



**Old Rochester Regional School Committee
Policy Subcommittee Minutes**

*Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 4:30 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), Cristin Cowles, Mattapoisett School Committee (remote), Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee (remote), Margaret McSweeney, ORR School Committee (in-person) and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee (in-person).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee

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

MEETING TO ORDER at 4:33 p.m. by Ms. Kearns.

1. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2025 by Ms. McSweeney
Second by Mr. Trombly

ROLL CALL

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: abstain, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Trombly: yes

2. Review Policy Recommendations

Title IX

These policies were reviewed by the District's legal team for revisions to ensure compliance with current regulations.

- Policy Revisions
 - **AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment And Retaliation**
 - **AC-R – Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation**
 - **ACAB – Sexual Harassment**
 - **ACAB-R – Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**
- Policy Remove
 - **ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex**

Attorney Coleman reminded the subcommittee that the amended regulations in 2024 were struck down by the current presidential administration therefore 2020 regulations were back in place. The legal team reviewed the policies and amended based on the regulations to ensure compliance in the District's policies. He provided an overview of the revisions and explained ACA is being removed as a separate policy because it is included in the revisions.

Ms. Kearns inquired if MASC had provided any guidance. Attorney Coleman confirmed they had submitted revisions but have since reverted back to 2020 based on the happenings at a federal level.

Mr. Trombly inquired about the removal of due process rights. Attorney Coleman explained that the legal team separated the policy and procedures so due process rights are now found in ACAB-R which is the procedure. The legal team has found that separating the two in most districts provided more clarity and is more user friendly. Attorney Coleman also added that there are still state laws in Massachusetts that provide greater protections for employees and students above these federal laws.

Motion to approve the revisions AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment And Retaliation, AC-R – Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, ACAB – Sexual Harassment and ACAB-R – Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the removal of ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in order to recommend to the Joint School Committee by Ms. Kearns

Second by Ms. Cowles

ROLL CALL

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Trombly: yes

3. Review Policy

BAA – Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures

Community member Anne Fernandes requested the Policy Subcommittee review this policy based on current practice as it has not been reviewed in some time.

Superintendent Nelson explained that he discussed this policy with MASC – Mr. Glenn Koocher – and learned that this is optional for school committees. MASC shared that many districts have generic objectives such as a balanced budget or a current policy manual, etc. He added that Mr. Koocher explained that a lot of school committees use the strategic plan, and/or Superintendent's goals as their objectives because they are approved and adopted by the Joint School Committee and updates are provided regularly.

Ms. Cowles shared that she is thankful Ms. Fernandes brought this up and she would prefer not to have policy that is just checking a box. She would be willing to edit this policy to current practice in order to make it more generic or including language that makes it optional so the members are not going against a policy. Ms. Kearns added that items should only be included that are actually in the school committee's purview.

Motion for Ms. Cowles to develop a revised version of policy BAA to bring forward at the next meeting by Ms. Cowles

Seconded Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL

Motion Carried: Beauregard: yes, Cowles: yes, Kearns: yes, McSweeney: yes, Trombly: yes

4. Informational

The draft of the Subcommittee Roles is available for school committee review. This information will also be shared at the Joint School Committee meeting for feedback.

Superintendent Nelson explained this is a non-voting item but the members can share any feedback with Ms. Wilcox. This document will be used for reorganization and website descriptions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. by Ms. McSweeney

Second by Mr. Trombly

ROLL CALL