

**ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
16 Pine Street
Rochester, Massachusetts
Budget Subcommittee**

November 6, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kate Duggan, Chairperson, Robin Rounseville, Anne Fernandes, Kirstin Jimenez and Josh Trombly (all in-person).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Heidi Letendre, Principal, and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary.

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Chairperson Duggan.

Superintendent Nelson welcomed the School Committee. He reminded those present that for FY2026, Rochester approved an increase of 2.487% with a \$200,000 offset for out-of-district expenses. During the budget process last year, the interventionist position was reduced after a retirement. The Town also approved funding for the enVisions math program outside of the operating budget.

Next, Mr. Barber provided an overview of the FY2027 budget process. He shared examples of the executive summary and Form 1 documents the administration uses to share requests and changes to programming, staffing, etc. for the budget process.

Principal Letendre reviewed enrollment projections for the 2026-2027 school year. Kindergarten is always a moving target. Superintendent Nelson added that the district is still partnering with NESDEC on enrollment projections and data has been submitted to them. The district is waiting on projections for this year.

The administration reviewed their requests for consideration including a special education teacher, lunch/recess monitor, special education team chairperson, elementary curriculum coordinator stipend position, Empowering Writers program, math supplemental materials and more.

Superintendent Nelson added that current projections for staffing and facilities are based on contractual obligations. An increase of 2.75% for the teachers and 2% for the support staff is included in FY2027 plans. Chairperson Duggan inquired about retirements. There are no retirements at this time. Out-of-district expenses are expected to remain and likely to increase based on anticipated changes in current placements to a residential setting which is typically more expensive. The one-time funding for out-of-district expenses will assist, but will be challenging again.

Ms. Rounseville inquired about any capital expenses. Superintendent Nelson informed the school committee that the Town shared the information today for the administration to start collaborating about but they have met internally to discuss potential needs. He reminded that this is separate from the general operating budget. The Town supported playground upgrade and sealing the parking lot in the spring after the solar canopy work is completed. They are currently awaiting feedback on the analysis of the roof at RMS.

Lastly, Superintendent Nelson asked the school committee for feedback on their priorities. Ms. Fernandes expressed her interest in the special education resources. Chairperson Duggan also expressed interest in moving forward with the school resource officer. The committee agreed with both of these priorities and would like prefer special education. Superintendent Nelson will discuss the SRO with Chief Assad and Town Administrator Cameron Durant. He reminded them that there is currently a satellite office at RMS. Ms. Rounseville inquired to

see if any technology could be moved to capital. Mr. Barber explained that typically capital items have a useful life of ten years or more and more technology items do not fall in that category. Superintendent Nelson concluded the meeting sharing that there will be extensive discussions again this year regarding out of district placements.

The next meeting schedule is currently scheduled for January 8, 2026

II. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 5:35pm by Kate Duggan

Seconded by Robin Rounseville

Motion Carries 5-0