

**Old Rochester Regional School Committee  
Policy Subcommittee  
Superintendent's Conference Room  
135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**October 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Beauregard, Marion School Committee, Cristin Cowles, Mattapoisett School Committee, Frances-Feliz Kearns, ORR School Committee, Margaret McSweeney, ORR School Committee, Joseph Pires, ORR School Committee and Joshua Trombly, Rochester School Committee (all remote).

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent, Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Doreen Lopes, Early Education Coordinator, Lauren Millette, High School Assistant Principal, Christina Cioffi, Director of Guidance and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

**MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Chairperson McSweeney. Chairperson McSweeney stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson McSweeney added that the meeting is being conducted remotely through zoom with the link provided.

**I. JFAE – Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy**

- a. Massachusetts state regulations (603 CMR 4.00) require sending districts to CTE schools and programs to maintain a districtwide Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy that documents how middle school students in the district are made aware of, and gain exposure to, career technical education (CTE) schools and programs available to them in their district, regional, agricultural, and other public high schools. Our administrative team has developed a draft policy for review by the Policy Subcommittee. This Policy must be submitted to the State by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Nelson explained that all districts in the Commonwealth are required to develop this policy and with the support of the Policy Subcommittee, this policy will be presented to the Joint School Committee this evening. The administrative team present took the lead on reviewing the guidance and requirements from DESE. Ms. Lopes added that the policy is to ensure all families have access and resources to be aware of all the options for the student. She added that the majority of the items in the policy were already in place at ORR Junior High School.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Ms. McSweeney confirmed the administrative team is confident in the October 15<sup>th</sup> date as described in the policy. Ms. Beauregard suggested changing ‘families’ and ‘parents’ to parents/guardians throughout the policy to be consistent with other policies amended in recent years.

**Motion** to approve JFAE Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy with the recommended revisions by Frances-Feliz Kearns.

**Seconded** by Cristin Cowles

**Motion Carries** 6-0

**Roll Call:** Beauregard (yes), Cowles (yes), Kearns (yes), McSweeney (yes), Pires (yes), Trombly (yes)

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn at 12:12pm by Frances-Feliz Kearns.

**Seconded** by Josh Trombly

**Motion Carries** 6-0

**Roll Call:** Beauregard (yes), Cowles (yes), Kearns (yes), McSweeney (yes), Pires (yes), Trombly (yes)

Meeting Resources

Agenda

JFAE Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy Draft

Pursuant to Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified of the following meeting:

**Old Rochester Regional School Committee  
Policy Subcommittee  
Superintendent's Conference Room  
135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739**

**October 9, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

**ZOOM LINK:**

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/93373812694?pwd=pISzg4wa3LcOkZkbtia0t3EqjGADxa.1>

Meeting ID: 933 7381 2694

Passcode: 162359

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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

*This meeting will be conducted via zoom.*

**MEETING TO ORDER**

**I. JFAE – Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy**

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**II. ADJOURNMENT**

The list of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. If you need more information or reasonable accommodations for this meeting, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 508-758-2772 ext. 1956. Meeting resources, minutes and recordings are available on the School Committee webpage: <https://www.oldrochester.org/district/sc>

## **Policy Overview**

The Old Rochester Regional School District in accordance with Massachusetts state regulations (603 CMR 4.00) and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is committed to ensuring that all Old Rochester Regional Junior High School students and their parents/guardians are made aware of and gain meaningful exposure to career technical education (CTE) schools, agricultural schools, and career-related programs available to them through district, regional, and other public high schools.

## **High School Pathway Options**

By October 15th of each school year, the following outreach methods will be planned, scheduled, and communicated with students and their parents/guardians of the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School:

- On-site information sessions at the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School.
- Direct mail and/or email communications to students and families.
- Public-facing website updates featuring available CTE and agricultural programs.
- Seventh and eighth grade students may participate in school-day tours of CTE schools, agricultural schools, or career pathway programs.

The following CTE schools, agricultural schools, or career pathway programs are available to students based on the student's town of residence. Old Rochester Regional Junior High School will collaborate with the following institutions and programs to facilitate student awareness and exploration:

- Career Technical Schools:
  - Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School (Mattapoisett and Rochester residents)
  - Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School (Marion residents)
- Agricultural School:
  - Bristol County Agricultural High School (Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester residents)
- District and Regional Career-Related Programs:
  - Old Rochester Regional High School [*Chapter 74 Early Childhood Education Program and Advanced Manufacturing and Business & Finance Career Pathways*] (Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester residents)

## **Junior High School Career Exploration**

All students in seventh and eighth grade participate in whole-class presentations as part of college and career exploration. Students receive information on secondary school and career options, and utilize online tools to assess personal interests, abilities, and skills.

Students gain exposure to regional and district pathways, including CTE schools and programs, agricultural schools, and career pathways programs, through communication in newsletters, guidance curriculum, school presentations, school tours, interest surveys, and information sessions.

Students are given the opportunity to meet individually with school counselors for future planning. Resources are provided within a Learning Management System (LMS), which includes access and instruction for utilizing online career exploration tools such as MassCIS, MyCAP, and ONet.

### **Junior High School CTE Tour Options**

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School will coordinate with regional CTE schools and programs, agricultural schools, and career pathways programs to:

- Arrange school-day tours for Old Rochester Regional Junior High School students.
- Ensure transportation costs are covered by the hosting institution.
- Integrate exploration activities into students' academic and career planning.
- Interview at Old Rochester Regional Junior High School during the school day for vocational schools for those students who have applied.
- Ensure tours will be considered excused absences, provided the hosting institution confirms the student's participation.
- Ensure no school or program withholds access to these tours during the school day.

The Guidance Department at Old Rochester Regional Junior High School will be the primary contact and will collaborate with admission personnel from CTE schools and programs, agricultural schools, and career pathways programs.

### **Providing Records to CTE Schools and Programs**

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School will release the names and addresses of seventh and eighth grade students by October 15th each year.

Parents/guardians and eligible students will receive notice and have the opportunity to request that this information not be released without prior consent.

This demographic information is shared only with authorized personnel from regional CTE schools, agricultural schools, and career pathway programs.

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School will provide relevant information to member regional CTE schools and programs and agricultural schools for students who have applied.

- This may include documentation of student interest, attendance records, and discipline records in accordance with the vocational school's requirements.
- A copy of records sent will be made available in written form upon request to students and parents/guardians.

Annually, the District will sign an attestation that the Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy is implemented. The District will make their Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy available on the district website and provide written copies to students and parents, upon request.

*Approved by the Joint School Committee xx.xx.xxxx*

LEGAL REFS:

DESE Regulation [603 CMR 4.00](#)