Old Rochester Regional School
Committee Policy Subcommittee Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4:45 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room
135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Hybrid via Zoom

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee (remote), Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee (in-person), Margaret McSweeny, ORR School Committee (remote), Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee (remote) and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee (in-person).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Cristin Cowles

OTHERS PRESENT:
Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Doreen Lopes, Early Childhood Coordinator, Jill Henesy, Food Service Director and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (all in-person).

MEETING TO ORDER – Called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Frances Feliz-Kearns.

1. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2025 Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2025 by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

2. Review Policy Revisions
JFABG – Project Grow Student Selection Policy
Ms. Lopes, Early Education Coordinator, has proposed changes to policy JFABG to revise the dates to accept students from outside of the district.
Ms. Lopes shared that the proposed changes are to the dates currently in the policy as to when the district can accept typically developing students into open spots that reside in another town in the Tri-Town and then when the district can accept typically developing students into open spots that reside outside of the Tri-Town. She explained this has become relevant in the last couple of years and the Early Childhood Department would like to be able to fill spots in each district earlier ahead of the following school year.

Motion to approve the revisions to policy JFABG Project Grow Student Selection Policy as presented by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

JFAD – ORRHS Admission Policy for Vocational Technical Education Programs
This policy must be reviewed annually by the Policy Subcommittee.
Ms. Lopes shared that this policy must be reviewed annually according to DESE requirements and she reminded the school committee that the current policy does state a lottery will be held if there is more interest than seats available, which they are encountering this year for the fall.

Ms. Kearns inquired about the lottery process. Ms. Lopes confirmed it would be a blind lottery.

Motion to approve policy JFAD Old Rochester Regional High School Admission Policy for Vocational Technical Education Programs as presented by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

ADF – District Wellness Physical Activity and Nutrition Policy
This policy has been reviewed and updated by the Food Service Director and Nurse Coordinator with the assistance of a DESE School Wellness Specialist. Please refer to the existing policy and the revised edition of the policy.
Superintendent Nelson discussed that at recent school committee meetings he has informed the school committee that a District Wellness Committee will be reinstated which was not reconvened since COVID. Each school committee appointment members. Ms. Henesy and Nurse Coordinator Nicole Reedy have worked to update this policy.
Ms. Henesy explained that she worked with a DESE Wellness Coach to review the current policy in order to make necessary updates, streamline and condense language utilizing exemplar examples from DESE.
Motion to approve the revisions to policy ADF – District Wellness Physical Activity and Nutrition Policy as presented by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

3. New Policy
IN – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
This policy was drafted with sample language from MASC along with the review of local AI policies and input from the administration team and technology team.
Superintendent Nelson explained this topic had been under discussion over the last couple of years with Dr. Fedorowicz. MASC recently issued a model policy and Dr. Fedorowicz took this information and reviewed other policies in the area to create a draft. The draft was shared with the administration team and our technology team for review as well.

Ms. Kearns asked for the FERPA and COPPA acronyms to be spelled out in the policy.
Mr. Trombly asked what the regular assessment would look like under the Equity section in relation to tools serving all students fairly. Superintendent Nelson explained that technology department scrutinizes all tools and software through industry standards in order to maintain current platforms that also adhere to privacy standards, etc.

Motion to approve IN – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy with the discussed changes to the Joint school Committee for a first read by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Kearns
Second by Mr. Trombly
Roll Call
Motion Passed: Beauregard: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Old Rochester Regional School Committee
Policy Subcommittee Agenda

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4:45 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room
135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

ZOOM LINK:
https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/96777058554?pwd=Or5bFc47L8yIJZEAkt3yMa0IezegYf.1
Meeting ID: 967 7705 8554
Passcode: 209764

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee, Cristin Cowles, (Jack LeBrun alternate) Mattapoisett School Committee, Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee, Margaret McSweeny, ORR School Committee, Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee.

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.

MEETING TO ORDER

1. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2025 Minutes

2. Review Policy Revisions

- **JFABG – Project Grow Student Selection Policy**
  - Ms. Lopes, Early Education Coordinator, has proposed changes to policy JFABG to revise the dates to accept students from outside of the district.
- **JFAD – ORRHS Admission Policy for Vocational Technical Education Programs**
  - This policy must be reviewed annually by the Policy Subcommittee.
- **ADF – District Wellness Physical Activity and Nutrition Policy**
  - This policy has been reviewed and updated by the Food Service Director and Nurse Coordinator with the assistance of a DESE School Wellness Specialist. Please refer to the existing policy and the revised edition of the policy.

3. New Policy

- **IN – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**
  - This policy was drafted with sample language from MASC along with the review of local AI policies and input from the administration team and technology team.

ADJOURNMENT

Old Rochester Regional School Committee
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
Junior High School Media Room
133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Hybrid via Zoom

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee (in-person), Cristin Cowles, Mattapoisett School Committee (in-person), Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee (in-person), Margaret McSweeny, ORR School Committee (in-person), Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee (remote) and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee (in-person).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT:
Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person), Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (in-person), Paige L. Tobin, Attorney, Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C. (remote) and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (in-person).

MEETING TO ORDER at 4:31 p.m. by Ms. Kearns.

1. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2024 Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes from October 10, 2024 by Ms. Kearns
Second by Ms. McSweeny
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Review Policy Recommendations

- Title IX
  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." These policies were reviewed by the District's legal team.
  - 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 explained that as discussed at the last Policy Subcommittee meeting, these Title IX policies were sent to the District's legal team for review. He introduced Attorney Tobin to update the

subcommittee members. Attorney Tobin explained that she was in attendance at this meeting to discuss these policies however about an hour ago, a federal judge in Kentucky issued a federal order that strikes the changes put forth in August. Attorney Tobin suggested holding these policies for now as the current policies in place are compliant with current Massachusetts State Law in order to let any further litigation take place along with any changes that could be put forward by the administration of the President taking office later this month. She added that protections do exist under Massachusetts Civil Rights statues even though Title IX is in flux.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Kearns asked to confirm how long the current policies have been in place and to confirm the District is compliant with MA General Law. Attorney Tobin said the policies have been in place since at least 2020, but possibly earlier. She confirmed the District is compliant with MA General Law.

Motion to hold the Title IX policies as recommended by legal counsel by Ms. McSweeny
Second by Ms. Beauregard
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Bullying and Harassment Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 is working to update the Bullying and Harassment Prevention and Intervention Plan. Stakeholder feedback has been solicited along with a review by the District's legal team. The Plan is presented to the Policy Subcommittee for review and final recommendation ahead of the Joint School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Nelson recommended reviewing the plan earlier in the agenda for Attorney Tobin to remain present. All members agreed. He shared that this was a non-voting item being shared with the subcommittee for any feedback. The policies within the plan are already reviewed and approved by the subcommittee and Joint School Committee. Dr. Curley explained the plan is to be reviewed biennially and has been shared with the administrative team, legal counsel, the school resource officers within the districts. It has also been shared in the Principal's weekly newsletter, the Superintendent's newsletter and the District's website along with a Google form for community member and stakeholder feedback. The plan was shared with the subcommittee for feedback. An open forum will be held later this month for the public to provide feedback in –person and the plan will be shared with each Police Department. The plan will also be shared with the Joint School Committee as an information item.

School Committee Feedback:

Mr. Trombly referenced page 18 under sexual harassment may need to be reviewed based on the ruling of the Federal Judge in Kentucky today. Attorney Tobin agreed – this may need to be revisited.

Review Community Member Requests of Policy Revision

Community Member Anne Fernandes of Rochester submitted recommendations for the Policy Subcommittee to review IHAMA – Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education and JJIB – Interscholastic Athletics.

Superintendent Nelson recommended reviewing the community member requests earlier in the agenda for Attorney Tobin to remain present. All members agreed. Superintendent Nelson explained the recommendations to IHAMA and JJIB came from community member Anne Fernandes.

School Committee Feedback:

In regards to IHAMA, Ms. Cowles questioned the reasoning for the recommended changes as current MA General Law is an opt-out as we have in our current policy and Ms. Fernandes recommendations appear to change the policy to be an opt-in. Superintendent Nelson shared no reason was provided when the recommendation were submitted via email. Attorney Tobin confirmed MA General Law is an opt-out

statue and she would recommend maintaining the current policy as is. The subcommittee discussed maybe incorporating extra reminders into PowerSchool for families and ensuring notification meets the obligation of the districts. Mr. Trombly added that Rochester Memorial School does a fantastic job of sharing the opt-out information with families and it is included in the student handbook.

Motion to not take any action on the proposed changes on policy IHAMA- Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education by Ms. Cowles
Second by Ms. Beauregard
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

School Committee Feedback:
In regards to JJIB recommendations from Ms. Fernandes, Ms. Cowles shared that she was trying to determine on her own the motivation for the changes. She reviewed the ORR student handbook and feels there is a lot of information in the handbook already that discusses rules for students being penalized which center around academics, tardiness, etc. She questioned if the recommended changes were based on a safety concern, that it would be handled between the student and coach and their relationship along with that of the parents/guardians. Ms. Kearns added that there is also contractual language to consider between the school and the coach. She added that families and students review the handbook and sign-off on it annually. Ms. Cowles shared in her experience with her own students, coaches are very well aware of, and protect, the safety of each athlete. Attorney Tobin advised not to adopt the language recommended, as it could be unenforceable under state civil right statues. Ms. Cowles confirmed with the administration that a safety concern as discussed in the recommended changes has not taken place in the District. The administration confirmed.

Motion to reject the proposed changes to JJIB-Interscholastic Athletics by Ms. Kearns
Second by Ms. Cowles
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Review Policy Recommendations (continued)
Section D – Fiscal Management

- **Policy Addition**
  - **DN – Surplus Property**

Superintendent Nelson introduced this new policy, which stems from a recent situation at one of the elementary schools. Although current practice already includes school committee notification of items to be discarded, there is not a current policy. This policy is to guide internal procedures for item removal in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.

Motion to recommend policy DN – Surplus Property to the Joint School Committee by Ms. McSweeny
Second by Ms. Kearns
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Section I – Instruction
MASC recommends changes to reflect the expanded use of technology both inside and outside the classroom. These policies were reviewed by the District's Technology team.

- Policy Revisions
  - **IJNDB-E-1 Elementary School Acceptable Use Agreement**
  - **IJNDB-E-2 Secondary School Acceptable Use Agreement**
  - **IJNDB-E-3 Staff Acceptable Use Agreement**
  - **IJNDC – Internet Publication**

- Policy Deletion
    - **IJNDC-R Website Guidelines and Procedures for Approval**

IJNDB-E-1 Elementary School Acceptable Use Agreement, IJNDB-E-2 Secondary School Acceptable Use Agreement, and IJNDB-E-3 Staff Acceptable Use Agreement
Superintendent Nelson reminded the subcommittee that technology policies were recently reviewed with the Policy Subcommittee and Joint School Committee. The above policies were also reviewed during this time with the Technology Team and revised to update the language to match current forms used in PowerSchool.

School Committee Feedback:
Mr. Trombly inquired if the trusted adult mentioned IJNDB-E-1 is any adult the student trusts or specifically the 'trusted adult' activity in the schools as some families may elect not to participate in that activity. Superintendent Nelson confirmed it is any adult the student trusts, unrelated to the activity. The subcommittee recommended changing the language of son/daughter or child to student.

Motion to recommend policies IJNDB-E-1 Elementary School Acceptable Use Agreement, IJNDB-E-2 Secondary School Acceptable Use Agreement and IJNDB-E-3 Staff Acceptable Use Agreement to the Joint School Committee with the discussed changes by Ms. McSweeny
Second by Ms. Beauregard
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

IJNDC – Internet Publication
This policy also has recommended changes from the Technology Team to update the policy to current practice.
School Committee Feedback:
Ms. Kearns recommended spelling out the FERPA acronym in the policy.

Motion to recommend policy IJNDC – Internet Publication to the Joint School Committee with the discussed changes by Ms. Kearns
Second by Ms. Beauregard
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Policy Deletion - IJNDC-R Website Guidelines and Procedures for Approval
This policy was also reviewed by the Technology Team. The important contents are covered in our current policy KDCB – District Website and Social Media and this is not a current policy with MASC.

Motion to recommend policy IJNDC-R Website Guidelines and Procedures for Approval for deletion to the Joint School Committee by Ms. Beauregard
Second by Ms. Kearns
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Further Review Returning Policies
BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee and BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee
At the October 2024 Policy Subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee reviewed these current policies for updates and Superintendent Nelson shared that the different school committee members have recently discussed the appointment of a chairperson to the subcommittees. The subcommittee agreed to bring draft options to review.

Superintendent Nelson reminded the subcommittee that these policies were discussed at the last Policy Subcommittee meeting to be revised to match the unique structure of the districts. Ms. McSweeny put together draft language and legal counsel agreed with the changes based on our structure.

School Committee Feedback:
Ms. Kearns stated the policy says organize 'annually' in section 2, but the subcommittees do not necessarily always meet annually. The subcommittee discussed and agreed to recommend the removal of the word 'annually'.

Motion to recommend policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee to the Joint School Committee and no changes to BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee by Ms. Kearns
Second by Ms. Beauregard
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

JJE – Student Fundraising Activities
This policy was recommended by the Policy Subcommittee on June 6, 2024 (and then approved by the Joint School Committee on June 20, 2024) with the discussion being the Policy Subcommittee will continue to review current practices and update the language accordingly.

Ms. McSweeny shared that she asked for this policy to be on the agenda, but upon further review, she supports the current language, as it is not in conflict with current practice.
Motion to recommend no changes to JJE- Student Fundraising Activities by Ms. McSweeny
Second by Ms. Kearns
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Cowles
Second by Ms. Kearns
Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeny: yes, Pires: yes, Trombly: yes

Revisions Proposed by Early Education Coordinator

JFABG - PROJECT GROW STUDENT SELECTION POLICY

This policy applies to the eight general education openings in the integrated classrooms called Project GROW.

First priority will be given to residents of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Children must be at least three years old by August 31st. Children may not be age-eligible for kindergarten in Marion, Mattapoisett or Rochester.

Returning students will be given priority.

Preference will be given to

- children who may be considered at risk for educational failure,
- children who have had no preschool experience and
- children of families with income below the state median.

In addition to family income, the following risk factors are considered:
(Child risk factors)

- premature birth,
- low birth weight,
- evidence of lead paint poisoning,
- evidence of inadequate nutrition or nurturance.

(Family risk factors)

- low maternal education,
- single parent,
- physical or emotional abuse or neglect,
- substance abuse,
- parent/sibling with a disability or mental, chronic or terminal illness,
- homelessness or frequent moves,
- prolonged unemployment,
- deprived or isolated environments.

Attempts will be made to balance each class by age (maintaining mixed age groups) and by gender.

In each class three 'at risk' slots have been designated for children whose families may be challenged to pay the tuition. Families whose income falls below 50% State Median Income will be considered for a waiver of tuition. Appropriate documentation will be required.

On ~~August 15~~May 1st, if any general education openings still exist, one will be reserved for a resident of that town. The other openings may be filled by applicants from the other two towns in the Tri-Town area.

On ~~October 1~~August 15th, if any general education openings still exist, one will be reserved for a resident of that town. The other openings may be filled by applicants from towns outside of the Tri-Town area.

Students from outside of the Tri-Town area who are enrolled in a general education slot are guaranteed only one year placement, and they will be charged a per pupil cost for attendance as opposed to the daily tuition charged to residents of the Tri-Town area. Upon enrollment, parents or families of these children will be advised as to these terms.

Approved by the Joint School Committee on

JFAD - OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY FOR VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

I. INTRODUCTION

When Old Rochester Regional High School receives more applications than it has available seats, Old Rochester Regional High School applies a lottery to determine which students it will admit. The lottery will admit resident students before admitting any non-residents seeking the same program. Old Rochester Regional High School admission policy is on file at the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

II. EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Old Rochester Regional High School admits students and makes available to them its advantages, privileges and courses of study without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, active military/veteran status, marital status, familial status, pregnancy, or pregnancy-related condition, homelessness, actual or perceived shared ancestry, ethnic background, national origin, or any other category protected by state or federal law in administration of its educational and employment policies, or in its programs and activities..

If there is a student with limited English proficiency, a qualified staff member from Old Rochester Regional School District will assist the applicant in completing the necessary forms and assist in interpreting during the entire application and admission process upon the request of the applicant.

Disabled students may voluntarily self-identify for the purpose of requesting reasonable accommodations during the entire application and admission process.

Information on limited English proficiency and/or disability submitted voluntarily by the applicant, for the purpose of receiving assistance and accommodations during the entire application and admission process, will not affect the applicant's admission to the vocational technical education program.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Any eighth, ninth, tenth or eleventh grade student who is a student in Old Rochester Regional High School is eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year subject to the availability of openings to the vocational technical education programs at Old Rochester Regional High School.

Resident students will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy.

Transfer students from vocational technical schools are eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year to the vocational technical education programs grades 9-12 at Old Rochester Regional High School provided they expect to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their current school. Transfer students will be evaluated using this Admission Policy.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Old Rochester Regional High School is a public school located in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. Old Rochester Regional High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Old Rochester Regional High School is committed to providing quality vocational technical education programs.

It is the responsibility of the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal to supervise the administration of the policies and procedures required to admit and enroll applicants in conformity with this Admission Policy.
Old Rochester Regional High School has an Admissions Committee appointed by the Principal. The committee consists of a member of the Administration, Guidance, Student Services, Vocational Technical and Academic Departments. Responsibilities of the Admissions Committee include:

- Determination of standards for admission
- Development and implementation of admission procedures
- Processing of applications
- Ranking of students
- Acceptance of students according to the procedure and criteria in the admission policy
- Establishment and maintenance of a waiting list of acceptable candidates

The Old Rochester Regional High School Principal is responsible for disseminating information about Old Rochester Regional High School's vocational technical education programs through local school assemblies and press releases, and for collecting applications from students.

V. RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The Old Rochester Regional High School Principal disseminates information about the programs through a variety of methods.

Visitations with an informational slide presentation to 8th grade classes in local schools from October to January are scheduled.

An Open House is scheduled during the fall. Prospective students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) have an opportunity to visit all vocational technical programs and speak with teachers as well as view a presentation about all offerings. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may schedule individual visits at a mutually convenient time. Chapter 74 website information, which describe vocational technical programs including academic courses, cooperative education, and special education resources, are available during the 8th grade visitations and the Open House.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION PROCESS - FOR FALL ADMISSION* TO THE NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PROGRAMS

1. Students interested in applying for admission to the ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade vocational technical education programs for fall admission must:

   • Obtain access to the online application from the Old Rochester Regional High School or Junior High School Guidance Office as early in the school year as possible. One application is all that is needed. It will cover admission to all the vocational technical education programs in the event that a student is interested in more than one program.

   • Complete application forms will be submitted to the Old Rochester Regional High School Guidance Office by the deadline set by the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal.

2. If incomplete applications are received, the following procedures will be followed:

   • The applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by mail by the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal.

   • If after notifying the parent(s)/guardian(s), the application remains incomplete for ten school days, the application will be voided.

APPLICATION PROCESS - FOR ADMISSION TO THE NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE PROGRAMS FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR*

1. Students interested in applying for admission to the vocational technical education programs at Old Rochester Regional High School for admission for the current school year must:

   • Obtain access to the online application from the Old Rochester Regional High School or Junior High School Guidance Office. One application is all that is needed. It will cover admission to all the vocational technical education programs in the event that a student is interested in more than one program.

   • Return the completed application form to the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal by the deadline set by the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal.

2. If incomplete applications are received, the following procedures will be followed:

   • The applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by mail by the Old Rochester Regional High School Principal at Old Rochester Regional High School.

   • If after notifying the parent(s)/guardian(s), the application remains incomplete for ten school days, the application will be voided.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications received after the deadline may not be accepted. If accepted, they will be evaluated using the same criteria as other applications and their composite score will be computed. They will be placed in rank order on a waiting list with other late applications.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Applications from students who are enrolled in a state-approved (Chapter 74) vocational technical high school program in another school (transfer students) will be considered for admission (including admission during the school year) if they relocate from their current school and wish to pursue the same program of study at Old Rochester Regional High School. All transfer applicants must attend an informational meeting at Old Rochester Regional High School. If the applicant or parent/guardian cannot provide transportation, an official from Old Rochester Regional High School will go to the local school to meet with the applicant. Their applications will be evaluated according to the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Students applying to Old Rochester Regional School District under the school choice program should contact our Superintendent's office at 508.758.2772 ext. 1956 or melissawilcox@oldrochester.org with any questions. More information on school choice can be found on the Department's website .

WITHDRAWN STUDENTS

Students who withdraw from Old Rochester Regional High School's vocational technical education programs may reapply for admission to Old Rochester Regional High School's vocational technical education programs following the procedures contained in this admission policy and will be evaluated using the selection criteria contained in this Admission Policy.

VII. SELECTION PROCESS

Students are admitted into the program of their choice based on the space availability. If more students wish to enroll than space available a lottery selection will determine enrollment into the program.

VII. SELECTION CRITERIA

Completed Application

Meets the eligibility criteria to advance to next grade level.

ENROLLMENT

In order to enroll in Old Rochester Regional Vocational Technical Education programs for the fall, applicants must have been promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their local school district. In addition, they must have passed courses in English Language Arts or the equivalent and mathematics for the school year immediately preceding enrollment at Old Rochester Regional School District.

REVIEW and APPEALS

The applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s), upon receipt of a letter from Old Rochester Regional School District indicating that the applicant was not accepted or was placed on a waitlist for a particular program (shop) (major), may request a review of the decision by sending a letter of request to the Superintendent within thirty days of the receipt of the rejection or waitlist letter.

The Superintendent will respond in writing to the letter with the findings of the review within thirty days.

Adopted: March 1, 2020

Revised: December 16, 2021

Revised: June 20, 2024 by the Joint School Committee

ADF - DISTRICT WELLNESS PROGRAM POLICY

The Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 (the District) is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect student's health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity.

Therefore, it is the policy of the District that:

- All students, in all grades will have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Reimbursable breakfasts, reimbursable lunches and a la carte items will comply with all of the federal, state and local regulations.
- Qualified nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs; and will provide clean, safe, pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish connections between health education and school meal programs.

I. District Wellness Committee

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the District's Wellness Committee and facilitate the development of and updates to the Wellness Program Policy, and will ensure compliance with the policy.

Each school will designate a school administrator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

The District Wellness Committee will create, strengthen and work with the school-building administrators to, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise the school Wellness Program Policy. The committee will also serve as a resource to each of the District's school buildings for implementing the policy. The District Wellness Committee may be composed of parents, high school students, and the school food authority, members of the school committees, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, physical education teachers and members of the public.

The District Wellness Committee will meet at least four times per year and official minutes of each meeting will be kept. The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of this policy at District's Administrative Offices and will be made publicly available on the District's food service website www.orrschoolmeals.com. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy.
- Written meeting minutes.
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy.

Annual Notification of Policy: The District will inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District food service website, www.orrschoolmeals.com and/or district-wide communications.

II. Nutrition Education and Food Literacy

The District aims to teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education, food literacy and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered in all grade levels as part of a sequential, comprehensive, program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as school gardens;
- links with school meal programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- includes analysis of the influence of culture, media, technology and other factors on health;
- includes the use of interpersonal communication skills, goal-setting, decision-making and self-management skills to enhance health;
- links with meal programs, farm to school and other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- is integrated into other subjects beyond health education.

III. Setting USDA Child Nutrition Standards and School Meals Goals

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program will:

- be appealing and attractive to students;
- provide free potable water during meals;
- be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state and federal statutes and regulations; as documented;
- promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques.

Additional information on all food service program regulations can be found below:

National School Breakfast Program
National School Lunch Program
USDA Smart Snacks in Schools
Massachusetts School Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods and Beverages

The District will make available annually all information regarding income eligibility for the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program on the District's food service website, www.orrschoolmeals.com. Information packets will also be available in each building.

The Old Rochester Regional School District Food Service (ORRFS) may engage students, through taste-tests of new entrees and surveys, in selecting foods sold through the school meal programs in order to identify new, healthful and appealing food choices. In addition, the food service department will make available information about the nutritional content of meals via the website, www.orrschoolmeals.com for parents and students.

Breakfast:

To ensure that all students have breakfast, either at home or at school, in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn all schools will operate the School Breakfast Program. The District and schools will, to the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation.

Free and Reduced-Priced Meals:
Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Toward this end, schools may utilize electronic identification and payment systems; provide meals to all students, regardless of income; promote the availability of school meals to all students; and/or use nontraditional methods for serving school meals. More information about free and reduced priced meals and the annual application can be found on the District's food service website www.orrschoolmeals.com.

Meal Times and Scheduling:
Schools:

- Provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch.
- Every effort will be made to schedule lunch periods between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities will not be scheduled during meal times, unless students are able to eat during the activity.
- Provide students with ample time to eat breakfast and lunch.
- Students will have access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
- Students with oral health needs, if appropriate, will have access to care.

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff:
Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the District's responsibility to operate a food service program, the District will provide continuing professional development opportunities for all nutrition professionals in schools. The District's Food Service Staff will adhere to the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 standards for professional development in addition to local and state requirements. In addition, all school nutrition staff will complete annual School Nutrition Civil Rights and Allergy Awareness trainings.

Water:
To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus. The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages:
Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

IV. Setting Nutrition Standards for Competitive and Other Foods and Beverages
Foods and beverages sold individually (i.e., foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.) and all a la carte foods will comply with the MA Competitive Foods Memo September 2023 and the USDA Smart Snacks, whichever is more restrictive.

The school day is defined as midnight to 30 minutes after the final bell of the school day.

Products & Produce:
When able schools will select local products and produce over other domestic items. The District will participate, when eligible, in the USDA Fruit & Vegetable Program to supplement the purchase of fresh produce.

Vending machines must comply with Massachusetts Nutrition Standards for Food and Beverages and USDA Smart Snacks at all times, regardless of the machine being on or off. The machine may not be turned on during the school day. Machines must be turned off at midnight until 30 minutes after the final bell of the school day.

Rewards:
Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan (IEP), and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations:
Student birthday celebrations, holiday celebrations and end-of-the-year celebrations will not include food. To encourage healthy eating habits and maintain the safety of students with life threatening allergies, student celebrations that occur during the school day will not include any food.

Fundraisers/Events:
All school fundraisers shall be signed off by the principal of the building. Non-food fundraisers are encouraged. All food fundraisers that take place during the school day must meet the Massachusetts Nutrition Standards for Food and Beverages and USDA Smart Snacks, whichever is more restrictive.

V. Food Marketing and Wellness Promotion
Staff members in the District are encouraged to model healthy eating habits as well as exercise and physical activity behaviors. The District highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and supports our staff's efforts to maintain and model a healthy lifestyle. Each school is encouraged to establish staff wellness initiatives.

School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education, food literacy and health promotion. Marketing of foods that do not meet Smart Snacks in Schools or MA School Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods and Beverages standards will not take place in the cafeteria or on school grounds including banners around school fields. Vending machines, branded serving containers and coolers with logos will be replaced when possible. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Marketing techniques that are unacceptable include logos and brand names on vending machines, books, textbook covers, school supplies, scoreboards and sports equipment.

The District will participate in Farm to School Programs, when the opportunity arises and funding is available.

VI. Setting Physical Education and Physical Activity Goals
Physical Education classes will be consistent with the Massachusetts State Frameworks for Physical Education and the National Standards that define what students should know and be able to do, emphasizing knowledge, skills and personal goal-setting for a lifetime of physical activity. The classes are taught by state certified instructors in an environment where students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills, their personal fitness levels, social skills and knowledge. Physical education will include the instruction of wellness, individual, team and cooperative activities to encourage life-long physical activity.

Schools will promote an environment supportive of physical activity. Students will be given opportunities for physical activity such as recess periods, physical education (P.E.) classes, physical activity programs and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum.

All elementary, middle and high schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. All elementary school students will be offered recess and movement breaks daily. All high schools, and middle schools as appropriate, will offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests and abilities of all students.

School personnel will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) as punishment.

The District will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school.

VI. Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication Goals

Every three years, members of the District Wellness Committee will assess the policy and the implementation using the most current assessment tools. Based on the results of the assessment, the policy will be updated and presented to the School Committee.

The triennial progress report will be posted on the District website. The report will include an assessment on compliance, the extent to which our wellness policy compares to model wellness policies, as recognized by the state, and progress made in achieving the annual goals set by the District Wellness Committee.

Approved by the Joint School Committee on …..

ADF - DISTRICT WELLNESS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION POLICY

WELLNESS, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION POLICY

I. School Health and Wellness Committee (Healthy Tri-Town Coalition)

The school district and/or individual schools within the district will create, strengthen, or work within existing school health councils to develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The councils also will serve as resources to school sites for implementing those policies. (A school health council consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.) The committee should meet, at a minimum, four times per year, to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this district-level wellness policy (heretofore referred as "wellness policy").

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at District's Administrative Offices. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

<u>Leadership</u>

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the District Health and Wellness Committee (Healthy Tri-Town Coalition) and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school's compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is District Food Service Director:

Jill Henesey, jillhenesey@oldrochester.org,

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District

will make this information available via the district website and/or district-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District/school officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

I. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

Our school district is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams' *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The District also operates additional nutrition-related programs and activities including school gardens, Mobile Breakfast carts, Grab 'n' Go Breakfast., All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Serve only low-fat (1%) and fat-free milk3 and nutritionally-equivalent non-dairy alternatives (to be defined by USDA); and
- Ensure that all of the served grains are whole grain-rich.3, 4
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:

    - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets
    - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
    - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
    - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
    - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
    - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
    - Alternative entrée options (e.g., fun lunches, weekly alternate hot lunch, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.

- A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students
- Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
- Student artwork is/can be displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
- Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.
- Menus will be posted on the District website or individual school websites.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria).
- The District child nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs; to the best extend possible, with proper documentation.
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day* and throughout every school campus* ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

- Water cups/jugs will be available in the cafeteria if a drinking fountain is not present.
- All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene and health safety standards. Such sources and containers may include drinking fountains, water jugs, hydration stations, water jets and other methods for delivering drinking water.

Free and Reduced-priced Meals

Schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals5. Toward this end, schools may utilize electronic identification and payment systems; provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; promote the availability of school meals to all students; and/or use nontraditional methods for serving school meals, such as "grab-and-go" or classroom breakfast.

Summer Food Service Program

Schools in which more than 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will sponsor the Summer Food Service Program for at least six weeks between the last day of the academic school year and the first day of the following school year, and preferably throughout the entire summer vacation.

Meal Times and Scheduling

Schools:

- will provide students with at least 10 minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- should schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled

between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;
• should not schedule tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities;
• will schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools);
• will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and
• should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or high tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages

Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (i.e., foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Elementary Schools

The school food service program will approve and provide all food and beverage sales to students in elementary schools. Given young children's limited nutrition skills, food in elementary schools should be sold as balanced meals. If available, foods and beverages sold individually should be limited to low-fat and non-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables.

Middle/Junior High and High Schools

In middle/junior high and high schools, all foods and beverages sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs (including those sold through a la carte [snack] lines, vending machines, student stores, or fundraising activities) during the school day, or through programs for students after the school day, will meet the following nutrition and portion size standards:

- **Beverages**

  • Allowed: water or seltzer water7 without added caloric sweeteners; fruit and vegetable juices and fruit-based drinks that contain 100% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; unflavored or flavored low-fat or fat-free fluid milk and nutritionally-equivalent nondairy beverages (to be defined by USDA);

  • Not allowed: soft drinks containing caloric sweeteners; sports drinks; iced teas; fruit-based drinks that contain less than 100% real fruit juice or that contain

additional caloric sweeteners; beverages containing caffeine, excluding low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk (which contain trivial amounts of caffeine).

- **Foods**
  - A food item sold individually:
    - will have no more than 35% of its calories from fat (excluding nuts, seeds, peanut butter, and other nut butters) and 10% of its calories from saturated and trans fat combined;
    - will have no more than 35% of its weight from added sugars;8
  - will contain no more than 200 mg of sodium per serving for chips, cereals, crackers, French fries, baked goods, and other snack items; will contain no more than 480 mg of sodium per serving for pastas, meats, and soups; and will contain no more than 600 mg of sodium for pizza, sandwiches, and main dishes.
  - A choice of at least two fruits and/or non-fried vegetables will be offered for sale at any location on the school site where foods are sold. Such items could include, but are not limited to, fresh fruits and vegetables; 100% fruit or vegetable juice; fruit-based drinks that are 100% fruit juice and that do not contain additional caloric sweeteners; cooked, dried, or canned fruits (canned in fruit juice or light syrup); and cooked, dried, or canned vegetables (that meet the above fat and sodium guidelines).9
- **Portion Sizes**
  - Limit portion sizes of foods and beverages sold individually to those listed below:
    - One and one-quarter ounces for chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, or jerky;
    - One ounce for cookies;
    - Two ounces for cereal bars, granola bars, pastries, muffins, doughnuts, bagels, and other bakery items;
    - Four fluid ounces for frozen desserts, including, but not limited to, low-fat or fat-free ice cream;
    - Eight ounces for non-frozen yogurt;
    - Twelve fluid ounces for beverages, excluding water; and
    - The portion size of a la carte entrees and side dishes, including potatoes, will not be greater than the size of comparable portions offered as part of school meals. Fruits and non-fried vegetables are exempt from portion-size limits.

Fundraising Activities

To support children's health and school nutrition-education efforts, school fundraising activities will not involve food or will use only foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks. Schools will encourage fundraising activities that promote physical activity. Fundraising during school hours will sell only non-food items or foods and beverages that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These fundraisers may include but are not limited to, donation nights at restaurants, cookie dough, candy and pizza sales, market days, etc. (Meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria). The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas (examples from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the USDA).

Snacks

Snacks served during the school day or in after-school care or enrichment programs will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. Schools will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages, and other considerations. The district will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers, after-school program personnel, and parents.

- If eligible, schools that provide snacks through after-school programs will pursue receiving reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program.

Rewards

Schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above), as rewards for academic performance or good behavior,10 and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

Celebrations

Schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). The district will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA /MA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards or, if the state policy is stronger, "will meet or exceed state nutrition standards", including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and from the USDA.

2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide to parents a list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

[Meets Healthy Schools Program Silver-level criteria]

School-sponsored Events (such as, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or performances)

Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day will meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually (above).

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion

The Old Rochester Regional School District/Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 aims to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food marketing; and
- includes training for teachers and other staff.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting

For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (i.e., at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television;
- opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons; and
- classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Communications with Parents

The district/school will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. The district/school will offer healthy eating seminars for parents, send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school websites, and provide nutrient analyses

of school menus. Schools should encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. The district/school will provide parents a list of foods that meet the district's snack standards and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, rewards, and fundraising activities. In addition, the district/school will provide opportunities for parents to share their healthy food practices with others in the school community.

The district/school will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home materials, special events, or physical education homework.

Food Marketing in Schools

School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, schools will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually (above).11 School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages12 is prohibited. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Examples of marketing techniques include the following: logos and brand names on/in vending machines, books or curricula, textbook covers, school supplies, scoreboards, school structures, and sports equipment; educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward; programs that provide schools with supplies when families buy low-nutrition food products; in-school television, such as Channel One; free samples or coupons; and food sales through fundraising activities. Marketing activities that promote healthful behaviors (and are therefore allowable) include: vending machine covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; sales of fruit for fundraisers; and coupons for discount gym memberships.

Staff Wellness

The Old Rochester Regional School District/Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Each district/school should establish and maintain a staff wellness committee composed of at least one staff member, school health council member, local hospital representative, dietitian or other health professional, recreation program representative, union representative, and employee benefits specialist. (The staff wellness committee could be a subcommittee of the school health council.) The committee should develop, promote, and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness. The plan should be based on input solicited from school staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff. The staff wellness committee should distribute its plan to the school health council annually.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K-12

All students in grades K-12, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and in alternative educational settings, will receive daily physical education (or its equivalent of 150 minutes/week for elementary school students and 225 minutes/week for middle and high school students) for the entire school year. All physical education will be taught by a certified physical education teacher. Student involvement in other activities involving physical activity (e.g., interscholastic or intramural sports) will not be substituted for meeting the physical education requirement. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Daily Recess

All elementary school students will have at least 20 minutes a day of supervised recess, preferably outdoors, during which schools should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment.

Schools should discourage extended periods (i.e., periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity Opportunities Before and After School

All elementary, middle, and high schools will offer extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs or intramural programs. All high schools, and middle schools as appropriate, will offer interscholastic sports programs. Schools will offer a range of activities that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including boys, girls, students with disabilities, and students with special health-care needs.

After-school child care and enrichment programs will provide and encourage - verbally and through the provision of space, equipment, and activities - daily periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity for all participants.

Physical Activity and Punishment

Teachers and other school and community personnel will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) as punishment.

Safe Routes to School

The school district will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. When appropriate, the district will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts. The school district will explore the availability of federal "safe routes to school" funds, administered by the state department of transportation, to finance such improvements. The school district will encourage students to use public transportation when available and appropriate for travel to school, and will work with the local transit agency to provide transit passes for students.

Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours

School spaces and facilities should be available to students, staff, and community members before, during, and after the school day, on weekends, and during school vacations. These spaces and facilities also should be available to community agencies and organizations offering physical activity and nutrition programs. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times.

V. Monitoring & Policy Review

Monitoring

The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. In each school, the principal or designee will ensure compliance with those policies in his/her school and will report on the school's compliance to the school district superintendent or designee.
School food service staff, at the school or district level, will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to the superintendent (or if done at the school level, to the school principal). In addition, the school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If the district has not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, the district will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible.

The superintendent or designee will develop a summary report every three years on district-wide compliance with the district's established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies, based on input from schools within the district. That report will be provided to the school board and also distributed to all school wellness committees, parent/teacher organizations, school principals, and school health services personnel in the district.

Policy Review

To help with the initial development of the district's wellness policies, each school in the district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environments and policies.13 The results of those school-by-school assessments will be compiled at the district level to identify and prioritize needs.

Assessments will be repeated every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, the school district will review our nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. The district, and individual schools within the district, will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

FOOTNOTES

2 To the extent possible, schools will offer at least two non-fried vegetable and two fruit options each day and will offer five different fruits and five different vegetables over the course of a week. Schools are encouraged to source fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers when practicable.

3 As recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005.

4 A whole grain is one labeled as a "whole" grain product or with a whole grain listed as the primary grain ingredient in the ingredient statement. Examples include "whole" wheat flour, cracked wheat, brown rice, and oatmeal.

5 It is against the law to make others in the cafeteria aware of the eligibility status of children for free, reduced-price, or "paid" meals.

6 School nutrition staff development programs are available through the USDA, School Nutrition Association, and National Food Service Management Institute.

7 Surprisingly, seltzer water may not be sold during meal times in areas of the school where food is sold or eaten because it is considered a "Food of Minimal Nutritional Value" (Appendix B of 7 CFR Part 210).

8 If a food manufacturer fails to provide the added sugars content of a food item, use the percentage of weight from total sugars (in place of the percentage of weight from added sugars), and exempt fruits, vegetables, and dairy foods from this total sugars limit.

9 Schools that have vending machines are encouraged to include refrigerated snack vending machines, which can accommodate fruits, vegetables, yogurts, and other perishable items.

10 Unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan (IEP).

11 Advertising of low-nutrition foods and beverages is permitted in supplementary classroom and library materials, such as newspapers, magazines, the Internet, and similar media, when such materials are used in a class lesson or activity, or as a research tool.

12 Schools should not permit general brand marketing for food brands under which more than half of the foods or beverages do not meet the nutrition standards for foods sold individually or the meals are not consistent with school meal nutrition standards.

13 Useful self-assessment and planning tools include the School Health Index from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Changing the Scene from the Team Nutrition Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Opportunity to Learn Standards for Elementary, Middle, and High School Physical Education from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Glossary:

Extended School Day - the time during, before and after school that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

School Campus - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

School Day - the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial - recurring every three years.

Reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee on August 16, 2017 & September 16, 2017

***Reviewed and Approved by the Joint School Committees on September 28, 2017**

***please note that the 2nd read was waived due to the urgency of the policy being approved.**

IN - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Purpose
The influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education is a rapidly evolving landscape. As such, it is challenging to develop a single policy that fully addresses the concerns around access, privacy, copyrights, and academic standards. This policy aims to ensure that AI tools are used responsibly to enhance student learning while maintaining academic integrity and complying with relevant laws.

Scope
This policy applies to all predictive and generative AI tools used by students, staff and administrators in the district.

Policy Statement
The Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 (the District) School Committees acknowledge the growing influence of artificial intelligence in education. The District is committed to preparing students for their futures by fostering fluency in digital technologies and critical thinking skills. AI tools should be used to complement, not replace, the role of educators, ensuring that student learning is enhanced in a responsible and meaningful way. The Committee will direct the Administration to develop procedures in line with current district policies, state and federal laws, including those regarding the protection of students' information.

Guidelines

- **Ethical Use**: AI tools must support personalized learning, engage students, and help develop critical thinking skills, without replacing the teacher-student relationship.

- **Privacy**: AI tools will comply with FERPA, COPPA, and other student data protection laws, ensuring student information is secure and used only for educational purposes.

- **Equity**: AI tools will be selected based on their ability to serve all students fairly and without bias, and their impact will be regularly assessed.

- **Transparency**: Clear communication will be provided regarding the use of AI tools, data collection, and educational goals.

- **Student Engagement**: AI will be used as a tool for enhancing learning experiences, such as research, project-based learning, and individualized instruction, to support students in their academic journey.

Review and Revision
The district will review and revise this policy regularly, ensuring that it aligns with new developments in AI and remains in compliance with academic standards and privacy laws.

Cross Ref:

File: IJND - ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

File: IJNDB - USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN INSTRUCTION

File: IJNDB-E-1 - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

File: IJNDB-E-2 - SECONDARY SCHOOL ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

File: IJNDB-E-3 - STAFF ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

File: IJNDBA - CLASSROOM USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS POLICY

File: IJNDC - INTERNET PUBLICATION

File: IJNDD - POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

JRA - Student Records

Student Handbooks

Approved by the Joint School Committee on XX.XX.XXXX.