

**ORR BUDGET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**February 12, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse, Michelle Smith and Matthew Monteiro (all remote).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations and Michael Devoll, Principal – ORR High School

Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Ms. Smith.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson welcomed the school committee members and explained that the Governor's budget had been released and as expected because the District is in 'Hold Harmless' status still, the Chapter 70 funding is not supportive of the projected increases for FY2026. He shared that many are still advocating state-wide for school funding but at this point the preliminary level-service budget is based on the provided Governor's budget. The increase in mandated expenses of insurance premiums, transportation, and more, continue to be the driving factors in the budget. He reminded the school committee that as shared at the last meeting, the level-service FY2026 budget is an increase of about 6.51% or about \$1.2 million. Superintendent Nelson expressed that the next step would be to share preliminary information with each town.

Superintendent Nelson shared with the school committee that the level-service draft budget would be an increase to the towns of 3.5-8.5% based on the three-year average of allocation as stated in the regional agreement. He also proposed having FY2026 draft budget discussions with the entire ORR School Committee in the near future as well as the administration will need guidance from the school committee members on what will likely be difficult decisions.

School Committee feedback:

Mr. Monteiro asked to clarify how the state calculates transportation reimbursements. Mr. Barber explained information is gathered from annual end of year reporting provided by all regional districts.

The subcommittee agreed with starting the discussion with Marion, Mattapoissett and Rochester town officials, along with working with the entire school committee in the near future. They expressed their gratitude to the administration for their work thus far and will strive to advocate for the best situation for students and staff.

Motion by Mr. Muse to enable the administration to share preliminary budget information with each Town.

Seconded by Mr. Monteiro.

Roll Call: Muse (yes); Monteiro (yes); Smith (yes)
Motion Carried 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.
Motion by Mr. Muse to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Monteiro.
Roll Call: Muse (yes); Monteiro (yes); Smith (yes)
Motion Carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M~N~".

Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent of Schools