



**Old Rochester Regional School Committee
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**
October 10, 2024 AT 4:30 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee, Cristin Cowles, Mattapoissett School Committee, Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee, Margaret McSweeney, ORR School Committee, Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee (all in-person).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (all in-person).

MEETING TO ORDER at 4:33 p.m. by Ms. Kearns.

1. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2024 by Ms. Beauregard

Second by Ms. Kearns

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: abstain, Pires: yes, Trombly: abstain

2. Review Policy Recommendations

MASC has revised its model policies and related materials to reflect the US Department of Education's recent amendments to the regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in "Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance."

- Policy Revisions
 - AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment And Retaliation
 - AC-R – Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation
 - ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
 - ACAB – Sexual Harassment
- Policies Added
 - ACA-R – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Under Title IX Including Sex-Based Harassment
 - ACGA – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure
 - ACGB – Title IX Sexual Discrimination Grievance Procedure

Superintendent Nelson reviewed the above information. He recommended the school committee discuss sending these policies to district legal counsel to review as the subcommittee has done in the past.

Motion to recommend AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment And Retaliation, AC-R – Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, ACAB – Sexual Harassment, ACA-R – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Under Title IX Including Sex-Based Harassment, ACGA – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure and ACGB – Title IX Sexual Discrimination Grievance Procedure to legal counsel for consideration and review by Ms. McSweeney.

Second by Ms. Beauregard

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

3. Further Review Returning Policies

BEDH Public Comment – Ms. Cowles recommended changes based on suggestions from MASC’s online presentation in September regarding public comment.

Ms. Cowles explained that she attended a webinar by MASC about public comment at school committee meetings. Although it is our practice to determine who is speaking and where they are from in the tri-town, there are no parameters set in the policy regarding who can speak. The school committee members discussed the revisions to the policy and parameters for who can speak. They agreed to revise the policy in section 6 to say:

6. Sign up instructions will be provided for those who wish to participate in Public Comment. Recognition for speaking will be provided only to those who sign-up. Recognition for speaking will be provided only to those individuals who attend a District school, parents, guardians or immediate family of a District student, employees of the District, and residents or business owners of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. Others shall be permitted to speak at the discretion of the Chair.

Motion to recommend policy BEDH – Public Comment with the revisions discussed to the Joint School Committee by Ms. McSweeney.

Second by Ms. Kearns

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Policies ADDA and ADDA-R were sent back to the Policy Subcommittee from the Joint School Committee for further review and discussion of the language “direct and unmonitored” contact with children in regards to CORI requirements. Discussion by the Joint School Committee also included confirming state law and current practice in Marion, Mattapoisett, ORR and Rochester schools. Policies ADDA-E-1 and ADDA-E-2 were held to determine action after further review of ADDA and ADDA-R.

- ADDA Background Checks – This policy has been updated to reflect current practice.
- ADDA-R DCJIS Model CORI Policy – This policy has been updated to reflect current practice.
- ADDA-E-1 Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record – Delete as no longer in MASC Policy Manual.
- ADDA -E-2 CORI Requirements – Delete as no longer in MASC Policy Manual.

The school committee discussed the language as recommended by the Joint School Committee. They also asked Ms. Wilcox to review the entire policy manual for ‘direct and unmonitored’.

Motion to recommend policy ADDA Background Checks with the revisions discussed (removing ‘direct and unmonitored’ from the last line of the first paragraph, ADDA-R DCJIS Model Cori Policy with no changes, and the removal of ADDA-E-1 and ADDA-E-2 to the Joint School Committee by Ms. Kearns.

Second by Ms. McSweeney

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee and BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee – That the subcommittee review these current policies for updates.

Superintendent Nelson shared that the different school committee members have recently discussed the appointment of a chairperson to the subcommittees. He recommended the subcommittee review these two policies so they may better align to the uniqueness of the districts.

Motion for Ms. McSweeney and the administration to work on draft options for BDE in order to have one for the local level and one for Joint committees by Ms. Kearns.

Second by Ms. Beauregard

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Beauregard

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes