

TOWN CLERK'S STAMP

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
JAN 28 '25 AM 9:20

MEETING MINUTES

TOWN OF ROCKLAND



Board or Committee

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date & Time of Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025, 6:30 PM

Meeting Location:

DAVID CABLE-MURPHY STUDIO

or

Remote Information:

Meeting ID:

Passcode:

Requested By:

Noelle Novio

OF PAGES (including cover sheet) 5

REVISED

☐

Yes

☐

No

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 6:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**



In attendance: Chair Mrs. Maroney, Vice Chair Mrs. Hennessy, and members Dr. Mauro-Small and Mrs. Bissonnette. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Cron, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Hackett, Mrs. Novio, and Ms. Carpine and Ms. Schipper in the audience.

Acceptance of the minutes of the December 9, 2024 School Committee Meeting, a motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Nothing under Audience.

On to monthly reports for the Administrators – Ms. Schipper, Mr. MacAllister, Mrs. Scheufele, Ms. Sheehan, Guidance; Ms. Black, and PPS; Dr. Maniglia. Six motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

For Financial Reports for the Rockland High School and Rogers Middle School; two motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

School Newsletters – EECC, Phelps, Rogers Middle School and Rockland High School.
Nothing to add.

Old Business with four completed fundraisers; RMS Student Council with Shake your Tailfeathers raised \$145, Rockland High School Travel Club did a prize calendar for students travelling in 2025-2027 and raised \$759 with no expenses, the Class of 2025 and 2026 did a Yankee Candle fundraiser and raised \$180, and the Class of 2026 had a Domino's Night and raised \$600.

New Business. We have recognition for Diana Newcomb. Ms Schipper, “Thank you for having us. I would like to recognize Rockland High School’s Girls Basketball Coach Diana Newcomb who was named 2023/2024 Coach of the Year by the MIAA. Diana was recognized at an awards banquet on December 11. She has been Head Varsity Coach for 13 years. Under her leadership the girls have had great success with numerous league titles and several final four appearances. I am very proud of Diana as a former student of mine and all that she has accomplished. She was awarded this fancy plaque at her December 11 banquet. We are very proud of her. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments.” Question from Dr. Cron, “When you were a player, did you want to coach?” I started thinking about it throughout my high school years. “I

was focused on getting a state championship here and trying to get a scholarship to go to the next level, and then once you're at the next level, you think about what is coming up next. I've been coached by great coaches so I learned so much from them. Then that was when I thought this was something I thought I wanted to try, so thank you very much."

Ms. Schipper also introduced to be recognized, the 2024 Rockland High School Cheerleaders. Coach Jeanine Reardon, Senior Lucy Burns, Senior Rachel Golemme and Junior Ashley Moran who are all captains. I would like to recognize this team who finished the Fall 2024 season undefeated. They were South Shore League champions, D4 South Regional Champions, MSAA D4 State Champions. This is Coach Reardon's 15th State championship, eighth consecutive state championship and we are super proud of this entire team, so congratulations!

Graduation date for the class of 2025. We have a request for May 30, 2025 for Rockland High School's graduation ceremony this year from Ms. Schipper. The time may depend on the weather. A motion to approve the graduation date from Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

FY26 Capital Request from Ms. Hackett. We have submitted on a preliminary basis to Mr. Lapp for his consideration. He is aware that the School Committee hadn't had an opportunity to vote on it yet, so this is still a work in progress. As I told Doug it's a total request of \$1,950,000 for all items that are appropriate utilization for one-time funds. Some of them are recurring regulars such as the van lease which notably decreased by \$45,000 because we were able to purchase two vehicles, one used, one new. The recurring yearly cost has gone down, as have our SPED and out of district transportation costs with the result of that purchase. \$200,000 for Chromebooks and IT needs. This is 400 chromebooks at approximately \$385 a year plus some additional costs that come up every year that are anticipated that we include in this article. Network protection is upgrading from Sentinel One to Artic Wolf Network management and endpoint protection system. Mr. Wells is exploring some of this and interviewing some other districts who have implemented it. He doesn't have any concerns with Sentinel One so he doesn't want to buy something that we don't need. The F350 pickup is for Mr. Shom, it would replace a 2008 vehicle that we could use for sanding and maintenance. Esten electrical upgrade – this is very much a work in progress. We have \$500,000 that was appropriated this year towards the Esten School that we have not yet utilized. Dr. Cron and myself are going to be meeting with Mark and really see where we go now that we have already done the filtration system under a grant. A reminder that the Esten was built in 1968 and many of the things that we need to do there for HVAC is that we need to fix the electrical. We would rather do this sooner as the price keeps going up year after year. Middle School/High School rooftop HVAC units approaching the building's 11th year. Things are starting to fail. Last year we spent \$46,000 on a new boiler. We had a heat problem in the gym. We had to bring in outside heating systems to run the athletic programs during the winter. Upgrading internal light components and software deferred from

FY25 for MS/HS for \$100,000. If we don't replace them we could lose this vendor relationship so this is something we are going back and forth on whether or not we want to do. We may ultimately when the fee cash number comes and defer to 2026 but the Capital Committee likes to know what we are thinking about over the course of the next three years. The IT Department has done an incredible job with the cameras and what they purchased we are actually installing them ourselves, eliminating labor costs. Also new managing and controlling software and management system for the MS/HS HVAC system. Totaling \$1,950,000 in Capital items that Mark Shom and Tim Wells have identified. Dr. Cron and I will go the Capital Planning Committee to discuss with them and we generally bring Mr. Wells and Mr. Shom to that to answer any questions. Mrs. Hennessy - "For people listening this would be the appropriation in the April town meeting in the Spring." Dr. Mauro-Small asked about the vestibule project and the security upgrades as they are not mentioned in the request. Everything is done – our FY 25 articles that were appropriated last year are all completed except for the Esten School because the project wasn't completed in time for us to start the second project. When we built the Phelps School one of the standard's was a double entry system. We looked at our other buildings and we wanted to bring them all up to speed so now we have that for all the schools. It's a big security upgrade. A motion to approve the FY26 Capital requests from Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report – I just wanted to report that we take security very seriously. We mentioned our vestibules. It is a cooperative effort between police, fire, highway and the school department. We have a committee. An emergency management committee and we held our third meeting last week. It brings together all of our School heads along with Police and Fire. We have developed protocols for every contingency and have done a number of things. We do very effective tabletop exercises. Another thing that is very important is that Rockland is a special place. We have two principals that still live in town and come around and and see us, Mr. Sangster and Scott McKinley. I got to speak with Dick Phelps the other day and had coffee with John Retchless. It's important to stay in touch. A shout out to Peter Parks who just retired after 40 years. A wonderful friend to the School Department, we wish him well.

Public Service Announcements – Dr. Mauro-Small – January 23rd is the end of term for Middle School and High School so just reminding everybody to make sure they get all their assignments in and do the best that they can. Finish up that term just as strong as you started it. We acknowledged Coach Newcomb and Coach Reardon. We are very grateful for everything that they do. Our coaches are just like our teachers. They give so much to our kids and it shows. It's just incredible what they give. Mrs. Hennessy – this is our first meeting since winter break, continue to stay warm and healthy, reminder that Monday the 20th is Martin Luther King Day, no school. Mrs. Bissonnette – Rockland Middle School Drama Club is presenting Reigning Cats and Dogs, Thursday, January 16th, congrats and enjoy the fun night. Ms. Maroney – I wanted to add into the retirements this year in the town; Ralph Tanzi retired after 39 years. He was huge in

our plowing. We appreciate all of his time and efforts that he has put into maintaining the streets and helping us to get the roads clear for our kids to get back to school. It is a group effort, enjoy your retirement. One more thing before we adjourn, Emily Davidson just welcomed a baby boy, Luke, on Saturday so congratulations.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Maroney".

Jill Maroney, Chair, on behalf of
Emily Davidson
Secretary