

**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
Rochester, Massachusetts
November 14, 2024 at 5:15 pm**

This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and the public had the option of meeting in person at Rochester Memorial School, 16 Pine Street, Rochester, MA 02770 or via zoom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Hartley (arrived 5:38pm), Katherine Duggan, Anne Fernandes, Robin Rounseville (arrived 5:30pm) and Joshua Trombly (all in-person).

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools; Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; Sharlene Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Heidi Letendre, Principal.

Ms. Duggan called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson and Mr. Barber reviewed with the school committee the initial draft FY2026 budget which was designed with known mandated costs and requests from leadership. Mr. Barber reviewed the budget in each department with the school committee in order to familiarize the members with the draft and discuss the requests from administration. Mr. Barber provided an overall initial budget of \$7,926,139 which includes new initiatives such as bus monitors, teaching and learning curriculum plans, an additional special education teacher, additional lunch/recess monitor and an additional general education teacher. Administration provided background on their requests. Superintendent Nelson and Mr. Barber discussed leases and FY2026 related costs. They proposed next steps to include additional Budget Subcommittee meetings and initiate conversations with Town Officials.

School Committee Feedback:

The School Committee members agreed on next steps. Ms. Rounseville inquired if the curriculum leader positions would be stipends. Dr. Fedorowicz confirmed these positions would be stipends and there would be eight across all of the districts. Ms. Fernandes inquired about the increases of \$40,000 in curriculum development and professional development. Dr. Fedorowicz explained the Teaching and Learning office is currently working on the possibility of a new elementary math curriculum to align all the districts and this amount includes the curriculum, training and more. The School Committee discussed bus monitors and the current open positions that the district has had trouble filling although they would prefer more.

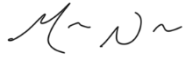
Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm

Motion by Ms. Fernandes

Motion Seconded by Ms. Rounseville

Motion Passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent of Schools