

**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
January 16, 2025 at 5:00 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 or via zoom.

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

ABSENT: None

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

Ms. Hartley called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson and Mr. Barber shared with the school committee the second draft of the FY2026 budget of level service with 6.11% or an increase of \$438,418 as was presented at the last meeting. Superintendent Nelson explained the goal of this meeting was to discuss and determine a number to share formally with Town Officials. He recommended sharing the level service preliminary budget and include the list of additional items excluded from the operating budget for the Town Officials to review as well. Dr. Curley and Ms. Letendre reviewed their requests submitted earlier in the budget season along with enrollment projections.

School Committee Feedback:

The School Committee discussed the current need of students in Special Education. Ms. Fernandes discussed a previous position of 'inclusion facilitator' but this type of position is challenging because of the structure of the individual districts. Superintendent Nelson shared future options are to consider programing for all districts or a shared service model. He continued that keeping students in-district is most fiscally responsible. He reminded the subcommittee the \$300,000 from last budget season, which was allocated for separately by the Town, must now be incorporated into the operating expenses moving forward. Ms. Rounseville and Ms. Fernandes agreed with sharing level service along with additional priorities to make sure community members understand what is being done without.

Motion by Ms. Rounseville to submit a level service draft budget with additional priorities as discussed.

Motion Seconded by Ms. Fernandes

Motion Passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Fernandes

Motion Seconded by Ms. Rounseville

Motion Passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools