where we are going to.

Ms. Rood stated ORR will be going in to negotiations and the music department will be going to Nashville in the spring.

Ms. Rood concluded that the drama presentation of Cinderella will be happening Thursday through Sunday after Thanksgiving.

#### **3. SMEC**

Ms. Fernandes stated they met on October 30, 2018 and the following was discussed:

1. Minutes of SMEC September 26, 2018 meeting were approved, as submitted.
2. Snow removal stipend was reviewed and approved, as submitted.
3. Staff Appointments and Reductions were accepted, as submitted.
4. Executive Director Evaluation Goals and Plan were reviewed and approved, as submitted.
5. Budget remains status quo.
6. The next scheduled SMEC Board meeting is Tuesday, November 29, 2018 at 5:30.

#### **4. READS**

Dr. White stated the major conversation that was discussed was the building expansion and steps to look for funding and resources to support it; and, they saw the first look at the draft FY20 budget.



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

Ms. Rounseville stated they met last night, November 14, 2018 and they reviewed the financial statements from last quarter to determine if they will have money for grants at the end of this year; they will be reviewing the by-laws; and, Ms. Rounseville stated they are in desperate need of members – ideally one from each school committee, as well as several members from the community at large.

Ms. Rounseville stated Dr. Frangos has arranged for videotaping of some of last years' grant recipients to show the community what these grants are being use for and concluded the next meeting will take place on January 7, 2019.

## **6. Early Childhood Council**

Have not met.

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

Have not met.

## **IX. Future Business**

### **A. Timeline**

Vice-Chairperson Fernandes reported:

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is Thursday – January 3, 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 – December 13, 2018 @ 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 (January)
- Examples of Project Based Learning
- School Lunch Statement (January/June)
- 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)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

Ms. Fernandes would like to have a presentation from a group of fifth or sixth graders regarding Project Based Learning come to a school committee meeting and demonstrate their learning on Project Based Learning. Ms. Rood and Ms. Rounseville liked the idea as well – and steps will take place for this to happen in the near future.

Ms. Rounseville would like an update on the dental visits after it takes place on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **X. Open Comments**

None

## **XI. Information Items**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Rochester School Committee Meeting Agenda – November 15, 2018

Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2018

School Business Administrator's Report – November, 2018

Food Service Director Report – November, 2018  
Food Service Profit & Loss Statement –November, 2018  
Facilities Director Report – November, 2018  
Principal’s Report – November, 2018

MOTION: by Vice-Chairperson Fernandes to adjourn the meeting at 745pm  
SO MOVED: Ms. Rounseville  
SECONDED: Ms. Rood  
IN FAVOR: All  
OPPOSED: None  
MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary