



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

June 6, 2024 AT 4:30 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret McSweeney, ORR School Committee

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

MEETING TO ORDER at 4:34 p.m. by Ms. Kearns.

1. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from February 1, 2024 by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried

2. Review Policy Recommendations

JJE Student Fund-Raising Activities – Superintendent Nelson reviewed 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 reviewed draft language and made a recommendation to the Joint School Committee. At the Joint School Committee meeting in January 2024, it was recommended this policy be reviewed again by the Policy Subcommittee to clarify language around fundraisers sponsored by parent association groups. At the Policy Subcommittee meeting in February 2024, it was recommended to review the original MASC recommendations and the Superintendent’s recommendation at the next meeting. He shared there have been many good conversations in multiple meetings about this policy and the fundraising efforts currently taking place in the schools. He recommended keeping the line ‘The School Committee also encourages schools and their districts to thoroughly scrutinize commercially sponsored fundraising activities on an annual basis to ensure that they are not exploitative of children.’ This was part of a paragraph added to the MASC policy by the members here.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Kearns confirmed the subcommittee could make the recommendation to the Joint School Committee and then continue to discuss current practices in order to have an updated policy in place while continuing to discuss it.

Ms. Cowles agreed, to make the recommendation then continue to discuss.

Ms. Kearns asked to confirm if this policy applies to fundraisers by the PTO? Superintendent Nelson said he views anything that happens during the school day falls under the policy. She asked if that would apply to virtual fundraisers too? Superintendent Nelson said any aspect of the fundraiser is subject to the policy.

Ms. Duggan agreed that the recommended verbiage is more broad. Ms. Cowles agreed.

Mr. Pires agreed and shared that his experience with his own children was to have some type of incentive or goals as a team to encourage friendly competition and if possible regulated contributions.

Motion to approve policy JJE Student Fund-Raising Activities with the discussed changes to paragraph six by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried

Admission Policy for Vocational Technical Education Programs (Chapter 74) – This policy must be reviewed annually by the Policy Subcommittee.

Superintendent Nelson shared that this policy must be reviewed annually as part of the Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education Program requirements. The recommended changes are to update the non-discrimination language to match the current version of policy AC – Non-Discrimination Policy and to update Ms. Russo’s contact information to Ms. Wilcox’s email.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Kearns suggested adding this to our online policy manual whereas right now it exists only on the Early Education page and putting in the policy manual would be more consistent.

Motion to approve the Admission Policy for Vocational Technical Education Programs (Chapter 74) with the recommended changes by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Duggan

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

Motion Carried

IJND Access to Digital Resources – This policy has been updated to match MASC recommendations and changes to the IJN-coded policies and was reviewed by the ORRS Technology Department Team.

Superintendent Nelson shared that this was reviewed with the district’s Technology Team in order to ensure that current practice aligns with the policy.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Cowles recommended adding cross references to the related policies that discuss internet use agreements.

Motion to approve policy IJND Access to Digital Resources with the discussed changes by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried

IJNDB Use of Technology in Instruction - This policy has been updated to match MASC recommendations and changes to the IJN-coded policies and refocuses the policy on instruction and was reviewed by the ORRS Technology Department Team.

Superintendent Nelson explained that this policy was also reviewed with the Technology Team.

Motion to approve policy IJNDB Use of Technology in Instruction with the addition of the cross references as presented by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried

IJNDD Policy on Social Media - This policy has been updated to match MASC recommendations and changes to the IJN-coded policies and was reviewed by the ORRS Technology Department Team.

Superintendent Nelson explained that this policy was reviewed with the Technology Team and they discussed how much of a technology boom the schools have seen due to the pandemic.

School Committee Feedback:

Mr. Pires commented for school committee thoughts on if the policy properly explains if a teacher comments back on a post without being a ‘friend’ or ‘following’ a student on social media.

Ms. Duggan said it may depend on the comment because the policy is referencing ‘improper’.

Mr. Pires agreed and added that teachers need to remain neutral and he would not want the staff to misrepresent the schools.

Superintendent Nelson added that Freedom of Speech can come into play in these circumstances as well but this gives a good blueprint.

Mr. Pires agreed that 'improper' is the key and social media is a platform or staff so there is great responsibility for employees to understand the extent of the reach or impact of their comments.

Ms. Cowles agreed with Mr. Pires point and wondered if this should apply to school committee as well.

Ms. Kearns agreed.

Motion to approve policy IJNDD Policy on Social Media as presented by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:22 p.m. by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

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

Motion Carried