

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

**MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
17 Barstow Street
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts**

November 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Google Meet:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gwg-cqhs-dep>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-864-0228 PIN: 160 337 539#

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, administration and the public will have the option of meeting in person at Center School, 17 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via Google Meet. Supporting documentation for agenda items can be found on the School Committee webpage:

<https://www.oldrochester.org/district/sc.>

I. Meeting to Order

II. Recognition

That the school committee recognize 6th grade students for their participation in Peace Poster Contest hosted by the Mattapoisett Lions Club as part of an International Lions Club initiative.

III. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)

That the School Committee review for approval the following minute(s)

- a. Regular Session Minutes: September 10, 2026**
- b. Executive Session Minutes: September 10, 2026**

IV. General

a. Approval of School Improvement Plan (VOTE)

That the School Committee review the 2026-2028 School Improvement Plan for Center and Old Hammondtown Schools.

b. MCAS Presentation

That the School Committee review a presentation from the administration.

c. Approval of Donation(s) (VOTE)

That the School Committee review a donation from the Theva Giving Fund for Center School in the amount of \$5,000.

d. Approval of Grant(s) (VOTE)

That the School Committee review the following grants:

- i. FY2027: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant fund code 0240 in the amount of \$113,025 and fund code 0262 in the amount of \$6,846.
- ii. FY2027: Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts fund code 0305 in the amount of \$16,905.
- iii. FY2027: Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction fund code 0140 in the amount of \$4,895.
- iv. FY2027: Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant fund code 0309 in the amount of \$10,000.

V. Administrative and School Committee Reports

a. Chairperson Report

That the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson regarding current happenings in the schools and local community.

b. Central Office Reports

i. Superintendent

- 1. That the School Committee review the most recent Superintendent's [Newsletter](#).

ii. Teaching & Learning

1. That the School Committee hear an update on current happenings of curriculum, professional development, new teacher induction program and teaching and learning initiatives.
- iii. Student Services
 1. That the School Committee hear an update on current happenings of the student services department, including community outreach events, and updates on initiatives related to school climate and culture, and safe schools.
- iv. Business Office
 1. That the School Committee review the close out financial report of FY2026.
 2. That the School Committee review the Record of Warrant(s) as signed by the sole signatory for September 3, 17, October 1 and 13, 2026.
- v. Facilities
 1. That the School Committee review this month's update from Facilities Director Eugene Jones.
- vi. Food Service
 1. That the School Committee review this month's update from Food Service Director Jill Henesey.
- vii. Personnel
 1. Bailey Pelland was hired as a paraprofessional at Center School.
- c. Principal and School Council Report**

That the School Committee review the Principal's report including student recognition, classroom lessons, community events and school council information.

VI. School Committee Reports

View agendas, resources and minutes online: <https://www.olderochester.org/district/sc>.

- a. Budget Subcommittee
- b. Capital Subcommittee
- c. Equity Subcommittee
- d. Policy Subcommittee
- e. District Wellness Committee
- f. ORR District Committee
- g. Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund
- h. Early Childhood Council
- i. SMEC
- j. READS
- k. [MASC](#)
- l. Superintendent's Goals Subcommittee

VII. Information and Future Agenda Items

- a. Information**
 - i. READS Quarterly Report – September 2026
- b. Timeline**
 - i. Next Mattapoisett School Committee: December 3, 2026
 - ii. Next Joint School Committee: January 28, 2027
- c. Future Agenda Items**
 - i. Initial Budget Review (January)
 - ii. School Choice Public Hearing (January)
 - iii. Health Unit Application (February)
 - iv. Budget Public Hearing (March)
 - v. Approval of Leases (April)
 - vi. School Committee Reorganization (June)
 - vii. School Improvement Plan Approval (June)
 - viii. Student Handbook Approval (June)

District-wide news is available on our website: <https://www.olderochester.org/district/news>

District-wide events are available on our website: <https://www.olderochester.org/district-calendar>

VIII. Public Comment

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy.

IX. Executive Session (VOTE)

That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

X. Adjournment (VOTE)

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>

**MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
17 Barstow Street
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts**

September 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse (in-person), Cristin Cowles (remote – 5:58pm), Mackenzie Emmons (in-person), Jack LeBrun (in-person) and Margaret Pullo Breese (in-person).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person), Marie Grable, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (in-person), Charles West, Principal – Center School (in-person), Amanda Chamberlin, Principal – Old Hammondtown School (in-person) and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary (in-person).

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by James Muse. Mr. Muse stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being recorded, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson Muse added that the meeting is being conducted via hybrid format and the public has the ability to participate in-person or remotely through Google Meet with the link provided.

II. Tour of Building

Mr. Jones, Facilities Director, provided a tour of the building for the school committee to review summer projects and refurbishments.

III. Recognition

- a. The following staffing changes have taken place for 2026-2027 school year.

New Hires:

Name	Position
Charles West	Principal, Center
Amanda Chamberlin	Principal, OHS
Nickolas Doshier	Music Teacher – Center/OHS
Alexander Iannitelli	Paraprofessional – OHS
Kristine Lemee-Vidal	Math Interventionist
Joanna MacDonald Ingham	Special Education Teacher – OHS
Olivia Perreira	Special Education Teacher - Center
Caitlin Vieira	Paraprofessional

Longevity:

Name	Years of Service
Brittany Guertin	10
Michele Behan	15
Deborah Camacho	15
Christylyn Julian	15
Miranda Pierson	15
Kristin Querim	15
Courtney Aarsheim	20
Stacey Fernandes	20
Sarah Mendes	20
Virginia Perriera	25

Superintendent Nelson provided an overview of the opening day activities which took place at the Old Rochester

campus for all of the faculty and staff across all of the schools together. The day began with breakfast being provided by our food service team then all faculty and staff made their way to the auditorium for opening remarks, introductions of new staff and recognition of years of service. Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeff Riley was the keynote speaker. He shared his perspective on the profound impact educators have on students and communities and touched upon AI as a tool but also as a powerful catalyst for empowering students to shape the future.

IV. Executive Session

That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

Motion to enter into executive session at 6:15pm for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, only to return to adjourn by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Margaret Pullo Breese

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, LeBrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

Motion to return from executive session at 6:29pm to return to regular session by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Mackenzie Emmons

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, LeBrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

V. Approval of Minutes

That the School Committee review for approval the following minute(s)

a. Regular Session Minutes: May 27, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2026 by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Margaret Pullo Breese

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, LeBrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

b. Executive Session Minutes: May 27, 2026

These minutes were approved in executive session.

VI. General

a. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement

That the School Committee review a Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Mattapoissett Educators Association regarding a curriculum leader position.

Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and Mattapoissett Educators Association by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Margaret Pullo Breese

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, LeBrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

b. Opening Day Update

That the School Committee hear an update from administration.

This was discussed during recognition.

c. Approval of Donation(s)

That the School Committee review a donation from the Feinstein Foundation for Center School in the amount of \$1,000 and for Old Hammondtown School in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion to approve the donations as presented by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Mackenzie Emmons

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, Lebrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

VII. Administrative and School Committee Reports

a. Chairperson Report

That the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson regarding current happenings in the schools and local community.

b. Central Office Reports

- i. Superintendent - Superintendent shared his most recently Superintendent's [Newsletter](#) and highlighted the staff members that supported the SAIL summer program, the discipline philosophy and thanked the faculty and staff for an amazing opening for students at Center and Old Hammondtown Schools.
- ii. Teaching & Learning - On behalf of Dr. Fedorowicz, Superintendent Nelson reported the first full day of professional development was held prior to the start of school and the first half professional development day will be held later this month. Faculty and staff participated in enVisions math training, Collaborative Problem Solving, ALICE and the Writing Revolution.
- iii. Student Services - Ms. Grable shared the following report: Aligning with our Vision2028 Strategic Plan (Objectives 3 & 4), we continue to strive to provide Professional Development for staff with the goal of strengthening our academic, behavioral, and social emotional systems of support thereby creating an inclusive and positive school culture. We have introduced the **Collaborative Problem Solving** (CPS) approach. CPS is a proven way to reduce challenging behaviors, teach students the skills they lack, and build relationships. We opened the year with a wonderful presentation from Dr. Stuart Ablon from Think:Kids. The key take-aways of this presentation were:
 - Behavior is about Skill not Will
 - Students do Well if they Can (vs if they Want)
 - It's the Process not the Outcome that Builds Skills

These points challenge us to reflect and expand our mindsets of what we know and how we respond to student behaviors. This is a theme that will continue to be promoted throughout the school year. Complementing our efforts to strengthen our academic, behavioral, and social emotional systems of support, we will once again be consulting with Carrie Thurston as she works with schools to identify and implement supports to help students achieve growth in the area of literacy. With 26 years in education, as a classroom teacher, special educator and Director of Pupil Services, Carrie is well known for her ability to create **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**. This past week she has met with each building principals to follow-up with the work that was started last year in an effort to prioritize and plan interventions for this school year. She will be working directly with building principals to identify and assist some of our most complex learners. As we consider our safe schools initiatives (Vision2028 Strategic Plan Objective 5), we have developed and executed our **ALICE Training Action Plan**. ALICE stands for Alert, Lock-Down, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. We understand that **preparedness is the foundation of school safety** and districts need to plan for age and ability appropriate strategies. To that end, ORR and Superintendency Union #55 has pledged to utilize ALICE programming. It has been recommended that our ALICE presentations and training modules be split between Elementary grades (k-6) and Secondary grade (7-12), with further differentiation within the elementary levels (kindergarten, 1-3, 4-6). These trainings are intended to be consistent across all elementary buildings. In an effort to promote family communication and information sharing (Vision2028 Strategic Plan Objective 4), the ORR, Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester School Districts have combined to establish a **Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S.E.P.A.C.)**. This Council provides annual training on parent/guardian rights and identifies topics of interest related to the various needs of students with disabilities. The 1st meeting with SEPAC Officers is scheduled for 9/30/2026 and a schedule of meetings and trainings will be posted shortly after the meeting.

- iv. Business Office - Superintendent Nelson shared the Business Office is currently closing out FY26 and will provide an update at the next meeting. School Committee members reviewed the Record of Warrant(s) as signed by the sole signatory for May 28, June 10, 30, August 5, 10, 14, and 20, 2026.

- v. Facilities - Superintendent Nelson shared the following on behalf of Facilities Director, Mr. Jones:

Center School

- Repaired, remediated water damage to 1898 Section. (Insurance Funded)
- Replaced fault fire alarm module.
- Replaced VCT flooring in 2nd floor classroom. (Capital Funded)
- All firefighting systems have been inspected/tested including the ANSUL (kitchen fire suppression system), fire sprinkler, kitchen hoods and stationary fire extinguishers.
- The boilers have been cleaned, serviced.
- Replaced old water heater. (Capital Funded)
- Groomed fields and grounds for Opening Day.
- Completed routine maintenance on all facility systems.

Old Hammondtown School

- Hosted Town Primary Elections.
- All firefighting systems have been inspected/tested including the ANSUL (kitchen fire suppression system), fire sprinkler, kitchen hoods and stationary fire extinguishers.
- The boilers have been cleaned, serviced.
- Groomed fields and grounds for Opening Day.
- Completed routine maintenance on all facility systems.

- vi. Food Service - Superintendent Nelson shared the following on behalf of Food Service Director, Ms. Henesey:

- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day.
- Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- During the summer, I replaced the Milk Cooler and the Reach-in Refrigerator.
- The Food service team participated in a full day of professional development training on 08/31.
- Fun Facts: in SY 25-26 Center Cafe served: **8,937 School Breakfast & 22,457 School Lunches**

- vii. Personnel

1. The following staff members retired or resigned at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

Name	Position
Linda Ashley	Principal, Center
Stephanie Wells	Principal, OHS
Sarah Leahy	Music Teacher
Dionne Cozier	Paraprofessional
Linda Aruri	Paraprofessional
Nancy Pope	Special Education Teacher – OHS
Claudia Duke	Special Education Teacher - Center
Denise Ellis	Paraprofessional

c. **Principal and School Council Report**

Mr. West shared the following report:

I am so excited to start this school year and welcome our students back into the building. It is my hope that you all had a wonderful summer and were able to spend time with friends and family. I would also like to say how honored I am to be part of the Center School community! I believe education is most effective and successful when schools and families work together. I am committed to fostering open communication, mutual respect, and a shared focus on every student's academic success, well-being, and social/emotional growth. Having grown up in the Tri-Town, I feel a strong connection to this community and am grateful for the opportunity to give back. My roots are grounded in education and in a sustained commitment to helping others. My background in social work and mental health has strengthened my

belief in supporting the whole child and recognizing that students thrive when they feel safe, valued, understood, and encouraged. Building strong connections and relationships with students and families is a long-standing commitment here at Center School. My hope is that, together, we will continue to build a school culture that encourages curiosity, promotes kindness, and empowers every child to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. I look forward to getting to know our students, families, and staff and to work together to make Center School a place where every child feels a strong sense of belonging and has the opportunity to shine. It was a fantastic start to the year as we welcomed our students back to school. The energy was palpable as our staff and students joined together to start the school year. It was apparent that our students felt engaged and connected as they started to refamiliarize themselves with the routines and reacquaint themselves with the school building. Morning meetings began with the pledge and a traditional school song, as well as some conversations about school expectations. Last week we talked about the importance of self awareness and self control and how it helps make a fun and productive learning environment. Overall, it was a great first few days to the start of the 2026-2027 school year. We are all feeling really good. On Monday, August 31st Center School staff joined the rest of the school system's staff members at the High School for the opening day gathering. After some coffee and conversation in the High School cafeteria, we all gathered in the auditorium to hear from our Superintendent, celebrate the longevity of many of our staff and enjoy some music from some of our students. Former DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley joined us as the keynote speaker and shared his words of wisdom about how important the work we do is. Center School staff then returned to the building to meet as a team. We spent some time going over some important and relevant information and then enjoyed a wonderful lunch from Riccardi's compliments for the Mattapoisett PTA. On Tuesday, September 1st. Our staff joined the rest of the school system's staff in the High School cafeteria for a presentation by Stuart Ablon on Collaborative Problem Solving. CPS is an approach proven to reduce challenging behavior, teach kids the skills they lack, and build relationships with the adults in their lives. The staff then returned to the building for a presentation on enVision® Mathematics. Our teachers will be piloting a new version of enVisions this year and were able to get some valuable professional development and training on the 2027 version of this program.

Kindergarten Orientation and Opening Day

On Thursday, September 2nd, Center School welcomed kindergarten students and their parents for a warm and successful orientation day designed to ease the transition into the new school year. While the children spent time in their classrooms getting comfortable with their teachers and learning environments, parents gathered in the cafeteria for an informative meeting with administration and staff to review key logistics. The morning concluded with a special highlight as students and parents boarded a school bus together for a practice ride around town, helping the young learners build confidence for their upcoming commutes. Despite a few natural tears, the event was filled with overwhelmingly positive smiles and provided a reassuring, community-focused start to the kindergarten journey.

New Staff and Hiring Updates

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mackenzie Sylvia, Dr. Sarah Leahy, and Denise Ellis for their service and meaningful contributions to our school community. They will be dearly missed. We are excited to welcome two new staff members to Center School this year: Dr. Nickolas Doshier – Music Teacher, OHS/Center and Ms. Olivia Perreira - Grade 2/3 Special Education Teacher at Center School. We are in the process of filling the open paraprofessional position and hope to make that hire soon. Additionally, Third Grade teacher Sarah Mendes moved to 2nd Grade and First Grade teacher Courtney Aarsheim moved to Kindergarten. Both of these moves were the result of enrollment numbers at each grade level.

School Communication

Hopefully you have been able to take a look at the school newsletter, Front and CENTER. Front and CENTER, is a weekly newsletter for the Center School community. The focus of this newsletter is to provide our school community with important information about the goings on at Center School. This may include important dates, happenings in the school or classrooms, spotlights on learning and recognitions of achievements. It is my hope that it will provide useful information about the growth and learning opportunities and events at Center School. <https://app.smore.com/n/m89y2>

Upcoming Events

Staff Meetings

September 9, 2026 - Center School Staff Meeting

October 14, 2026

Open House

Center School - Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Picture Days

Center School - Friday October 2, 2026

Parent Conferences — Early Release - Students dismissed @11:30 am

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Friday, October 30, 2026

Early Release Days — Students dismissed @12:20 pm

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Friday October 9, 2026

PTA Meetings 7:00 - 8:00 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026

School Council Meetings 3:15 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Ms. Chamberlin shared the following report:

A brief snapshot of the summer/first week's work at OHS.

- Spent July and August preparing for the opening of the 2026–2027 school year and building a strong foundation for my first year as Principal of Old Hammondtown School. This work included meeting individually and collaboratively with staff and district leaders; getting to know the OHS community, programs, practices, and traditions; reviewing student needs, enrollment, class placements, staffing, and special education/paraprofessional assignments; developing and refining the master and specialist schedules; reviewing school procedures, routines, and operational systems; coordinating new staff onboarding and staffing needs; collaborating closely with office and custodial staff to prepare the building

- Developed a consistent schoolwide focus around Think • Learn • Care, aligned with the district, creating common expectations and systems

- Developed school-wide theme/messaging using staff input that “Small Acts of Kindness and Hard Work Create Big Waves: Every Wave Starts With You” woven throughout OHS. These expectations tie into our Seahorse and what it means to Be a Seahorse

- “We Make Waves” Whole School Bulletin Board Display: each day we discuss at whole school meeting what it means to make waves and students will be creating their own personal wave to create a whole school bulletin board outside of the principal’s office

- Popsicles with the Principal Open House: Wednesday August 26th. Great attendance and chance to meet families and students

- Old Hammondtown’s Open House: Wednesday September 9th

Revised and Updated the Old Hammondtown DCAP plan to align with work done over the summer and create consistency with format/templates district wide

- Math: Our math teachers will begin using the updated EnVision Mathematics 2027, the newest version of EnVision, as we continue into our second year with the program.

- Writing: The district is excited to begin a K–6 pilot of The Writing Revolution, an approach that gives teachers practical strategies for strengthening student writing across all subject areas. These strategies can be easily woven into what students are already learning without adding another full curriculum.

- Social-Emotional Learning: Responsive Classroom’s Fly Five curriculum will continue to be taught weekly during Morning Meeting: helping to build important social-emotional skills that support positive relationships, responsible decision-making, and success in and out of the classroom.

- Assessment: This year, we will pilot IXL LevelUp for our ELA and Math benchmark assessments, transitioning away from Aimsweb. Because IXL is already familiar to our students and teachers, this will help streamline the assessment while giving teachers a clear picture of useful information to better understand student needs and support growth.

- All special educators and interventionists have created schedules and will be beginning a soft FLEX rollout of groupings that will continued to be refined as benchmark data is completed and analyzed

Opening Day for Staff: August 31: All staff received a thorough folder of systems, operations, schedules, and received a full building-level refresher to begin the year

- PTA paid to help cater a beautiful Taco Bar lunch for our staff from R.W. Catering
- First Staff Meeting of the Year: September 9th. Focused on IXL Benchmark assessment training and the Evaluation process
- Popsicles with the Principal and Open House: two opportunities to welcome families into the 2026/2027 school year
- School Council: We are thrilled to have Carly DuBeau and Amanda Beauregard as our two OHS parent representatives and Amy Casi as our teacher representative for the 2026/2027 school year. First meeting will take place Wednesday, October 28th from 3:15-4:00. Location TBD
- Updated color-coded map of the Old Hammondtown building that is now posted in every classroom, will be on display in the main lobby, and has been used to update a thorough Evacuation plan
- Refined ALICE procedures: all staff have common language hung up in classrooms
- Three fire drills and three ALICE Drills will take place during the 26/27 school year. ALICE drills will involve students and a slideshow to introduce routines for this will be slowly rolled out to prepare for our first drill. The first Fire Drill took place September 8th and first ALICE drill will happen before December. All staff will receive an updated ALICE training that our SRO will co-facilitate at the building level
- Updated Lanyards: All staff have received OHS lanyards and will be wearing them each day

On the Horizon

- Wednesday September 23rd: Early Release
- Monday October 5th: Picture Day
- Friday October 9th: Early Release
- Monday October 12th: No School- Columbus Day
- Thursday October 29th: Early Release: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday October 30th: Early Release: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday October 28th: School Council

VIII. School Committee Reports

View agendas, resources and minutes online: <https://www.olderochester.org/district/sc>.

- Budget Subcommittee – no report
- Capital Subcommittee – no report
- Equity Subcommittee – no report
- Policy Subcommittee – no report
- District Wellness Committee – no report
- ORR District Committee – no report
- Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund – Ms. Emmons reported the 1st annual Gala is October 8th which supports grant opportunities for our teachers.
- Early Childhood Council – no report
- SMEC – no report
- READS – no report
- MASC – no report
- Superintendent's Goals Subcommittee – no report

IX. Information and Future Agenda Items

- Information**
 - Letter from ORRHS Class of 2021 Graduate Bess Pierre
 - Project 351 Invest in Impact Newsletter
- Timeline**
 - Next Mattapoisett School Committee: October 29, 2026 at OHS*
 - Next Joint School Committee: October 1, 2026
- Future Agenda Items**
 - MCAS Results (November/December)
 - Initial Budget Review (January)
 - School Choice Public Hearing (January)
 - Health Unit Application (February)
 - Budget Public Hearing (March)
 - Approval of Leases (April)
 - School Committee Reorganization (June)

- viii. School Improvement Plan Approval (June)
- ix. Student Handbook Approval (June)

District-wide news is available on our website: <https://www.oldrochester.org/district/news>

District-wide events are available on our website: <https://www.oldrochester.org/district-calendar>

X. Public Comment

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy.

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:23pm by Jack LeBrun.

Seconded by Mackenzie Emmons

Motion Carries 5-0

Roll Call: Muse; yes, Cowles; yes, Emmons; yes, Lebrun; yes, Pullo Breese; yes

Meeting Resources

Agenda

May 27, 2026 Minutes Draft

Welcome Back Message

Opening Day Presentation

Einstein Donation

Superintendent's Newsletter

Warrant(s)

Facilities Report

Food Service Report

School Committee Letter from Graduate Bess Pierre

Project 351 Newsletter



P.O. Box 770001
Cincinnati, OH 45277-0053

SP 01 000082 33563 H 1 ASNGLP
BTQLKKBTTTRQ
TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CENTER SCHOOL
PO BOX 477
MATTAPOISETT, MA 02739

000082 1/1

September 03, 2026

Greetings:

We are delighted to provide you with the attached check for **\$5,000.00**. This Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised FundSM grant was made at the recommendation of the Theva Giving Fund, a donor-advised fund.¹

This grant is made by Fidelity Charitable. Fidelity Charitable's donor recommends the grant be used for the following purpose (which does not constitute a restriction): **Where it's needed most.** This grant is to be used exclusively for charitable purposes, and is not made for the purpose of influencing legislation. This grant is also subject to the "Grant Terms" on the next page. If you are unable or unwilling to meet these grant conditions, you must return these funds to Fidelity Charitable.

Should you choose to send a thank-you letter, the donor has requested it be sent to the following address. You should not, however, issue a tax acknowledgement to either the recommending donor(s) or to Fidelity Charitable.

[Redacted address]

¹ Fidelity Charitable is an independent public charity that sponsors a donor-advised fund program. In a donor-advised fund, Donors make irrevocable charitable contributions to Fidelity Charitable, and have the privilege of recommending grants to qualified public charities.

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Page 1 of 2

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PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH AT PERFORATION BEFORE PRESENTING CHECK FOR PAYMENT

VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS MULTI-TONE SECURITY DOCUMENT.

CHECK BACKGROUND AREA CHANGES COLOR GRADUALLY FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.



P.O. Box 770001
Cincinnati, OH 45277-0053
800-952-4438

PAYABLE AT: THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON
EVERETT, MA 02149
53-292/113

16763479

September 03, 2026

PAY TO THE ORDER OF TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT

\$5,000.00

*****Five Thousand & 0/100 DOLLARS*****

VOID AFTER 60 DAYS

16763479 0113029201 004936

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

1 Grant Recipient Number/Name: - Mattapoisett
UEI: HQE9VG1RMRP7

2 Grant Title: FC 0240 - IDEA Part B (Federal/ENT)
Fund Code: 0240
DESE Project Staff: federalgrantprograms@mass.gov

3 Grant Award Project Description
84.027A GRANTS TO STATES - B (611)

4 DESE Award Information
Grant Type: FEDERAL USED

- **CFDA #:** 84.027A
- **FAIN:** H027A260076
- **Is the award an R & D?:** No
- **Federal Award Date:** 7/1/2026

5 Sub-recipient Award Information

- **Grant Project Number:** 0240-000558-2027-0173
- **Grant Award Amount:** \$113,025.00
- **Grant Project Duration (Period of Performance):** 8/31/2026 - 9/30/2028
- **Reimbursement Requests Must Be Submitted Before:** 12/1/2028
- **Final Expenditure Report (FER) Due:** 12/31/2028

6 Administrative Information

- **DESE UEI:** PUNALCFVXAL6
- **UGG (2 CFR 200)**
- **EDGAR As Applicable (34 CFR)**
 - General Fiscal Administration 34 CFR Part 76
- **DESE Request for Proposal (RFP):** <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0240/>

7 Statutes

- **Authority:** PL 108-446 PART - B INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
- **Program Title:** SPECIAL EDUCATION - GRANTS TO STATES
- **CFDA #:** 84.027A

8 Terms and Conditions of Award

- This grant is contingent upon the continuing availability of funds from the grant's funding source and the continuing eligibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and your town/agency to receive such funds.
- The grant may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by either party. In the event of such action, all remaining funds shall be returned in a timely fashion to the DESE agency and the grant closeout procedure must be followed.
- Fiscal and other reports relating to this grant must be submitted as required by the grant program.
- Expenditures cannot be charged to the grant prior to the sub-recipient grant start date. [34 CFR 76.708](#)
- This grant has a restricted indirect cost rate.
- Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective and request prior approvals from DESE for budget and program plan revisions (amendments/revisions to grant within DESE grant sub-system).

9 Special Notes

Here is a copy of the Federal Award letter that DESE received from the federal awarding agency which funds this grant.
<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=237615&inline=true> If you are printing or saving this GAN to your personal files, please be sure to also save a copy of the linked Federal Award to maintain complete award information for your records.

Grant Award Notification Explanation

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=238675&inline=true>

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

1 **Grant Recipient Number/Name:** - Mattapoissett
UEI: HQE9VG1RMRP7

2 **Grant Title:** FC 0262 - IDEA Part B (Federal/ENT)
Fund Code: 0262
DESE Project Staff: federalgrantprograms@mass.gov

3 Grant Award Project Description

84.173A GRANT TO STATES - B PRESCHOOL (619)

4 DESE Award Information

Grant Type: FEDERAL USED

- **CFDA #:** 84.173A
- **FAIN:** H173A260039
- **Is the award an R & D?:** No
- **Federal Award Date:** 7/1/2026

5 Sub-recipient Award Information

- **Grant Project Number:** 0262-000559-2027-0173
- **Grant Award Amount:** \$6,846.00
- **Grant Project Duration (Period of Performance):** 8/31/2026 - 9/30/2028
- **Reimbursement Requests Must Be Submitted Before:** 12/1/2028
- **Final Expenditure Report (FER) Due:** 12/31/2028

6 Administrative Information

- **DESE UEI:** PUNALCFVXAL6
- **UGG (2 CFR 200)**
- **EDGAR As Applicable (34 CFR)**
 - General Fiscal Administration 34 CFR Part 76
- **DESE Request for Proposal (RFP):** <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0262/>

7 Statutes

- **Authority:** PL 108-446 PART - B INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
- **Program Title:** SPECIAL EDUCATION - PRESCHOOL GRANTS
- **CFDA #:** 84.173A

8 Terms and Conditions of Award

- This grant is contingent upon the continuing availability of funds from the grant's funding source and the continuing eligibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and your town/agency to receive such funds.
- The grant may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by either party. In the event of such action, all remaining funds shall be returned in a timely fashion to the DESE agency and the grant closeout procedure must be followed.
- Fiscal and other reports relating to this grant must be submitted as required by the grant program.
- Expenditures cannot be charged to the grant prior to the sub-recipient grant start date. [34 CFR 76.708](#)
- This grant has a restricted indirect cost rate.
- Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective and request prior approvals from DESE for budget and program plan revisions (amendments/revisions to grant within DESE grant sub-system).

9 Special Notes

Here is a copy of the Federal Award letter that DESE received from the federal awarding agency which funds this grant.
<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=236857&inline=true> If you are printing or saving this GAN to your personal files, please be sure to also save a copy of the linked Federal Award to maintain complete award information for your records.

Grant Award Notification Explanation

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=238675&inline=true>

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

1 Grant Recipient Number/Name: - Mattapoisett **2 Grant Title:** FC 0305 - Title I, Part A (Federal/ENT)
UEI: HQE9VG1RMRP7 **Fund Code:** 0305
DESE Project Staff: federalgrantprograms@mass.gov

3 Grant Award Project Description

84.010A Title I Part A Basic Grants to LEAs

4 DESE Award Information

Grant Type: FEDERAL USED

- **CFDA #:** 84.010A
- **FAIN:** S010A260021
- **Is the award an R & D?:** No
- **Federal Award Date:** 7/1/2026

5 Sub-recipient Award Information

- **Grant Project Number:** 0305-000549-2027-0173
- **Grant Award Amount:** \$16,905.00
- **Grant Project Duration (Period of Performance):** 8/31/2026 - 9/30/2028
- **Reimbursement Requests Must Be Submitted Before:** 12/1/2028
- **Final Expenditure Report (FER) Due:** 12/31/2028

6 Administrative Information

- **DESE UEI:** PUNALCFVXAL6
- **UGG (2 CFR 200)**
- **EDGAR As Applicable (34 CFR)**
 - General Fiscal Administration 34 CFR Part 76
- **DESE Request for Proposal (RFP):** <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0305/>

7 Statutes

- **Authority:** PL 100-297 I-A ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED BY ESSA
- **Program Title:** TITLE I GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES
- **CFDA #:** 84.010A

8 Terms and Conditions of Award

- This grant is contingent upon the continuing availability of funds from the grant's funding source and the continuing eligibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and your town/agency to receive such funds.
- The grant may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by either party. In the event of such action, all remaining funds shall be returned in a timely fashion to the DESE agency and the grant closeout procedure must be followed.
- Fiscal and other reports relating to this grant must be submitted as required by the grant program.
- Expenditures cannot be charged to the grant prior to the sub-recipient grant start date. [34 CFR 76.708](#)

- This grant has a restricted indirect cost rate.
- Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective and request prior approvals from DESE for budget and program plan revisions (amendments/revisions to grant within DESE grant sub-system).

9 Special Notes

Here is a copy of the Federal Award letter that DESE received from the federal awarding agency which funds this grant.

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=237603&inline=true> If you are printing or saving this GAN to your personal files, please be sure to also save a copy of the linked Federal Award to maintain complete award information for your records.

Grant Award Notification Explanation

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=238675&inline=true>

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

1 Grant Recipient Number/Name: - Mattapoisett
UEI: HQE9VG1RMRP7

2 Grant Title: FC 0140 - Title II, Part A (Federal/ENT)
Fund Code: 0140
DESE Project Staff: federalgrantprograms@mass.gov

3 Grant Award Project Description

84.367A Supporting Effective Instruction

4 DESE Award Information

Grant Type: FEDERAL USED

- **CFDA #:** 84.367A
- **FAIN:** S367A260020
- **Is the award an R & D?:** No
- **Federal Award Date:** 7/1/2026

5 Sub-recipient Award Information

- **Grant Project Number:** 0140-000546-2027-0173
- **Grant Award Amount:** \$4,895.00
- **Grant Project Duration (Period of Performance):** 8/31/2026 - 9/30/2028
- **Reimbursement Requests Must Be Submitted Before:** 12/1/2028
- **Final Expenditure Report (FER) Due:** 12/31/2028

6 Administrative Information

- **DESE UEI:** PUNALCFVXAL6
- **UGG (2 CFR 200)**
- **EDGAR As Applicable (34 CFR)**
 - General Fiscal Administration 34 CFR Part 76
- **DESE Request for Proposal (RFP):** <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0140/>

7 Statutes

- **Authority:** PL 114-95 II ESEA AS AMENDED BY ESSA
- **Program Title:** TITLE II, PART A, TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING & RECRUITING FUND
- **CFDA #:** 84.367A

8 Terms and Conditions of Award

- This grant is contingent upon the continuing availability of funds from the grant's funding source and the continuing eligibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and your town/agency to receive such funds.
- The grant may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by either party. In the event of such action, all remaining funds shall be returned in a timely fashion to the DESE agency and the grant closeout procedure must be followed.
- Fiscal and other reports relating to this grant must be submitted as required by the grant program.
- Expenditures cannot be charged to the grant prior to the sub-recipient grant start date. [34 CFR 76.708](#)
- This grant has a restricted indirect cost rate.
- Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective and request prior approvals from DESE for budget and program plan revisions (amendments/revisions to grant within DESE grant sub-system).

9 Special Notes

Here is a copy of the Federal Award letter that DESE received from the federal awarding agency which funds this grant.
<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=237608&inline=true> If you are printing or saving this GAN to your personal files, please be sure to also save a copy of the linked Federal Award to maintain complete award information for your records.

Grant Award Notification Explanation

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=238675&inline=true>

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

GRANT AWARD NOTICE

1 Grant Recipient Number/Name: - Mattapoisett **2 Grant Title:** FC 0309 - Title IV, Part A (Federal/ENT)
UEI: HQE9VG1RMRP7 **Fund Code:** 0309
DESE Project Staff: federalgrantprograms@mass.gov

3 Grant Award Project Description

84.424A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

4 DESE Award Information

Grant Type: FEDERAL USED

- **CFDA #:** 84.424A
- **FAIN:** S424A260022
- **Is the award an R & D?:** No
- **Federal Award Date:** 7/1/2026

5 Sub-recipient Award Information

- **Grant Project Number:** 0309-000548-2027-0173
- **Grant Award Amount:** \$10,000.00
- **Grant Project Duration (Period of Performance):** 8/31/2026 - 9/30/2028
- **Reimbursement Requests Must Be Submitted Before:** 12/1/2028
- **Final Expenditure Report (FER) Due:** 12/31/2028

6 Administrative Information

- **DESE UEI:** PUNALCFVXAL6
- **UGG (2 CFR 200)**
- **EDGAR As Applicable (34 CFR)**
 - General Fiscal Administration 34 CFR Part 76
- **DESE Request for Proposal (RFP):** <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0309/>

7 Statutes

- **Authority:** PL 20 U.S.C. 7101 TITLE IV ESEA, AS AMENDED BY ESSA
- **Program Title:** STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (SSAE) PROGRAM
- **CFDA #:** 84.424A

8 Terms and Conditions of Award

- This grant is contingent upon the continuing availability of funds from the grant's funding source and the continuing eligibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and your town/agency to receive such funds.
- The grant may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by either party. In the event of such action, all remaining funds shall be returned in a timely fashion to the DESE agency and the grant closeout procedure must be followed.
- Fiscal and other reports relating to this grant must be submitted as required by the grant program.
- Expenditures cannot be charged to the grant prior to the sub-recipient grant start date. [34 CFR 76.708](#)

- This grant has a restricted indirect cost rate.
- Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective and request prior approvals from DESE for budget and program plan revisions (amendments/revisions to grant within DESE grant sub-system).

9 Special Notes

Here is a copy of the Federal Award letter that DESE received from the federal awarding agency which funds this grant.
<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=237611&inline=true> If you are printing or saving this GAN to your personal files, please be sure to also save a copy of the linked Federal Award to maintain complete award information for your records.

Grant Award Notification Explanation

<https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=238675&inline=true>



Superintendent's Newsletter

September 2026

Message of the Month

Dear School Community,

The first month of school has been incredibly successful! After welcoming our students back to school in early September - we have already held Open Houses in all six of our schools. It was great having so many parents, guardians, and our students' family members exploring our schools. Our hallways and classrooms are already decorated in student art and academic student work. Having strong home to school connections is incredibly important for academic success. During the first six weeks of school intentional effort is given to building our school community. Teachers carefully work with their students to build relationships, establish expectations, and determine goals for the school year. I've enjoyed being part of the opening of schools and look forward to the months ahead.



Please enjoy reading about school happenings in the monthly Superintendent's Newsletter.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's School Visits



Center School
Ms. Renna's 2nd Grade
Classroom



RMS Open House
Parent and Guardian
Orientation



ORR Junior High School
Ms. Bodeau's Art Classroom

The Gala is Next Week!

The Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation invites the community to attend its inaugural Fall Gala on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, at Century House in Acushnet. The evening includes a cocktail hour and curated silent auction, featuring unique local experiences, vacation getaways and premium goods donated by regional businesses.

The gala will raise funds to strengthen educational opportunities for students and educators across Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. Tickets may be purchased at <https://gofan.co/event/6711869>. Early registration is encouraged, as tickets are limited. [Read more](#).



The Tri-Town Education Foundation
proudly invites you to

The First Annual
FALL GALA

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
8TH
AT 6 PM

RSVP Here


CENTURY HOUSE | ACUSHNET, MA

Elegant Fun | Cocktail Reception | Silent Auction
A Chance to Support Our Local Students & Teachers

Office of Teaching and Learning

From Dr. Fedorowicz

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning



Professional Learning and Preparation for the School Year

Our staff have been busy learning, collaborating, and preparing for a strong school year. On September 1 and September 23, educators and staff across our schools participated in professional development focused on student learning, safety, and supporting the needs of our students.

September 1 included learning around Collaborative Problem Solving, Artificial Intelligence in education, enVision 2027 mathematics, curriculum planning, student support, and early childhood math development. Staff also had time to work with colleagues, review student needs, and prepare lessons and resources for the year ahead.

On September 23, our professional learning continued with sessions focused on Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP), Collaborative Problem Solving, ALICE safety training, and enVision 2027. At the elementary level, The Writing Revolution was also introduced as a strategy to strengthen writing across the curriculum.

These days provide an important opportunity for our staff to learn together, share ideas, collaborate with colleagues, and continue to strengthen our practice. I appreciate the time, energy, and commitment our educators bring to this work each year.

Our next half day of professional development is Friday, October 9. Educators will focus on analyzing student data and using that information to plan targeted small group instruction and provide additional support based on student needs.

A Shared Foundation for Student Success

This school year marks an exciting milestone for our three elementary districts: for the first time, all of our elementary schools are aligned around a common curriculum in our core academic areas.

Students across Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester are now learning through shared curriculum resources in ELA (Into Reading), Math (enVision 2027), Social Studies (Investigating History), and Science (OpenSciEd), with common expectations and a consistent level of rigor.

This alignment gives our students a stronger, shared academic foundation as they come together at the Junior High School in Grade 7. It also gives our teachers the opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, learn from one another, and build on the same strong foundation across our elementary schools.

This accomplishment represents four years of tremendous work. I want to congratulate and thank our teachers, curriculum leaders, specialists, and administrators for their willingness to learn, collaborate, adjust, and continue growing throughout this process. Curriculum alignment across three districts is no small task, and their commitment to our students made it possible.

This is an important step forward for our schools and, most importantly, for our students. Thank you to our staff and families for your continued support. We are proud of what we have accomplished together!

Office of Student Services

From Ms. Grable

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

The Office of Student Services is pleased to share that we will be contracting with Second Nature Social Skills for the 2026-2027 school year to assist us with student needs regarding social-emotional/behavioral supports and interventions. Collaborative Problem Solving will be a key component of their work with us. By way of introduction, I offer the following:



Amy Gordon, M.Ed., LABA

Amy Gordon is the founder and President of Second Nature Social Skills. Amy started Second Nature in 2008 under the name Build-A-Bond. She is dually certified as a special education and general education teacher and holds her Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) licensures through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, she earned her Certificate of ABA Sequence (post-graduate), and a Master's of Education degree through Bridgewater State University. Amy has been recognized multiple times at the school, town, county, and state levels for her teaching contributions to students and clients.

Melissa Guzek, M.S., BCBA, LABA

Working alongside Amy is Melissa Guzek. Melissa studied Psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. From there, she went on to earn a Master's of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) at Northeastern University. Melissa has been working in ABA since 2001 and feels passionate about the science of behavior and how its real-world application can make anyone's life more enriching and meaningful. Melissa has been working with Second Nature since 2015 and currently holds her national board certification, as well as her state licensure in ABA.

Now Hiring - Substitutes

We are hiring substitutes! Substitute positions are available in all our schools for teachers, instructional assistants, nurses and cafeteria staff. Apply online using the links below!

[Substitute Teachers and Instructional Assistants](#)

[Substitute School Nurse](#)

[Substitute Cafeteria Staff](#)



Update PowerSchool Annual Forms

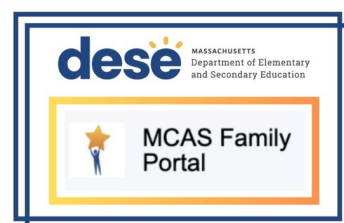
Annual forms (in the General tab) are now available in PowerSchool for all families to complete for each student(s), including the nurse's emergency information. The information in these forms is populated from information you have previously provided, so in most cases it's a quick review and update as needed.



Please login to PowerSchool using your parent account and click on Forms in the left menu. The 'General' tab should open with the annual forms for you to review and update as needed. [Read more](#).

MCAS Family Portal - Check Your Student's Results!

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is pleased to share the MCAS Family Portal with you. This online tool lets you see your student's MCAS test results.



MCAS results from spring 2026 are available. You will also see your student's results from past years (2023–2025), if available. This information is only applicable to students who have taken the MCAS before (3rd grade or above). [Read more](#).

Food Service

All students will continue to receive 1 FREE Breakfast and 1 FREE Lunch per day, during the school year. Additional meals are available for a fee. Free and reduced applications are available [online here](#) (not applicable to Sippican School students). Only one application is necessary per family. You will be notified via email or U.S. postal mail of your child's status. *This information may be shared, only with your consent, and used for other school benefits.* Lunch menus are available in the ORRconnect app, on the website in the Families & Students menu and on the [Food and Nutrition Services website](#).



Voluntary Student Insurance

Annually, voluntary student insurance is available for all students of our schools. Visit our website to review the options by [clicking here](#).



School Device Coverage

The Old Rochester Regional School District & MA Superintendency Union #55 provides students with Acer Chromebooks and Samsung Chromebooks. School Device Coverage (SDC) is available to insure the devices that will be given to your student as part of this year's 1:1 device program. Insurance is a one-time charge of \$23 for the entire school year. This insurance program will protect you in the event that your device is lost, stolen, or damaged accidentally. You may file a claim against any number of incidents that take place with no deductibles, no added fees, and no claims limits. [Read more.](#)

SCHOOL DEVICE COVERAGE

Old Rochester Regional School District
Protect Your School Device!
 Covering Accidental Damage, Loss and Theft.

- Full Transferability
- No Deductibles
- No Hidden Fees!
- Accidental Damage
- Cracked Screen
- Liquid Submersion

Sign Up Online Now
<https://schooldevicecoverage.com/signup>
 or Text SDC to 888.977.8111 To Enroll

Coverage is active from August 11, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

	Cost of insurance	Replacement cost without insurance
Acer, Samsung Chromebook	\$23.00	\$300.00-\$325.00
	Zero Deductibles	Replacement Cost

Old Rochester Regional School District

Student Name: _____ Parent Name: _____
 School: _____ Email (Mandatory): _____
 Cell Phone: _____ (Required to Receive of Your Serial Number Online Only)

Call Questions: 888.978.3515

Mail a check with this form to: School Device Coverage, 1000 Main Street, 01901, Attleboro, MA 01901. Payment must be made with the check.

Simple Claims Process: Go to <https://schooldevicecoverage.com> to begin to file your claim and file a claim.

Statewide Guidance

The state Attorney General's Office has issued [family preparedness and legal resources](#) to assist Haitian and Syrian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders following the Supreme Court's decision allowing the federal government to terminate TPS for immigrants from those countries. Online resources include an emergency planning guide for parents with uncertain immigration status, which is available online in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), and [Simplified Chinese](#); resources on [legal assistance](#); tips to [avoid immigration-related scams](#); other [resources for immigrants in Massachusetts](#); and [immigration guidance for employers](#).



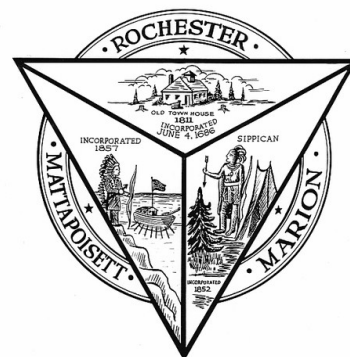
Back-to-School Vaccine Resources for Families

The Massachusetts Medical Society's [Healthy Kids Healthy Moms](#) Massachusetts campaign provides easy-to-understand, bilingual vaccine information and resources that schools can share with parents and caregivers, including information on where families can access free vaccines.

School Committee Happenings

In September, our Committees welcomed new staff and recognized staff longevity. Our schools have already received multiple donations of school supplies, musical instruments and more. Tomorrow, the ORR School Committee will be reviewing for acceptance **\$277,000** in grants for the District!

[Click here for the complete schedule, meeting resources and minutes.](#)



Upcoming meetings (subject to change):

October 1st - ORR School Committee

October 1st - Joint School Committee

October 22nd - Marion School Committee

October 29th - Mattapoissett School Committee

News

Holiday Helping Angels - ROCHESTER HELPING ROCHESTER

The Holiday Helping Angels are a group of Rochester-based volunteers. Our mission is to provide support to Rochester families who need a little extra help during the holiday season. We provide Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday dinner food bags as well as Christmas gifts. Christmas gifts include both items that are “needed” and others that are on a “wish list”

If you or someone you know **residing in Rochester** would like to sign-up for a little extra help, [please fill out this on-line request form.](#)

.....

Our partnership with the Marion Institute's Grow Education Program continues this school year. At OHS, Marion Institute Educator, Mr. Nate, met with 4th grader students for a taste of what's growing in the OHS garden and gave them an overview of what they'll be learning throughout the school year. [Read more.](#)



.....

During a recent all-class meeting, Grade 6 students used the social emotional curriculum [Fly Five](#) to begin the conversation about what it means to form and maintain healthy friendships. Cooperation was the overlying topic. [Read more](#).



School Calendar

View the news from all our schools!

Community Information and Flyers

Flyers from throughout the Tri-Town are shared with families on our website on the Community page.

ORRconnect on Facebook

ORRconnect is also on Facebook!

[Like us on Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date with school happenings.



You can follow all of our schools on Facebook too!

[Center School](#)

[Old Hammondtown School](#)

[Rochester Memorial School](#)

[Sippican School](#)

[ORR Junior High School](#)

[ORR High School](#)

ORRconnect Mobile App

This mobile app allows families to receive targeted, real-time updates right at their fingertips regarding school happenings. Families can filter content, calendars and settings unique to one building or all.

Search ORRconnect in the app store!



Missed last month's newsletter? [Click here.](#)



Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent

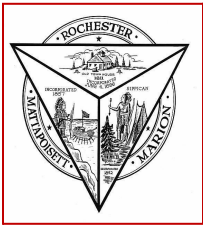
www.olderochester.org



Subscribe

Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 proudly serves the students from Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. The mission of our school system is to inspire all students to think, to learn and to care.





**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

Marion - Mattapoisett - Rochester
135 Marion Road
Mattapoisett, MA 02739

www.oldrochester.org

Phone: 508-758-2772
Fax: 508-758-2802

Michael S. Nelson, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Sharlene Fedorowicz, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Michael Perrone
Interim Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

Marie Grable, MA, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

To: Mattapoisett School Committee

From: Marie Grable, MA, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Meeting Date: 10/29/2026

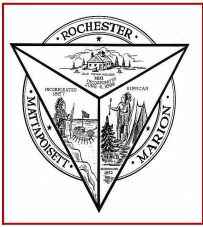
RE: School Committee Report

Please find below a few highlights from the Office of Student Services:

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (S.E.P.A.C.) is a group of parents, caregivers, and community members who work together to support students with disabilities and their families. This Council provides annual training on parent/guardian rights and identifies topics of interest related to the various needs of students within our communities. The officers met on 9/30/26 and worked through the details of our 1st community S.E.P.A.C meeting. This 1st meeting was held virtually on 10/28/26 at 5:30 p.m.. The presentation focused on the basic legal rights of students with disabilities. It offered key timelines, practical strategies, policy and procedures, and advocacy tips. Our presenter was Christine Riley, the owner of Cape Cod Advocate.

Our workshops on **Collaborative Problem Solving** continue to advance. We have moved forward from the general overview and now move on to understanding the essential foundations and the root cause of unmet expectations. Challenging behaviors happen when the expectations of the environment exceeds the skill of the individual asked to complete the task. As the year progresses we will be looking at various case students and the application of Collaborative Problem Solving strategies as we understand and apply the growth mindset that behavior is about skill and not simply will and that students do well if they have learned the required skills to do so. This was a theme I was able to present to new staff as part of our **NewTeacher Orientation and Mentorship Program**. I had the privilege of presenting to our new staff on 9/24/26. The primary focus of the presentation was to reflect on how best to provide an inclusive, equitable, and positive climate and culture in all schools and how Collaborative Problem Solving is an essential part of that process..

The mission of our school system is to inspire all students to think, to learn and to care. The Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 does not discriminate on the basis of 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.



**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55**

Marion - Mattapoissett - Rochester
135 Marion Road
Mattapoissett, MA 02739

www.oldrochester.org

Phone: 508-758-2772
Fax: 508-758-2802

Michael S. Nelson, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Sharlene Fedorowicz, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Michael Perrone
Interim Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

Marie Grable, MA, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Our safety drills are occurring as scheduled. Continuing with our **ALICE Training Action Plan**, the Jr High School and the High School each participated in ALICE drills on 10/16/26 and 10/19/26 respectively. All elementary school administrators, along with community police and SRO officers, met on 10/19/26 in preparation for the elementary school's ALICE drills scheduled for the week of 11/16/26. As previously noted, **preparedness is the foundation of school safety**. Our building level teams are working diligently to help prepare and support our school community members.

ALICE stands for Alert, Lock-Down, Inforn, Counter, and Evacuate.

Report respectfully submitted by,

Marie Grable, MA, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

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MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3618

Voucher Date: 09/03/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Charette
Printed: 09/03/2026 11:42:43 AM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$62,781.53 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Mr. N. 09/03/2026

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$60,548.29
25	FY25 FEDERAL GRANTS	\$619.25
26	FY26 FEDERAL GRANTS	\$1,613.99
		\$62,781.53

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3619

Voucher Date: 09/17/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Chenette

Printed: 09/17/2026 12:33:50 PM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$129,839.74 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

M-J 09/17/2026

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$124,880.95
26	FY26 FEDERAL GRANTS	\$4,087.00
45	FY25 PRIVATE GRANTS	\$871.79
		\$129,839.74

ENCUMBRANCES

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3621

Voucher Date: 10/01/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Charette

Printed: 10/01/2026 02:47:16 PM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$41,096.00 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Michael Berone

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund	Amount
01 GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$41,096.00
	\$41,096.00

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3620

Voucher Date: 10/01/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Charette

Printed: 10/01/2026 02:31:14 PM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$49,226.88 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Michael Senore

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$49,058.88
46	FY26 PRIVATE GRANTS	\$168.00
		\$49,226.88

ENCUMBRANCE

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3622

Voucher Date: 10/13/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Charette

Printed: 10/13/2026 12:53:28 PM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$16,235.00 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Michael Berone

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$16,235.00
		\$16,235.00

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 3623

Voucher Date: 10/15/2026

Prepared By:

Michelle Charette

Printed: 10/15/2026 12:12:53 PM

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of \$145,094.19 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Michael Bourne

Mr. James Muse

Chairperson

Ms. Cristin Cowles

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jack LeBrun

School Committee Member

Ms. Mackenzie Emmons

School Committee Member

Margie Pullo Breese

School Committee Member

MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND MATTAPOISETT	\$143,441.04
25	FY25 FEDERAL GRANTS	\$1,558.25
46	FY26 PRIVATE GRANTS	\$94.90
		\$145,094.19



Facilities Director's Report: October 2026

Center Elementary School

- Replaced fire sprinkler gauges
- Awarded bid for replacement of RTU#5, serving COA. (Capital Funded)
- Completed building mapping services.
- Completed routine maintenance on all facility systems.

Old Hammondtown Elementary School

- Completed building mapping services.
- Ordered new heat exchanger for RTU#2 (serving office)
- Conducted State Polling Location Survey
- Replaced fire sprinkler gauges
- Completed routine maintenance on all facility systems.

Sincerely,

Eugene Jones

Director of Facilities

Office: 508-758-2772 x1954

Cell: 508-509-6763

E-Mail: eugenejones@oldrochester.org



Old Rochester Regional School District Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55

"Serving the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, & Rochester"

Food Service Director's Report: October 2026
Center School

Directors Update:

- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day.
- Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- Had a successful Board of Health Inspection.
- Bulldog Café is looking for cafeteria substitutes. If you are looking for a flexible and rewarding part time job, this may be the opportunity for you. Contact Jill Henesey for more details.

Students Receiving Free and Reduced Meals:									
Free:						86	39 %		
Reduced:						4	2 %		
Student Meal Participation									
SY 25/26						SY 26/27			
Month	SY 25 Days	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%
August	3	91	16 %	294	53 %	0		0	
September	21	1,001	24 %	2,508	60 %	898	24 %	2,376	63 %
October	22	1,038	24 %	2,706	63 %				
November	16	808	26 %	1,981	63 %				
December	17	808	25 %	2,104	64 %				
January	17	825	25 %	2,128	64 %				
February	10	482	25 %	1,268	65 %				
March	22	1,080	25 %	2,710	63 %				
April	17	885	26 %	2,199	65 %				
May	20	1,091	27 %	2,727	68 %				
June	15	828	27 %	1,832	65 %				

Jill Henesey
Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Office: 508-758-2772 x1543
Mobile: 774-320-0801
Email: jillhenesey@oldrochester.org
<https://www.facebook.com/ORRnutrition4kids>



Old Rochester Regional School District Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55

"Serving the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, & Rochester"

Food Service Director's Report: October 2026

Old Hammondtown School

Directors Update:

- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day.
- Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- October is National Farm to School Month, and we're so grateful for our partnership with the Grow Education program, our school garden gives students an amazing outdoor space for hands-on learning!
- Had repairs done to the dishwasher.
- Had a successful Board of Health Inspection.
- Bulldog Café is looking for cafeteria substitutes. If you are looking for a flexible and rewarding part time job, this may be the opportunity for you. Contact Jill Henesey for more details.

Students Receiving Free and Reduced Meals:									
Free:						57	36 %		
Reduced:						8	5 %		
Student Meal Participation									
SY 25/26						SY 26/27			
Month	SY 25 Days	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%
August	3	104	24 %	250	57 %	0		0	
September	21	1,008	33 %	1,916	62 %	757	24 %	1,736	56 %
October	22	968	30 %	1,976	62 %				
November	16	697	30 %	1,451	63 %				
December	17	691	29 %	1,503	62 %				
January	17	618	25 %	1,564	63 %				
February	10	352	24 %	940	65 %				
March	22	748	24 %	2,057	66 %				
April	17	659	27 %	1,615	66 %				
May	20	803	27 %	1,923	65 %				
June	15	575	26 %	1,335	64 %				

Jill Henesey

Director of Food and Nutrition Services

Office: 508-758-2772 x1543

Mobile: 774-320-0801

Email: jillhenesey@oldrochester.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ORRnutrition4kids>

Center School Principal's Report October 29, 2026



To: Superintendent Michael S. Nelson,
Members of the Mattapoissett School Committee,
Administrative Team Members

Submitted on behalf of: Charles West, Center School Principal

Re: Principal's Report - School Committee Meeting October 29, 2026

Date: October 23, 2026

A Special Start to Each Day at Center School

One of the many things that makes Center School so special is the opportunity to begin each day together. From 8:30–8:40 each morning, our entire school community gathers in the gym for our morning meeting. We begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by one of our students, and then move into our other topics for the day.

We use this time to share important information, celebrate accomplishments and birthdays, review expectations, and highlight upcoming events. Most importantly, it gives us a chance to connect as a school family and set a positive tone for the day.



A couple of weeks ago, we talked about setting goals and the importance of perseverance and hard work in achieving them. The very next morning, a first-grade student approached me with exciting news: she had set a goal for herself—and accomplished it! She had been working hard to learn to ride her bike without training wheels, and she finally did it!

She proudly shared her accomplishment with the entire school, and my heart was full of joy. Her story was a meaningful reminder that the lessons we teach at school extend far beyond our classrooms.

Our morning meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to reinforce these important lessons, but even more importantly, they give us a chance to celebrate the people who make up our school community. We learn from one another, encourage one another, and

celebrate one another. These are the moments that make Center School such a special place. We are a community that encourages one another to set goals, persevere through challenges, and celebrate our successes together.

Open House

On Wednesday September 16, we welcomed our families to Center School's Open House. It was a wonderful success! We were thrilled to welcome families into our school community and share the many exciting things happening in our classrooms. The evening was filled with meaningful conversations, smiles, and opportunities for families to connect with teachers and learn more about their children's experiences. We are grateful to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and students for making the event so special. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Open House such a memorable and successful celebration of the Center School community!



Teaching and Learning are in Full Swing

The first six weeks of school are an important time for laying the foundation for a successful year of learning. During this time, teachers focus on helping students become familiar with their classroom community, learning environment, and daily routines. By establishing clear expectations, exploring classroom spaces, and building positive relationships with peers, teachers create a safe, supportive, and predictable environment where students can thrive.

Just as importantly, these first weeks set the tone for academic growth and success. Needless to say, our teachers and staff have been hard at work establishing these strong foundations, and our students are rising to the occasion! Student engagement and ownership of learning are evident throughout our classrooms, and it is exciting to see students embracing their learning and taking an active role in their educational journey.

Professional Development & Specialized Consultation

Our teachers have had some excellent professional learning opportunities over the past month! We have been fortunate to collaborate with consultants Carrie Thurston and Susan Looney as we continue to strengthen our intervention practices in ELA and math.

Susan has been instrumental in supporting our teachers as they unpack the latest version of the EnVisions math curriculum, deepening their understanding of the materials and how best to use them to support student learning. Carrie has provided valuable guidance as our

teachers review benchmarking data and explore ways to deliver meaningful, targeted interventions to meet the diverse needs of all students.

In addition, our teachers participated in valuable professional development focused on writing and math. These opportunities allow us to continue building our instructional practices, collaborating as a team, and ensuring that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Student Voice



One of the many ways we encourage and celebrate student voice at Center School is through opportunities like Wonder Wednesdays. Each Wednesday morning, during our all-school gathering, students have the opportunity to share learning experiences from their classrooms with the broader school community.

We are often curious about the wonderful learning happening in our classrooms each day, and Wonder Wednesdays provide a meaningful opportunity for both

students and teachers to showcase that learning. It has been so great to see this initiative in action as students confidently and proudly share what they have learned with the entire Center School community. These moments highlight not only the learning taking place in our classrooms but also the importance of giving students a voice and celebrating their growth.

Hiring Update

I am excited to announce that Bailey Pelland, ORR Grad and former Center School student, has joined our team at Center as a paraprofessional! Bailey will be filling Denise Ellis' position and working in Courtney Aarsheim's classroom. Bailey brings positive energy and strong student engagement skills, and we are excited to welcome her to our team. Please join me in welcoming Bailey to Center School!

Who are the People in your Neighborhood?



Our students have enjoyed wonderful learning experiences in our local community! Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Aguiar's first graders visited the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, where librarian Kevin Thompson read a story and introduced students to the library's many resources. These students also visited the Mattapoisett Fire Station for a hands-on learning experience. Students explored firefighters' equipment and learned important fire safety tips to help keep themselves and their families safe.

Additionally, our kindergarteners and Project Grow students had an exciting opportunity to learn about fire safety from the Mattapoisett Fire Department. Students explored the fire truck, learned about firefighters' equipment, and discovered important ways to stay safe.

We are grateful to our community partners for providing these engaging experiences and helping our students connect classroom learning with the world around them!



Upcoming Events

Parent Conferences — Early Release - Students dismissed @11:30 am

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Friday, October 30, 2026

Scholastic Book Fair

Monday, November 2, 2026 - Monday November 9, 2026

Professional Development Day

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Family Literacy Night

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

School Council Meetings 3:15 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE | SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OHS

Leading with Heart. Learning with Purpose. Making Waves Together.

TO: Superintendent Michael S. Nelson & the
Mattapoisett School Committee

DATE: Friday October 23, 2026

FROM: Amanda Chamberlin, Principal

MEETING: Thursday October 29, 2026

PRINCIPAL'S WAVE

A brief snapshot of the first two months of school at Old Hammondtown:

- **First Six Weeks of School:** Our routines throughout Old Hammondtown demonstrate fluid rhythm and are operating as a well-oiled machine. Lunch, recess, all-school meeting, hallway routines, and indoor recess routines have been practiced and rolled out with guidance that have made for a successful first two months of school.
- **School Culture:** This has been a top priority for me as a new principal. Bringing our core values to life daily, rolling out a Seahorse Spotlight student, starting the Spirit Stick initiative, and utilizing student voice and leadership have been at the forefront.
- **Principal Advisory Lunch:** During middle of November, I will be starting a Principal Advisory Lunch with sixth graders. I will meet every 6-8 weeks at lunch to discuss their ideas for Sprit Days, Bulletin Boards, and Initiatives.
- **School improvement Plan:** Through collaboration with our School Council, the School Improvement plan has been updated for the 2026/2027 school year with clear action steps and professional development opportunities already underway.
- **Core Values:** Think, Learn, and Care are being tied into our everyday routines, language, newsletter language, and student language to be brought to life regularly.
- **Climate Committee:** This volunteer committee for staff will begin in November and will meet bi-monthly to assess school climate, brainstorm school initiatives such as Spirit Weeks, and embed shared voice together as a staff.
- **Weekly Smore:** This weekly newsletter serves as a way into our school building to showcase all of our incredible staff and students, recognize character, spotlight academic accomplishments, and has a prime focus on being a student-centered newsletter that shares the climate and happenings at OHS.



ONE SCHOOL. ONE RIBBON.
United in Awareness ♥



OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL • THINK • LEARN • CARE

Small acts of kindness and hard work create big waves: every wave starts with you.

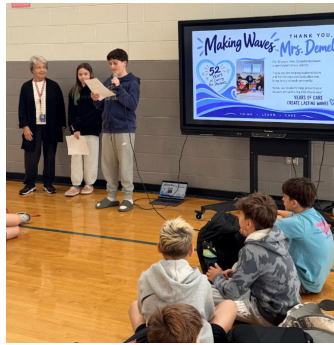
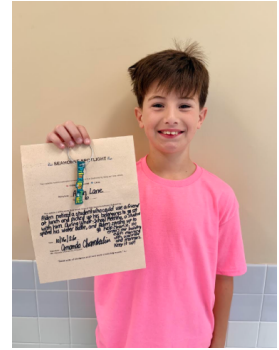
TEACHING & LEARNING

- **Successful Fall Benchmark data window:** All students completed the IXL benchmark and DIBELS benchmark assessments. Through this data, screeners, and teacher input, all students have been placed in **FLEX/WIN groupings** and a structured schedule is running daily in all three grade levels.
- **Collaboration in PLC with consultant, Carrie Thurston,** to support the work of our FLEX groupings and the rollout of our DCAP. Continued work on November 3rd.
- **Sixth Grade Peace Posters:** Through the **Mattapoisett Town Lions Club**, our sixth graders have had the opportunity to share what peace means to them through art. This year's National Theme is **"Harmony in Humanity"**. The top three winners were selected and recognized at Whole-School Meeting.
- **Two Science Field Trips: Fourth Grade STEM field trip to The Patriots Hall of Fame at Gillette Stadium** and a Walking Field Trip to the **River Herring Run as part of the Buzzards Bay Coalition**.
- **Grow Project:** Fourth grade has had two garden lessons so far this school year. Some of their work has included harvesting potatoes and parsley, clearing garden beds, amending soil, collecting soil samples, and planting garlic and a cover crop. This work will take place monthly through the **Marion Institute's Grow Education Program**.
- **Deep Data Dive:** On the Early Release Day, teachers engaged in a deep data dive of **MCAS data** and continue to utilize strengths and areas of growth to target instruction.
- **Rollout of the Writing Revolution:** Teachers have received an initial launch overview of the Writing revolution and will be engaging in a professional development on November 3rd to dive into this writing approach and the strategies.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE & SCHOOL CULTURE

- Two successful Spirit Days: **Touchdown Friday** and **Pink Out Day**. Students were able to discuss the word **"awareness"** and we took a whole school image of a Breast Cancer Ribbon in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month.
- **Student and Staff Recognitions:** We continue to recognize our weekly **Seahorse Spotlight student**. In addition, students have in turn felt the culture of recognition and now enjoy recognizing staff members during Whole School Meeting. Students recognized Mrs. DeMello for her 52 years of service and presented her pin to her.
- **Fourth Grade Instruments:** Instrument lessons have begun for our fourth-grade students with an anticipated Beginner Band beginning in January. Concert Band and Chorus are well underway and the Chorus will be performing at **The Providence Bruins game** on Saturday November 21st.
- **Spirit Sticks:** We continue to catch students in the moment intrinsically demonstrating acts of kindness and good character and celebrating it through a tangible spirit stick for students to collect on their Spirit Rings.
- **Halloween:** Students are invited to wear their costumes on Friday October 30th and SRO Church came in for whole-school meeting to discuss Halloween safety with our students.
- **The Scholastic Book Fair** is at Old Hammondtown School from **October 26th-30th** and is open to all families during Parent Teacher Conferences.



STAFF & COMMUNITY

- **Two Curriculum Leads** have been hired: **Katie Samost** for ELA/Social Studies and **Jocelyn Mare** for Math/Science.
- **School Council:** Our first meeting was held on **Wednesday, October 28th from 3:15-4:15** at Center School where we set our intentions for the year and had the chance to review the School Improvement Plan.
- **Veterans Day Appreciation Cards and Care Packages:** Our students will be collaborating with the Tri-Town Veterans Resource Officer, Chris Gerrior, to create thank you cards and collect items for care packages for veterans in honor of Veterans Day.
- **Veterans Day Musical Performances:** On Tuesday November 10th, the chorus will be performing the National Anthem at All-School Meeting and the Concert Band will be performing on Veteran's Day at the town's ceremony.



OPERATIONS & BUILDING UPDATES

- **ALICE:** All staff took part in a training at our October staff meeting and all students will be receiving a training on **Wednesday November 4th** with myself and SRO Church. Our first lockdown drill is scheduled for the Week of November 16th. All families will receive communication along the way regarding ALICE.
- **Election Day Voting for Mattapoisett** will take place in the Old Hammondtown gym on November 3rd.



- Thursday October 29th: Early Release: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday October 30th: Early Release: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday November 3rd: No School for Election Day. Professional Development for Staff
- Wednesday November 11th: No School for Veterans Day
- Wednesday November 25th: Early Release
- Thursday November 26th-Friday November 27th: Thanksgiving Break
- Monday December 7th: School Council Meeting

2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MASC Lifetime Achievement and All-State School Committee Winners Announced

The following members have been nominated by their colleagues and the MASC Board of Directors in recognition of their contributions to the Association and to their students and school communities. The awards will be presented at the Friday, November 6 Life Member/Leadership Awards dinner during the upcoming conference in Danvers.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Shirley Bourque, Old Colony Reg. Voc.
Adam Emerson, Hoosac Valley
Mitchell Groski, Athol-Royalston, Reg.
John Howcroft, Acushnet
Christine Monaco, Burlington

ALL-STATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Division I: Kathy Clancy, Gloucester
Division II: Adam Klein, Acton-Boxborough
Division III: Jessica Chartoff, Middleborough and Jackie Weisman, Easton
Division IV: Lisa Martin, North Middlesex and Lauren Salmon-Garrett, Wachusett Reg.
Division V: Heidi Gutekenst, Belchertown and Stacy Sexton, Greenfield
Division VI: Martha Thurber, Mohawk Trail Reg.
Division VII: Kathy Bent, Barnstable
Division VIII: Brian Mushnick, Tri-County Reg. Voc.
Division IX: Joyce Asack, Brockton
Division X: Barbara Gresham, Springfield

COMING SOON TO YOUR MAILBOX

MASC 2026 Delegate Manual/Annual Report



Delegate Assembly

Friday, November 6, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton
Boston North Shore, Danvers
(New location this year)

Have you registered your delegate yet?

Delegate registration form is available online:
www.masc.org/conference

MASC Bulletin

www.masc.org

September 2026 v.60 n.6

Massachusetts Association of School Committees

MA releases new guidance for schools on immigration enforcement

On August 5, 2026, the Governor signed the PROTECT Act into law. The legislation generally prohibits civil arrests on school grounds and child care premises without a judicial warrant or judicial order.

On August 21, DESE released specific model policies and procedures for school districts, charter schools, and educational collaboratives. The resources establish steps for designating school and district points of contact, involving legal counsel,

reviewing judicial warrants and orders, documenting interactions with civil law enforcement and notifying parents or guardians if an agent requests access to a student or student records. Additionally, the department provided procedures for alerting school communities when civil law enforcement agents are confirmed on school grounds while protecting individual privacy, updating student emergency contact lists, and sharing policy details with families.

As part of the legislation and the

guidance issued by DESE, districts are required to adopt a policy and develop companion procedures to align with the new law by September 1st or the first day of school, whichever is earliest. MASC has taken the suggested policy provided by DESE, and created a model policy for our committees to consider.

The model MASC policy: **ACL: Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (PROTECT Act)** is posted on the MASC website and can be accessed at www.masc.org/services/policy-services/updated-new-policies

MASC 2026 Division Elections

The following MASC Divisions are looking for members to serve as Division Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer: II, IV, VI, VIII, and X. These divisions are also looking for individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee. Members of this committee are responsible for interviewing interested candidates for MASC Division Officers.



If you are interested in either serving on your local Nominating Committee or becoming a Division Officer, please email a letter of intent to the appropriate Division Representative from the list below. To find your division, go to: www.masc.org/divisions/.

Devin Sheehan-Division II, Devinsheehan413@gmail.com
Stacey Rizzo-Division IV; mascstacey@gmail.com
Mildred Lefebvre-Division VI; lefebvre4@gmail.com
Jason Fraser-Division VIII; jfraser@slrsd.org
Deb Davis-Division X; eadavis1@comcast.net

All requests to be considered must be sent to the appropriate individual by **September 30**. More information about the Division Officer responsibilities are on the MASC website: www.masc.org/masc-2026-division-elections/

Teen dating violence policy mandate

Report provided Patrick Francomano, MASC General Counsel

The MA Association of School Superintendents (MASS) recently made available a policy template for Teen Dating Violence in an effort to comply with MGL, c.71, s.2C. The statute provides in part that each “school district in the commonwealth, subject to appropriation, shall implement a specific policy and discipline code to address teen dating violence in public schools.” The compliance issue apparently became a concern when one district was cited by DESE’s Problem Resolution System Office (PRSO) for not having such a policy in place. PRSO is an

continued on page 3

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Nate Steele
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META TO PAY \$18B OVER SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION

Teenagers users of Instagram and Facebook will face stringent new limits on when and how they can engage with the popular social media sites, part of a landmark settlement struck with MA and dozens of other states last week.

Technology giant Meta also agreed to pay up to \$18 billion to 52 states, territories, and Washington DC.

The deal came after multiple states sued, accusing Meta of designing its platforms to deliberately addict young users so they spend more time online. The agreement comes after some of these states went to trial in federal court.

The new conditions include a limit of two hours a day for teens up to age 18 on both platforms, which cannot be lifted without a parent's approval. The company also agreed to block access from midnight to 6am, and silence notifications between the school hours of 8am and 3pm. (Direct messaging is exempt from these limits so as to allow teens to stay connected with family and friends.)

Meta has also said that parents will be able to get new controls over teen accounts, such as updates on usage and alerts if their child interacts with "potentially suspicious accounts." These rules apply to 13-18-year-olds. Those under 13 are not allowed to use Instagram or Facebook.

The changes will be implemented over the next four-to-six months according to the office of MA Attorney General Andrea Campbell. Over the next year, Meta must also implement an enhanced age assurance framework designed to identify users under 13 and users 13-18 with a high level of accuracy.

MA will receive up to \$516 million, Campbell's office reported. Approximately \$366 million is guaranteed to be paid over the next 10 years, which included money resolving privacy claims dealing with Facebook data.

The money will go toward efforts to remediate "the harms caused by social media to MA young people," including mental health services, after-school programs, and phone-free school initiatives Campbell's office said. An independent auditor will monitor compliance and whether the measures are having their intended effect.

Meta said states will receive about 70% of the payments—to be released in annual installments—with the other 30% coming only if YouTube and TikTok—owned by different companies—agree to payments and to implement similar age restrictions. If the other two platforms agree to these terms, Meta has agreed to further tighten some of the new restrictions, including a one hour daily limit per app, and nighttime notification blocks from 10pm to 7am.

A number of other lawsuits against Meta are still pending. (Information for this report was obtained from *The Boston Globe*, State House News Service, and *The New York Times*.)



POLICY NOTES ON LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- While both the Senate and the House passed bills regarding cell phone use in schools, the language in the bills was very different.
- Though the discussion was sent to a conference committee, the Legislature took no action before the end of the formal session. No legislation is expected this term; policy regarding cell phones remains a matter of local policy.
- The Freedom to Read law was signed into law by Governor Healey on August 10. This law requires updates to policies on the selection and challenge of library materials. MASC is working with the MA Library System, charged in the law with creating model policy, on redrafting model policy.
- We will share this in an upcoming newsletter.

Joint Conference App Whova

Ready to attend the MASC/MASS 2026 Joint Conference at its new location in Danvers? Following the successful introduction of the conference app in 2025, we will once again be using the Whova mobile app for our event.

Visit your App Store on your phone to download the app. With the app you can:

- View the event agenda and plan your personal schedule
- Access to documents and slides shared by organizers or speakers
- Find out who else is attending the event and reach out to people ahead of time
- Plan some social activities such as coffee breaks or meet-ups with your fellow attendees
- Receive updates such as last-minute session changes from the organizers

After downloading the Whova mobile app or accessing the event via the web portal, use the email address linked to your registration to sign up for a Whova account. Already used the Whova app in the past? Double-check that it is installed on your phone, and log in using your existing account email and password.

If you need more guidance on how to use Whova to access the event, please visit: <https://whova.com/pages/whova-app-user-guide/> or contact us at reg@masc.org

See you at the conference!

Remember: Conference sessions start at 10:30am on Wednesday, 11/4.

Registration opens at 9:00am.



MassDEP's Water-Smart Program: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Schools and Childcare Facilities

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) Water-Smart Program is a voluntary lead testing program for schools and childcare facilities. To date, the Water-Smart Program has sampled over 1,300 schools and licensed childcare facilities helping to protect children from exposure to lead through drinking water.

Why Lead in Drinking Water Matters

Lead Exposure can have lasting effects on health, particularly for young children, who are more vulnerable to its effects. Even low levels of lead exposure can affect learning, attention, and development.

- Lead can enter drinking water when water comes into contact with lead service lines, pipes, solder, brass fixtures, or other plumbing components.
- Older buildings may contain legacy plumbing materials that can contribute to lead in drinking water.

For additional information on lead please visit: [Lead in Drinking Water for Schools and Childcare Facilities](#)

Water-Smart Program

All public and private schools and licensed childcare facilities are eligible to receive one round of free lead testing. If your facility is accepted, our team will contact you and guide you through each step.

The free Water Smart-Program makes it easy for your facility to take action against lead in drinking water. We invite you to apply and take the necessary steps toward reducing lead in drinking water, addressing this issue and promoting public health.

More Information

For more information about the Water-Smart Program visit water-smart@mass.gov

For all questions related to this information, contact: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or call (413) 545-0840

Wednesday, September 16 | 6:00pm-7:00pm | **Webinar: What to Expect at the MASC/MASS Conference**

Saturday, September 19 | 8:00am-4:00pm | **Charting the Course**, Somerville High School

Saturday, September 26 | 9:00-11:00am | **Division VIII meeting**
Keefe Vocational Tech., Framingham

Friday, October 2 | Noon-1:00pm | **MASC Learning Lunch**
Shawsheen Tech., Billerica

Saturday, October 17 | 9:00-11:00am | **Division VIII meeting**
Shawsheen Tech., Billerica

Saturday, October 17 | 8:00am-4:00pm | **Charting the Course**
West Springfield High School, West Springfield

Monday, October 19 | 6:30-8:00pm | **Zoom: Division VII meeting**
Topic: Beyond Charting the Course

November 4-6 | **Annual Joint Conference**
DoubleTree by Hilton Boston North Shore

Saturday, December 12 | 8:00am-4:00pm | **Charting the Course**
Doherty Memorial School, Worcester

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen dating continued from page 1

independent, non-judicial entity that attempts to resolve disputes in a non-adversarial manner.

MGL c.71, s.2C was added by St.2010, c.256, s.62 and became effective on November 4, 2010. MASC does not currently have such a model policy, but Policy AC-R does reference "dating violence" and teen dating violence certainly overlaps with the bullying policy and multiple other policies. The requirements under statute C.71, s.2C are admittedly more comprehensive. Additionally, the statute has not been included in prior editions of our annual MGL publication, most likely based on the statute's "subject to appropriation" language which could be interpreted to mean that the district's obligation to implement the policy is contingent on the appropriation of funds.

MASC has concerns that by creating and recommending a model policy to specifically conform to the statutes based solely on a decision from the PRSO, we are potentially enabling an agency with power that it does not have and subjecting districts to statutory obligations that may not exist. However, MASC believes that it is best practice for district policy and handbooks to clearly reflect that dating violence is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Districts should include Teen Dating Violence among prohibited behaviors in their handbooks, if the same is not already included. Additionally, MASC will look at incorporating some minimal additional language into existing policy, if possible, which identifies teen dating violence as a prohibited behavior that is to be addressed through already existing procedure.

Adopting the MASS policy template is certainly an option if districts feel the need to act immediately. Districts are encouraged to review all policy adoptions with their own counsel in order to ensure that your specific district needs are addressed. As always, please feel free to reach to me with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Patrick Francomano, Esq.
pfrancomano@masc.org



READS Collaborative - www.readscollab.org
Quarterly Report Overview - September 2026

- READS Strategic Plan Priorities- 2024 - 2029 (www.readscollab.org)
 - Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff
 - The READS Academy recently added a 27.5 hour Health Office Assistant position for the Academy to support the position of the full time nurse.
 - Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds
 - READS Collaborative has made steady progress in securing talented and highly qualified staff to fill open positions. Currently, READS Collaborative has only one educator on staff who requires a DESE waiver. This is a significant improvement from the beginning of this strategic plan when READS Collaborative had over 5 educators on a DESE waiver.
 - The READS Academy restructured the role of Admissions Coordinator position. The coordination of admissions will now be overseen by the READS Academy Program Director and Assistant Director. A new position was created for a Team Chairperson. This position was filled over the summer by Mr. Neal Klayman.
 - The READS DHH School and Program has added a new position, an ASL Instructor. This position has been filled by Ms. Amy Johnson.
 - Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports
 - The READS DHH Program completed onboarding and staff training this summer for the implementation of Creative Curriculum through Teaching Strategies for Preschool and Kindergarten.
 - Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective, as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based, to Ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.
 - The number of referrals to READS Academy and the READS DHH School and Program continues to be steadily increasing. READS Academy is beginning this new school year with 105 enrolled students. The DHH School and Program are starting the new school year with 52.
 - The DHH Support for Early Intervention has steadily increased in Southeastern Massachusetts. READS DHH went from 2 staff members supporting an average of 10 children in Early Intervention to the current 10 Early Intervention DHH providers supporting approximately 25 children from birth to age 3.
- Fiscal Update
 - The FY27 budget along with tuition and fees has been approved by the Board of Directors.
 - Union Negotiations are ongoing at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd, 2026
- Legislation/Compliance
 - READS Collaborative is in the process of preparing for our full cycle Coordinated Program Review to be conducted in January 2027.
- Programmatic Information
 - Both the READS Academy and the DHH School and Program ran successful ESY Programs
 - There were a total of **15 graduates** from READS Academy this past School year. This included a student who met his graduation requirements by the end of ESY resulting in the Academy organizing a special graduation ceremony that included all the celebratory pieces provided to those who graduated at the end of May.
 - The DHH Program graduated **5 students**.