

ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
December 17, 2024 at 4:00 pm

This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and the public had the option of meeting in person at Superintendent's Conference Room, 135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett or via zoom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Hartley (remote), Katherine Duggan (in-person), Anne Fernandes (in-person), Robin Rounseville (in-person) and Joshua Trombly (in-person).

ABSENT: None

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

Ms. Hartley called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson and Mr. Barber reviewed with the school committee the second draft of the FY2026 budget of level service with a 6.11% or an increase of \$438,418. Mr. Barber reviewed the budget in each department along with needs excluded from the proposed operating budget such as math curriculum, Special Education Teacher, Regular Education Teacher, Bus Monitors and more. Mr. Barber explained the significant changes to the budget, which are mandated, or contracted expenses are Tuition Programs, RMS Compensation, and Transportation expenses, which account for \$357,453 of the increase in the level service second draft. The administration explained discussions with Town officials have started. During the budget season last year, \$300,000 was one time funding for Special Education services and now has been added into the FY2026 draft operating budget. The administration proposed another Budget Subcommittee meeting and then inviting the Town to future meetings.

School Committee Feedback:

The School Committee discussed the current need of students in Special Education and also acknowledged that Principal Letendre and Assistant Principal West have been acting as bus monitors regularly. They agreed that the needs excluded from the proposed operating budget must be included in all conversations with the Town and supported advocacy for the students and staff along with being a united, strong group when meeting with the Town officials in order to get important points across and support the administration. Lastly, the School Committee discussed current enrollment and class sizes.


Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Duggan

Motion Seconded by Ms. Rounseville

Motion Passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools