

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Marion – Mattapoisett – Rochester, Massachusetts

Budget Hearing

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Smith, Chairperson (in-person), Rosemary Bowman (remote), Frances-Feliz Kearns (in-person), Margaret McSweeney (in-person), Matthew Monteiro (in-person), James Muse (in-person) April Nye (remote), Robin Rounseville (in-person) and Joseph Pires (in-person).

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools; Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Michael Devoll, Principal, ORR High School; Silas Coellner, Principal, ORR Jr. High School; Kelly Chouinard, Assistant Principal, ORR Jr. High School; Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.; teachers, parents, students and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chairperson Smith. Ms. Smith informed everyone in attendance that the meeting was being recorded. Chairperson Smith made the following statement: *This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom.*

FY26 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Smith opened the public hearing at 5:44pm.

Superintendent Nelson thanked Mr. Monteiro, Mr. Muse and Ms. Smith for their work on the Budget Subcommittee. He explained that as the committee is already aware, this has been a difficult budget season with the impact of rising costs and the impact of inflation on the budget. The budget drivers include health insurance obligations for current employees and retirees, along with Plymouth County Retirement obligations, salary obligations, utilities and transportation expenses. Superintendent Nelson continued that the district remains in 'hold harmless' status as does over 200 out of about 300 districts in the State. This means that the district is receiving the minimum state aid based off of the current Chapter 70 formulas and the limited revenue streams are not keeping up with the rise in the cost of doing business for the school, therefore creating serious fiscal sustainability issues. He added that this week, the PPA rates for the next year were made available, which brought down this proposed budget by \$146,000.

Mr. Barber presented the proposed FY26 budget. He thanked the staff and administration for their feedback and input on building the budget. He also thanked the town officials and finance committees for the feedback and collaboration through the preparation of this budget.

Mr. Barber shared the vision for the schools:

- Is dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing learning environment that offers inclusive and engaging educational experiences.
- Through collaborative relationships with our school community members, we strive to foster a respectful culture that prioritizes academic excellence and social emotional readiness.

- Our primary objective is to provide every student with the necessary skills and developed mindset to embrace future opportunities and become responsible, lifelong learners and contributing global citizens.

He then discussed the core values for the schools:

THINK:

Cultivate a culture of academic rigor and integrity, which encourages critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration and effective communication.

LEARN:

Strive for academic excellence in educating the whole child through authentic, rigorous and evidence-based learning opportunities that foster real world application and a continuous pursuit of learning.

CARE:

Ensure a caring and safe environment for all school community members by promoting a sense of belonging and respect for all.

Mr. Barber explained the administration and budget subcommittee worked to create a budget the supports the following priorities:

- Districts alignment to the five year strategic plan
- Ensuring high expectations of teaching and learning for all students
- Efficiency and cost-effectiveness measures
- Strategic staffing and professional development
- Data-driven decision-making

Mr. Barber reviewed the budget development process, which primarily takes place from October through May each year.

Preparation and Planning:

Superintendent, school administrators and other stakeholders analyze past budgets, assess current financial status and set budgetary goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

Budget Proposal Creation:

Based on the planning stage, a preliminary budget proposal is developed. This proposal outlines anticipated revenues, expenditures and allocations for different programs and departments.

The budget proposal may include funding for personnel salaries, benefits, instructional materials, technology, facilities maintenance, transportation and other operational costs.

Budget Review and Revision:

The preliminary budget proposal(s) undergoes a thorough review by school administrators and budget subcommittee.

Adjustments and revisions are made based on feedback, financial constraints and any changes in priorities or mandates.

Input and Hearings:

Superintendent holds meetings where the school's Budget Subcommittee, Town Administrator and Town Representatives can provide input, ask questions and provide feedback about the budget proposal. Feedback from the attendees may influence further revisions to the budget.

School Committee Budget Approval:

After incorporating feedback and making necessary adjustments, the final Superintendent's Budget proposal is presented to the School Committee and community at a Budget Public Hearing for approval. The School

Committee reviews the budget, conducts discussions and may vote to approve or make additional changes before finalizing the budget.

Final Budget Approval:

Once the budget is approved by the School Committee, the School Committee's Proposed Budget is presented at the Annual Town Meeting. The Superintendent or designated representative attends the Annual Town Meeting to offer any additional information in support of the School Committee's Proposed Budget.

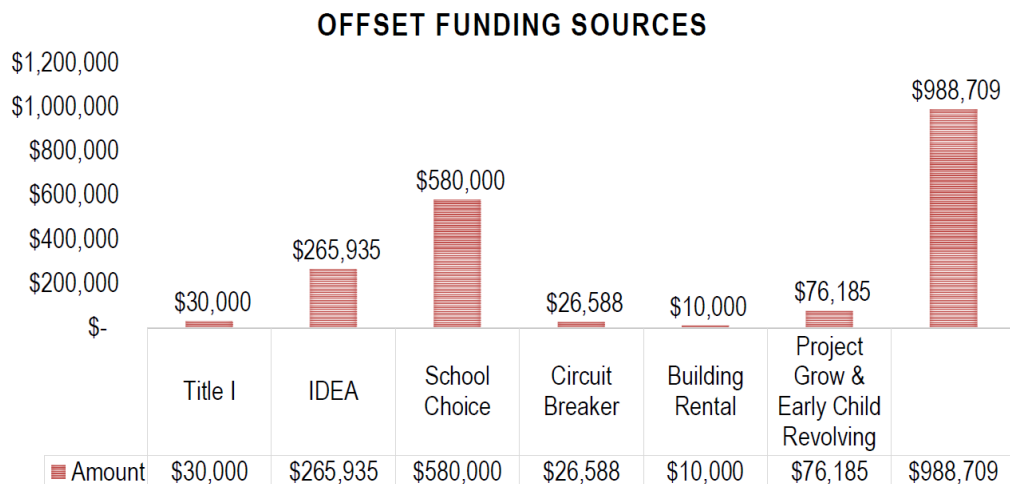
Next, Mr. Barber reviewed the four areas of the financial overview:

- Grants and Other Special Revenues
- General Funds
- BAN Funds
- Capital Stabilization

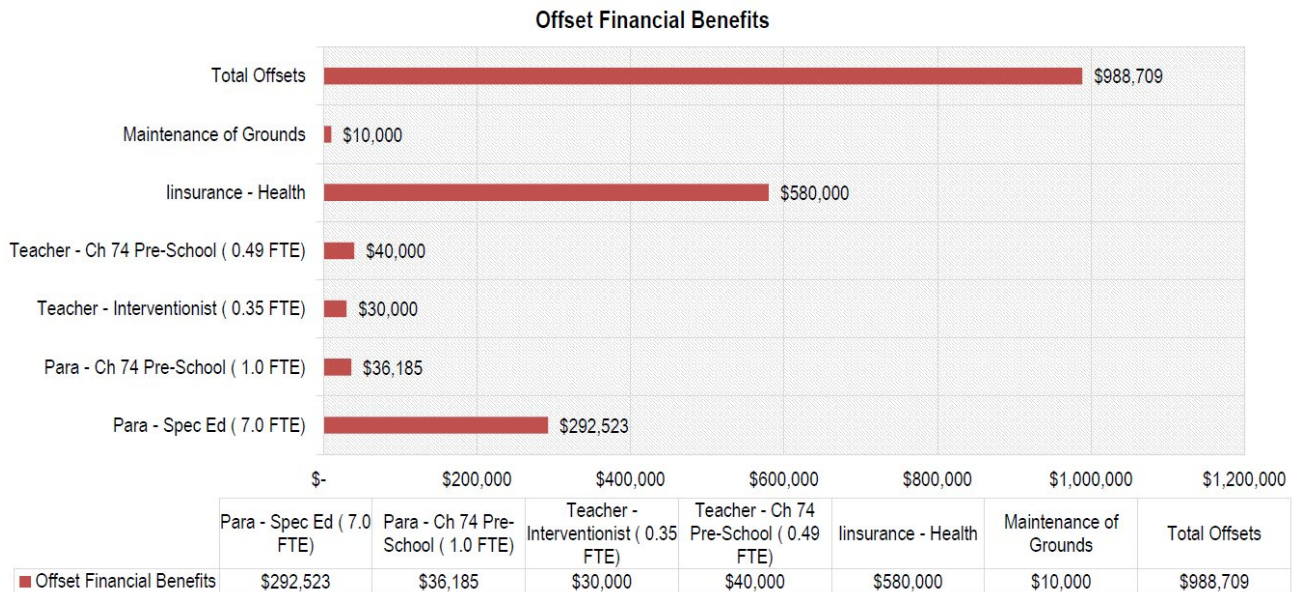
Mr. Barber explained that grants and other special revenues are alternative funding used to supplement and reduce necessary general funds. He explained the funding offsets shown below by building or department.

Old Rochester Regional School District Superintendent's Proposed Budget for June 30, 2026	
School and / or Department	Financial Offsets
Old Rochester Junior High	\$ 140,414
Old Rochester High School	\$ 258,294
Central Office	\$ 580,000
Facilities	\$ 10,000
Total FY26 Budget	<u>\$ 988,709</u>

Next, Mr. Barber reviewed the sources of the grants and other special revenues as shown below.



Superintendent Nelson explained that special education expenses at ORR are reflected in the elementary district budgets due to the parameters set in the Regional Agreement with the towns. Then, Mr. Barber explained where these funds are used as shown below.



Next, Mr. Barber reviewed the general funds, which is the primary source of funding for academics, athletics, student services, facilities, technology and transportation. He showed the amounts of the budget based on these budgetary groups.

**Old Rochester Regional School District
Superintendent's Proposed Budget
for June 30, 2026**

School and / or Department	District Budget
Old Rochester Junior High	\$ 5,268,271
Old Rochester High School	\$ 7,658,188
Athletic Department	\$ 385,735
Central Office	\$ 4,937,469
Student Services	\$ 394,768
Facilities	\$ 1,899,767
Technology	\$ 416,392
Transportation	\$ 930,760
Total FY26 Budget	\$ 21,891,349
Total FY25 Budget	\$ 20,902,029
	\$ 989,320
	4.73%

A comparison of the general funds from FY25 to the proposed FY26 budget was presented.

Old Rochester Regional School District Superintendent's Proposed Budget for June 30, 2026			
School and / or Department	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2025	Department Changes
Old Rochester Junior High	\$ 5,268,271	\$ 4,883,207	\$ 385,064
Old Rochester High School	\$ 7,658,188	\$ 7,531,980	\$ 126,208
Athletic Department	\$ 385,735	\$ 339,873	\$ 45,862
Central Office	\$ 4,937,469	\$ 4,696,712	\$ 240,757
Student Services	\$ 394,768	\$ 367,588	\$ 27,180
Facilities	\$ 1,899,767	\$ 1,799,616	\$ 100,151
Technology	\$ 416,392	\$ 389,933	\$ 26,459
Transportation	\$ 930,760	\$ 893,120	\$ 37,640
Total ORR General Funds	\$ 21,891,349	\$ 20,902,029	\$ 989,320

Next, Mr. Barber provided a financial overview of Bond and BAN funds.

- **Bond**
 - Typically a long-term financial instrument used to raise funds for capital projects like building new schools or renovating existing facilities.
 - Investors purchase bonds, and the issuer (in this case, the public school department) repays the principal amount along with interest over time.
 - Bonds often require voter approval and may have specific restrictions on how the funds can be used.
- **BAN (Bond Anticipation Note):**
 - Short-term debt instrument used to bridge the gap between immediate funding needs and the issuance of long-term bonds.
 - BANs are usually issued with the expectation that they will be paid off using proceeds from future bond sales.
 - They are often used for temporary funding needs such as pre-construction costs or equipment purchases before the full bond amount is available.

Mr. Barber reviewed the funding as shown below and reminded the School Committee that FY25 was the final year for the current long-term bond principal and interest so this budget reflects the removal of Bond funds.

Old Rochester Regional School District Superintendent's Proposed Budget for June 30, 2026				
Debt Liability	2026	2025	Variance	Notes
Long Term Bond Principle	\$ -	\$ 593,479.00	\$ (593,479.00)	Debt paid in full Feb, 2025
Long Term BANS Principle	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	
Long Term Bond Interest	\$ -	\$ 12,400.00	\$ (12,400.00)	Debt paid in full Feb, 2025
Long Term BANS Principle	\$ 12,119.00	\$ 10,566.00	\$ 1,553.00	
Total Debt Liabilities	\$ 57,119.00	\$ 661,445.00	\$ (604,326.00)	

Next, Mr. Barber reviewed Capital Stabilization.

Usage Restrictions:

Strictly reserved for capital expenditures such as building renovations, infrastructure upgrades, and technology investments, *not for operational or reoccurring expenses.*

Financial Management:

Managed with a long-term perspective, employing strategies like investments to grow the fund while maintaining liquidity for future projects.

Benefits:

Provides financial stability for planned capital projects, flexibility for unforeseen infrastructure challenges, and the ability to fund larger-scale improvements without relying solely on immediate budget allocations.

Mr. Barber reviewed the below assessment based on a five-year enrollment average.

FY 2026 Assessment Summary**Capital Stabilization**

Marion	\$	31,435
Mattapoisett	\$	35,170
Rochester	\$	33,395
Total	\$	100,000

FY 2025 Assessment Summary**Capital Stabilization**

Marion	\$	30,920
Mattapoisett	\$	35,520
Rochester	\$	33,560
Total	\$	100,000

Changes**Capital Stabilization**

Marion	\$	515
Mattapoisett	\$	(350)
Rochester	\$	(165)
Total	\$	0

Stabilization

1.638%
-0.995%
-0.494%

The Capital Stabilization Account was established by a public school district to reserve money specifically for major capital projects and expenses beyond the regular operating budget. The account is funded through appropriations from the district's budget, surplus funds, allocations from governments or a portion of proceeds from long-term financing like bond issuance. Superintendent Nelson added that this is established at ORR again as part of the Regional Agreement. At the elementary districts, capital plans are submitted directly to the towns annually.

Then, Mr. Barber shared a summary by department of the combined totals of general funds, debt and capitalization.

Department Code	Department	Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget	Approved Fiscal Year 2025 Budget	Budget Variance
001	School Committee	\$ 106,100	\$ 101,600	\$ 4,500
004	Superintendents Office	\$ 743,348	\$ 729,038	\$ 14,311
007	School Administration	\$ 1,175,949	\$ 1,142,544	\$ 33,406
010	Preschool	\$ 353,486	\$ 335,152	\$ 18,334
016	Art	\$ 315,236	\$ 303,428	\$ 11,808
024	ELL Program	\$ 30,548	\$ 29,181	\$ 1,367
025	English	\$ 1,392,074	\$ 1,348,346	\$ 43,728
027	World Languages	\$ 846,851	\$ 830,125	\$ 16,726
028	Guidance	\$ 656,756	\$ 642,722	\$ 14,034
037	Mathematics	\$ 1,156,987	\$ 1,146,431	\$ 10,556
040	Media Services	\$ 219,590	\$ 206,587	\$ 13,003
043	Music	\$ 238,969	\$ 256,307	\$ (17,338)
049	Physical Education	\$ 456,212	\$ 452,953	\$ 3,259
052	Science-Technology Program	\$ 1,611,614	\$ 1,600,756	\$ 10,858
055	Social Studies	\$ 1,217,398	\$ 1,081,148	\$ 136,250
058	Extra Curricular	\$ 104,250	\$ 102,236	\$ 2,013
061	Curriculum/Professional Devel	\$ 12,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 8,000
067	Program For The Gifted	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ -
070	Athletics	\$ 399,060	\$ 353,123	\$ 45,937
076	Health Services	\$ 198,220	\$ 186,281	\$ 11,939
079	Transportation	\$ 785,000	\$ 765,000	\$ 20,000
085	Miscellaneous	\$ 45,850	\$ 39,850	\$ 6,000
088	Operation & Maintenance	\$ 1,899,767	\$ 1,799,616	\$ 100,151
091	Fixed Charges	\$ 4,227,222	\$ 3,975,500	\$ 251,722
093	Technology Lab	\$ 416,392	\$ 389,933	\$ 26,459
100	Special Educ Administration	\$ 139,018	\$ 132,838	\$ 6,180
103	Learning Support Center 1 Shs	\$ 1,166,314	\$ 1,077,726	\$ 88,588
106	Individual Services Program	\$ 77,225	\$ 79,376	\$ (2,151)
109	Learning Support Center 2 Jhs	\$ 577,702	\$ 541,066	\$ 36,636
112	Individual Services Program Jhs	\$ 304,456	\$ 266,947	\$ 37,509
118	Speech	\$ 110,327	\$ 107,134	\$ 3,193
121	Support Services	\$ 308,755	\$ 292,948	\$ 15,807
124	Home Tutor	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000
127	Psychological Services	\$ 422,314	\$ 438,419	\$ (16,105)
130	Sped Pupil Transportation	\$ 145,760	\$ 123,120	\$ 22,640
133	Sped Program With Others	\$ 14,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 8,000
500	Debt Serv Capital Short Term	\$ 57,119	\$ 661,445	\$ (604,326)
707	Capital Improvement	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -
	Totals	\$ 22,048,468	\$ 21,663,474	\$ 384,994

In the next part of the presentation, Mr. Barber reviewed the significant changes to the FY26 proposed budget.

**Old Rochester Regional School District
Superintendent's Proposed Budget
for June 30, 2026**

School and / or Department	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2025	Department Changes	Notes
Old Rochester Junior High	\$ 5,268,271	\$ 4,883,207	\$ 385,064	Union Contract Compensation
Old Rochester High School	\$ 7,658,188	\$ 7,531,980	\$ 126,208	Union Contract Compensation
Athletic Department	\$ 385,735	\$ 339,873	\$ 45,862	Union Contract Coaching Positions
Central Office	\$ 4,937,469	\$ 4,696,712	\$ 240,757	Plymouth County Retirement and Insurance
Student Services	\$ 394,768	\$ 367,588	\$ 27,180	Immaterial - No Changes
Facilities	\$ 1,899,767	\$ 1,799,616	\$ 100,151	Budgetary Replacement of FTE
Technology	\$ 416,392	\$ 389,933	\$ 26,459	Immaterial - No Changes
Transportation	\$ 930,760	\$ 893,120	\$ 37,640	Regular & Special Ed Bus Contracts
Total ORR General Funds	\$ 21,891,349	\$ 20,902,029	\$ 989,320	4.73%

For the Junior and Senior High Schools:

- Staffing
 - Annual Increases Based on Negotiated Contracts
 - Advancement of Positions
 - Net \$497,000 Increase
- Retiree Payout Costs
 - Net \$22,000 Increase

Mr. Devoll added that at the high school there are two changes related to staffing. There was a retirement mid-year in the Science department, which will not be refilled and has been reduced in this proposed budget. Also in this proposed budget is combining two part-time Latin positions to one full-time position next year, which nets a reduction of .2FTE.

Mr. Coellner said there are two new retirees at the junior high school for the end of the year that were not previously known during the budget season. The music teacher position will be refilled. Superintendent Nelson added that these were very serious conversations throughout the budget season about 'right sizing' based on class schedules and student enrollment, looking at every department and areas that would not affect staffing, like professional development, technology, etc.

For the OR Athletic Department:

- Union Contract Agreement
- Coaching Stipends
 - Fall Programs
 - Winter Programs
 - Spring Programs
 - Net \$46,000 Increase

Pension, Benefits and Insurance:

- Plymouth County Retirement
 - \$146,000 Increase
- Property & Campus Insurance
 - \$142,000 Increase

Facilities:

- Utilities, Services and Contracts
 - \$101,000 Increase

Transportation:

- Regular Day Transportation
 - Second of three year bus contract
 - \$15,000 Increase
- Special Needs Transportation
 - Placement and Route Changes
 - \$23,000 Increase

Next, Mr. Barber reviewed the Governor's Proposed Budget Chapter 70 aid as shown below. Fiscal Year 2026 has a state Chapter 70 aid increase of \$71,850 or 2.01% above Fiscal Year 2025.

Comparison to FY25

	FY25	FY26	Change	Pct Chg
Enrollment	949	958	9	0.95%
Foundation budget	13,306,822	14,030,213	723,392	5.44%
Required district contribution	10,043,860	10,781,799	737,939	7.35%
Chapter 70 aid	3,567,021	3,638,871	71,850	2.01%
Required net school spending (NSS)	13,610,881	14,420,670	809,789	5.95%
Target aid share	20.41%	18.59%		
C70 % of foundation	26.81%	25.94%		
Required NSS % of foundation	102.28%	102.78%		

Then he reviewed the minimum local contribution which are the values indicated by the State that each Town must contribute at a minimum.

740 Old Rochester

		Foundation Enrollment in Regional District			Required Minimum Contribution to Regional District		
LEA	Member	FY25	FY26	Change	FY25	FY26	Change
	Total	949	958	9	10,043,860	10,781,799	737,939
	169 Marion	306	311	5	3,321,708	3,602,042	280,334
	173 Mattapoisett	331	326	-5	3,829,041	3,938,858	109,817
	250 Rochester	312	321	9	2,893,111	3,240,899	347,788
		Factors Used by State to Determine MLC ❖ Enrollment ❖ Wage Adjustment Factor ❖ Inflation ❖ Property Value ❖ Income ❖ Municipal Revenue Growth Factor					

The last part of the presentation, Mr. Barber reviewed the regional agreement assessment.

Calculations per Regional Agreement Effective for FY2026 ORRSB Operation Budget

	Enrollment				Percentage			
	Marion	Mattapoisett	Rochester	Total	Marion	Mattapoisett	Rochester	Total
Operating Budget - 3 Year Average								
10/1/2024	306	325	316	947	0.3231	0.3432	0.3337	100%
10/1/2023	306	332	313	951	0.3218	0.3491	0.3291	100%
10/1/2022	310	332	336	978	0.3170	0.3395	0.3436	100%
	<u>922</u>	<u>989</u>	<u>965</u>	<u>2876</u>	<u>0.9619</u>	<u>1.0318</u>	<u>1.0064</u>	<u>300%</u>
					32.058%	34.388%	33.554%	100.000%
Capitalization - 5 Year Average								
10/1/2024	306	325	316	947	0.3231	0.3432	0.3337	100%
10/1/2023	306	332	313	951	0.3218	0.3491	0.3291	100%
10/1/2022	310	332	336	978	0.3170	0.3395	0.3436	100%
10/1/2021	305	352	331	988	0.3087	0.3563	0.3350	100%
10/1/2020	313	382	340	1035	0.3024	0.3691	0.3285	100%
	<u>1540</u>	<u>1723</u>	<u>1636</u>	<u>4899</u>	<u>1.5730</u>	<u>1.75712095</u>	<u>1.6698935</u>	<u>500%</u>
					31.435%	35.170%	33.395%	100.000%
Elementary School % of District Wide								
	Marion	Mattapoisett	Rochester	Total	30.923%	35.521%	33.555%	FY2026 %'s
					1.135%	-1.133%	-0.002%	Change
	0.16088328	0.1745531	0.16456362	50.000%				

The assessment summary below was explained showing allocation to each Town.

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY2026 PROPOSED STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE				\$ 22,048,468	Proposed
				(100,000)	Stabilization
				(57,119)	Debt (Bond & BAN)
				(930,760)	Transportation
Proposed FY 26 Budget (Net School Spending Categories no transportation) Chapter 70/Other Revenue* (no transportation)	\$ 20,960,589				
	\$ 3,389,377	** Referenced Below		<u>20,960,589</u>	
	\$ 17,571,212				
Minimum Local Contribution (as determined by state)	\$ 3,602,042	Marion			
	\$ 3,938,858	Mattapoisett			
	<u>\$ 3,240,899</u>	Rochester			
	\$ 10,781,799				
		Local			
	<u>\$ 6,789,413</u>	Above Minimum Share			
Per Agreement (Enrollment) - 3 Year Avg					
32.0584%	\$ 2,176,579	Marion			
34.3880%	\$ 2,334,745	Mattapoisett			
33.5535%	<u>\$ 2,278,089</u>	Rochester			
Total	<u>\$ 6,789,413</u>				Agreement
	\$ 5,778,621	Marion			
	\$ 6,273,603	Mattapoisett			
	<u>\$ 5,518,988</u>	Rochester			
	\$ 17,571,212				Local + Agreement
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION					
FY 26 Projected Budget	\$ 930,760				
Projected FY 26 Regional Transportation Reimbursement in FY 26 (estimate from DESE)	<u>\$ 477,488</u>				
	\$ 453,272				Transportation

Per Agreement (Enrollment) - 3 Year Avg **TRANSPORTATION**

32.0584%	\$	145,312	Marion
34.3880%	\$	155,871	Mattapoisett
33.5535%	\$	152,089	Rochester
	\$	453,272	

Agreement

ASSESSMENT W/TRANSPORTATION

\$	5,923,933	Marion
\$	6,429,475	Mattapoisett
\$	5,671,076	Rochester

Total Operations and Maintenance \$ 18,024,484

Local + Agreement + Transportation

***Projected FY 2026 Revenues**

Chapter 70	\$	3,638,871
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$	37,738
Est = SC Sending Tuition	\$	(99,208)
Est = Charter School Tuition	\$	(232,024)
Miscellaneous	\$	15,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$	20,000
Parking Fees	\$	9,000

Chapter 70/ Other Revenue*
(no transportation)

\$ 3,389,377 **Agrees to Total Above

FY 2026 Assessment Summary	Capital Bond						Per Agreement
	Operating	Capital Stabilization	Debt	Capital BAN Debt	Total		
Marion	\$ 5,923,933	\$ 31,435	\$ -	\$ 17,955	\$ 5,973,323		
Mattapoisett	\$ 6,429,475	\$ 35,170	\$ -	\$ 20,089	\$ 6,484,733		
Rochester	\$ 5,671,076	\$ 33,395	\$ -	\$ 19,075	\$ 5,723,546		
Total	\$ 18,024,484	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 57,119	\$ 18,181,603		100.0000%

FY 2025 Assessment Summary	Capital Bond						Per Agreement
	Operating	Capital Stabilization	Debt	Capital BAN Debt	Total		
Marion	\$ 5,551,389	\$ 30,920	\$ 166,193	\$ 17,544	\$ 5,766,046		
Mattapoisett	\$ 6,288,713	\$ 35,520	\$ 231,264	\$ 19,354	\$ 6,574,851		
Rochester	\$ 5,265,633	\$ 33,560	\$ 208,422	\$ 18,668	\$ 5,526,283		
Total	\$ 17,105,735	\$ 100,000	\$ 605,879	\$ 55,566	\$ 17,867,180		100.0000%

Changes	Capital Bond						Per Agreement
	Operating	Capital Stabilization	Debt	Capital BAN Debt	Total		
Marion	\$ 372,544	\$ 515	\$ (166,193)	\$ 411	\$ 207,277		
Mattapoisett	\$ 140,761	\$ (350)	\$ (231,264)	\$ 735	\$ (90,118)		
Rochester	\$ 405,444	\$ (165)	\$ (208,422)	\$ 407	\$ 197,263		
Total	\$ 918,749	\$ 0	\$ (605,879)	\$ 1,553	\$ 314,423		100.0000%

Operating	Stabilization	Capital	BAN	
6.289%	1.638%	#DIV/0!	2.290%	3.595%
2.189%	-0.995%	#DIV/0!	3.659%	-1.371%
7.149%	-0.494%	#DIV/0!	2.133%	3.570%

	Marion	Mattapoisett	Rochester	Total
FY 2026 Assessment Summary				
Operating	\$ 5,923,969	\$ 6,429,514	\$ 5,671,113	\$ 18,024,596
Capital Stabilization	\$ 31,435	\$ 35,170	\$ 33,395	\$ 100,000
Capital Bond Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital BAN Debt	\$ 17,955	\$ 20,089	\$ 19,075	\$ 57,119
	<u>\$ 5,973,360</u>	<u>\$ 6,484,772</u>	<u>\$ 5,723,583</u>	<u>\$ 18,181,715</u>

School Committee Feedback:

Mr. Monteiro shared that based on his own research, there are 232 districts in the state out of 306 total that are in 'hold harmless' status similar to ORR. Ms. Kearns added that many school committee members have been participating in advocacy work around the current state funding formula. Mr. Muse shared his appreciation for the entire team, as this budget season was an enormous amount of work to get to where they are this evening and it ended up better than anticipated.

Chairperson Smith opened the hearing for public comments.

Chrystal Walsh, President of Friends of Old Rochester Music (FORM) thanked the school committee for their support of the junior high school music program.

Lazaro Rosa of Rochester inquired about how often the district goes out to bid for liability and property insurance. Mr. Barber explained the district can do so annually and in his research this year, most districts are seeing 11-14% of an increase so it was not beneficial.

Nicki Demakis of Mattapoisett asked if ORR is part of an insurance pool. Mr. Barber confirmed that ORR is part of Gateway Health Group along with Lakeville and Carver school districts.

Chairperson Smith closed the public hearing at 6:41pm.

V. General

A. Approval of FY26 Budget

Recommendation

That the School Committee review for approval the FY26 Budget.

MOTION to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Fiscal Year June 30, 2026 Budget in the total amount of \$22,048,468 for the Old Rochester Regional School District. The total amount of \$22,048,468 recognizes the three (3) segments of its funding: 1. General Operating in the amount of \$ 21,891,349, 2. Capital BANS Debt in the amount of \$ 57,119, and 3. Capital Stabilization in the amount of \$100,000.

MOTION by Mr. Muse

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Monteiro

MOTION PASSED 9-0

ROLL CALL: Smith; yes, Bowman; yes, Kearns; yes, McSweeney; yes, Monteiro; yes, Muse; yes, Nye; yes, Pires; yes, Rounseville; yes

MOTION to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Monteiro

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Kearns

MOTION PASSED 9-0

ROLL CALL: Smith; yes, Bowman; yes, Kearns; yes, McSweeney; yes, Monteiro; yes, Muse; yes, Nye; yes, Pires; yes, Rounseville; yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wilcox

Recording Secretary