

Old Rochester Regional School Committee Equity Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2023 AT 4:30 p.m.

Media Room at the Junior High School
133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Beauregard (remote), Marion School Committee, Jason Chisholm (remote), ORR School Committee, Frances-Feliz Kearns (in-person), ORR School Committee, Margaret McSweeney (in-person), ORR School Committee and Matthew Monteiro (in-person), ORR School Committee

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Amanda Hastings

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person), Sharlene Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning (in-person) and Kristine Lincoln, Interim Director of Student Services (in-person).

Building Leadership (in-person): Linda Ashley, Center School Principal, Marla Brown, Sippican School Principal, Silas Coellner, Jr. High School Principal, Peter Crisafulli, Sippican School Assistant Principal, Michael Devoll, High School Principal, Heidi Letendre, Rochester Memorial School Interim Principal, Lauren Millette, ORR Guidance Director and Kevin Tavares, Old Hammondtown School Principal.

Meeting called to order at 4:34pm by Frances-Feliz Kearns. Ms. Kearns informed everyone attending the meeting that the meeting was being recorded and stated this meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.

The following agenda items were addressed:

I. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2023:

Motion to accept the minutes with revisions as presented by Margaret McSweeney

Motion Seconded by Frances-Feliz Kearns

Motion Carries

Roll Call: Mary Beauregard (yes), Jason Chisholm (yes), Frances-Feliz Kearns (yes), Margaret McSweeney (yes) and Matthew Monteiro (yes).

II. General

a. Provide Progress Report on Equity Action Plan

Dr. Fedorowicz led a discussion of the Equity Action Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. She reviewed the current vision and strategic objectives of the Vision 2028 Strategic Plan, which is scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the Joint School Committee later this evening. Mr. Devoll discussed continuing REDI PD through the State along with Mr. West as they did last year. Dr. Fedorowicz continued that the administration continues to work with Teachers 21 in the third year of the program. She explained that MCAS Data Analysis is ongoing with results recently released. Learning Walks also continue with administration looking for evidence of sense of belonging and inclusion. Ms. Millette provided a brief overview of Project 351. Mr. Coellner reviewed OpenSciEd curriculum updates for 2023-2024 including expanding to grade five due to the successful approval of another grant by the elementary district school committees. Dr. Ashley confirmed that all schools are again working with students to identify two trusted staff members for this school year. Ms. Lincoln discussed improving upon Responsive Classroom lessons already implemented in the schools.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Kearns commended the administration for their continued work and being off to a great start. She is excited to hear the schools are continuing to work with OpenSciEd and expand to grade five.

b. Overview of Project 351

Guidance Director Lauren Millette introduced Rochester Memorial School sixth graders Delaney Vieira and Adrienne Chua, along with senior Jaymison Gunschel. Ms. Millette and the students discussed Project 351 happenings from the summer and the plans for this school year. Please see Appendix A.

School Committee Feedback:

Mr. Monteiro asked the students if they anticipate having different scenarios for each grade. Ms. Vieira said they do think they will have different videos for each grade and create a playbook for each grade. Ms. Kearns asked Mr. Gunschel what he is most excited about. He said he is excited to train the new trainers as he completes his senior year. He already saw how much impact there has been so far and he wants to continue the work.

Mr. Monteiro asked if ORR students will be training students elsewhere. Dr. Fedorowicz explained that this was discussed with Project 351 representatives earlier this month as ORR is a leader in the program and the representatives commended Ms. Millette, the students and the district for their outstanding efforts thus far.

Mr. Chisholm thanked the students for their involvement and said they should be very proud of themselves.

III. Public Comment**Dr. Fedorowicz read the following statement:**

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy. Per the committee's policy, we will offer up to 15 minutes for public comments this evening. Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the school committee. However, the committee takes any public comment made seriously and appreciates hearing from the public. Anyone looking to provide a public comment must be acknowledged by the Chairperson before addressing the committee. Those making a public comment will have up to three minutes to address the committee and must start their comment by stating their name and the town they reside in. For those in person there is a sign in sheet for those looking to make a public comment located on sidewall and those on zoom, you can send a message in the chat with your name and the town you reside in. The chairperson will alternate between in-person and zoom participants. The school committee reserve the right to address any comment that present incorrect information at our next meeting.

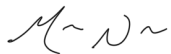
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:16pm by Frances- Feliz Kearns

Motion Seconded by Matthew Monteiro

Motion Carries

Roll Call: Mary Beauregard (yes), Jason Chisholm (yes), Frances-Feliz Kearns (yes), Margaret McSweeney (yes) and Matthew Monteiro (yes).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent



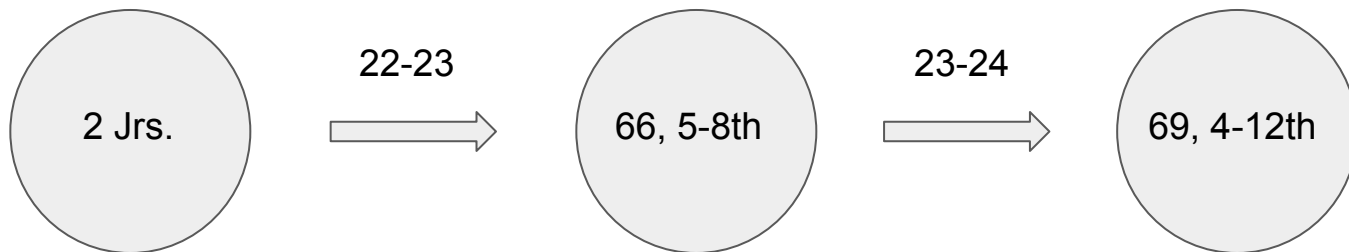
Project 351 and the Future



Overview of 2023 Season



In 2023, the M.A.S.S. Pilot program began. As one of 6 districts selected, ORR became an ally in Project 351's mission and movement. Through our participation we expanded the impact of Playbook's mission and advanced district goals for civic engagement, student leadership, and safe inclusive learning environments under the leadership of Alex Richardson and Mary Cringin of Project 351.





Our 2023 Season in Review



Training

2 JRs/ 1
Educator

12/10, 1/21,
1/24
1/25, 1/31, 4/12

Workshops

3/23 and 3/27

26, 7th & 8th
grade students

40, 5th and 6th
grade students

School Visits

May 30th - RMS

May 31st - OHS

June 1st - Sippican

Presentation

May 15th

Student Trainer
and student
participants

Debrief Session

June 28th -
Wellesley College

Playbook Alumni
Project 351 and
Celtics Staff,
Educators



Reflecting on Student Impact

22-23



“I think there are more leaders in this room than there were at 8:00 am.”

“Yes, because I can help people feel equal and welcome, so no one is left out.”

“Before today, I rarely talked about my opinion in matters but now I will think more about what I want to say and how it impacts people.”

“I’m in a position that is better because Jaymison and Sara taught me how to be a leader and how to respect others.”



Reflecting on Student Why

23-24



“I want to be part of a more inclusive community and be a leader for a better community.”

“I want to learn about how to help kids feel happy at school.”

“By participating in these workshops, I can develop my leadership skills and help others who can’t stick up for themselves.”

“To help people form new friendships and make sure no one is left out.”

“To educate myself more.”



The Future Season



Off Season (Summer): Workshop participants gathered for Kick Off Pizza Party and set goals for 2023-2024 on August 24th

Preseason: Workshop participants met in September to practice leadership skills and share ideas for vision to action.

The Season: Workshops: October/November, February/March



Leadership Lunch



Welcome
Noah Fernandez,
Mattapoisett, MA

Embracing Your
Influence



Leadership Lunch



Inspirations from Noah

Influencer Goals for
the future

Opening Day Action



Opening Day



Niah Gonzales,
Influencer

Faculty address &
introduction of
Speaker, Steve Gross.



Student Voice



Delaney Vieira, Adrianne Chua -
Hopes & Dreams for the future

Jaymison Gunschel & Sara Kroll -
Legacy Building



The Outcomes



Through the implementation of Playbook, our students will gain:

- greater awareness of knowledge of issues of bias and discrimination
- the courage and tools to positively intervene in challenging social situations
- motivation to lead as bridge builders and upstanders, and
- a commitment to unity and respect for the dignity of all.