



**Old Rochester Regional School Committee  
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

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**December 21, 2023 AT 4:30 p.m.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee (in-person), Cristin Cowles, Mattapoisett School Committee (in-person), Katherine Duggan, Rochester School Committee (in-person), Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee (in-person), Margaret McSweeney, ORR School Committee (in-person) and Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee (remote).

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Sharlene Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Kristine Lincoln, Interim Director of Student Services and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (all in-person).

**MEETING TO ORDER at 4:39 p.m. by Ms. Kearns.**

**1. Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from October 12, 2023 by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Duggan

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**2. Review Policy Recommendations**

**JJE Student Fund-Raising Activities** – Superintendent Nelson explained that at the Joint School Committee meeting in September 2023, it was recommended this policy be reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee again regarding the language around competitions among students. At the October 2023 Policy Subcommittee meeting, the members voted for Ms. McSweeney to bring draft(s) to review regarding the language related to competitions and rewards among students.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. McSweeney explained her research and consultation with Mr. Barber, and that the current policy aligns with other districts in the state. In respect to the PTO fundraisers, they report their financial earnings with their own tax filings and it does not go through the district. She recommended adding language regarding the district(s) to thoroughly scrutinize commercially sponsored fundraising activities and review them occasionally. Ms. Duggan agreed that it is important to review regularly as vendors can change for the fundraisers.

**Motion** to approve policy JJE Student Fund-Raising Activities with the recommended changes discussed by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**ACAB – Sexual Harassment, ACAB-R Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and AC-R Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation** – Remove Mr. Craig Davidson as Title IX Coordinator.

**Motion** to amend policies ACAB – Sexual Harassment, ACAB-R Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and AC-R Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation as presented by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

### **3. Review MASC Policy Newsletter Updates (August and December 2023)**

**BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members** – This policy has been updated to reflect best practice that all committee members have and use district email addresses, which are required to be archived as public records. MASC also eliminated archaic language, and updated the cross reference.

#### **School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan suggested adding ‘school committee members are expected to use’ district email addresses in the last paragraph.

**Motion** to amend policy BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members as discussed by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. McSweeney

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**EFC Universal Free School Meals** – This has updated this policy to reflect changes in Massachusetts School Meals Programs as a result of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023.

**Motion** to amend policy EFC Universal Free School Meals as presented by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**EFD School Nutrition Program Charge Policy** – This policy has been updated to reflect changes in Massachusetts School Meals Programs as a result of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023.

**Motion** to amend policy EFD School Nutrition Program Charge Policy as presented by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**EFE Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs** – This policy is new and aligns with DESE and USDA requirements.

#### **School Committee Feedback:**

School Committee members discussed the first read of this policy and recommended updating the language to match the current Non-Discrimination Policy.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy EFE Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs with discussed amendments by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**EHAA District Security Relating To Technology** – This new policy provides a foundation for administrative procedure and practice so as to ensure information which is stored and accessed on district technology is appropriately protected.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan shared her recommended grammatical changes for this policy and Ms. Kearns asked for cross-references to be added if applicable.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy EHAA District Security Related to Technology with the understanding that additional information will be added to the cross-reference as needed and including the edits from Ms. Duggan by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**EHB Data and Records Retention** – This new policy addresses a gap in recommended policy regarding retention of records, including electronic communication by public officials.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan shared her recommended grammatical edits for this policy.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy EHB Data and Records Retention including the edits from Ms. Duggan by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**GBEE Personnel Use of Technology** – This new policy outlines the responsibilities of district personnel in their use of technology; it is expected that this will provide a foundation for further administrative procedure.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan shared her recommended grammatical edits for this policy.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy GBEE Personnel Use of Technology including the edits from Ms. Duggan by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**IHAMA Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education** – This policy has slight language update.

**Motion** to amend policy IHAMA Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education as presented by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**IHBA Student Services Program** – This policy has language updates and updated name.

**School Committee Feedback:**

**Motion** to approve the changes to policy IHBA Student Services Program by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**IHBD Compensatory Education** – Added cross reference.

**Motion** to approve the changes to policy IHBD Compensatory Education by Ms. Beauregard  
Second by Ms. Duggan

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**IHBG Home Schooling** – This policy has updated language.

**School Committee Feedback:**

The School Committee discussed revising child or children to student/students along with MASC's recommended changes.

**Motion** to approve the changes to policy IHBG Home Schooling by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**ILD Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research** – This policy reflects updated language.

**School Committee Feedback:**

The School Committee discussed revising child or children to student/students

**Motion** to approve the changes to policy ILD Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers** – Updated cross reference.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan suggested changing the word express to endorse in item two within the policy.

**Motion** to amend IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers by adding the cross reference and Ms. Duggan's edit by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes  
Motion Carried

**JICJ Student Use of Technology in School** – This new policy outlines the vision and responsibilities of student use of technology; it is expected that this will be the foundation of further administrative procedure.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. Duggan suggested minor grammatical edits and the school committee discussed removing the line developed by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology because the district does not currently have a Director of Technology position along with adding the student handbooks as a cross reference.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy JICJ Student Use of Technology in School with the presented changes by Ms. McSweeney  
Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried

**JP Student Gifts and Solicitations** – Delete as no longer in MASC policy manual.

**Motion** to remove JP Student Gifts and Solicitations by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried

**KDC Community Use of Digital Resources**– This new policy recognizes that digital resources, most notably public Wi-Fi, are now a common public resource of school, outlining appropriate considerations.

**School Committee Feedback:**

The School Committee recommended removing ‘in conjunction with the Director of Technology’.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy KDC Community Use of Digital Resources with the presented changes by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried

**KDCB District Website and Social Media** – This new policy recognizes that districts and schools commonly have both websites and social media pages, and outlines best practice, including public comments on such sites.

**Motion** to approve the first read of policy KDCB District Website and Social Media as presented by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried

#### **4. Review Community Member Requests of Policy Revision**

Community member Matt Bache of Rochester requested: “Pursuant to policy “BGB – Policy Adoption” a I am exercising my rights as a community member and submitting a request for the attached “Selection Policy for Instructional Materials Grades K-6” to be adopted as either a revision or an addendum to existing policy “IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/IJM - Selection Policy For Instructional Materials and Programs” for selection of elementary grades K-12 library materials.”

Community member Nina Datshkovsky-Ennis of Mattapoisett requested: “Pursuant to policy “BGB – Policy Adoption” a I am exercising my rights as a community member and submitting a request for the attached “Selection Policy for Instructional Materials Grades K-6” to be adopted as either a revision or an addendum to existing policy “IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/IJM - SELECTION POLICY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS” for selection of elementary grades K-12 library materials.”

**School Committee Feedback:**

The School Committee discussed the recommended policy from community members Mr. Bache and Ms. Datshkovsky-Ennis. Ms. Cowles shared that upon researching the submitted documents by the community members, she found it to be excerpts from the same policy that was suggested to and reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee in May 2023 that is from a school in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She indicated her research concluded the policy is controversial and was suspended about two weeks ago. Ms. Cowles said the policy is mentioned in a lawsuit that has been reported to have cost the Pennsylvania district over \$2 million in legal fees. Ms. Cowles continued that she reviewed the suggested

policy alongside the current policies and she does not believe there is anything in the suggested policy that adds to our current policies. Mr. Pires suggested discussing this with the district's legal team. Ms. Cowles articulated that our district is not involved in the Bucks County legal matters and would not need to consult with our legal team. Ms. Kearns added that Ms. Cowles and Ms. Duggan represent their School Committees (Rochester and Mattapoisett) whom have been informed of the community member's request and asked the Policy Subcommittee to review and make a recommendation. Ms. Cowles added that in the proposed policy there is reference to parental rights. Ms. Cowles made note that all of the districts have policies and procedures in place for parents that do not want their children to read specific books. She noted that she has had kids in Mattapoisett schools for a collective fourteen years and is familiar with current policies that enable parents to do what they need to do to support their own student(s). Her review of the proposed policy was that the current policies do abide by what is in the recommendations from the community members.

**Motion** to keep the current policy IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/IJM Selection Policy for Instructional Materials and Programs by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- **IJND Authorized Use of the Internet**
- **IJNDB Digital Use Policy**
- **IJNDC Internet Publication**
- **IJNDD Policy on Electronic Communication between Staff and Student**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Ms. Kearns

ROLL CALL: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Duggan: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes

Motion Carried