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## MEETING MINUTES

TOWN OF ROCKLAND



**Board or Committee**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date & Time of Meeting**

**Monday, January 27, 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) 4

REVISED

☐

Yes

☐

No

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, 6:30 PM  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of the minutes of the January 13, 2025 School Committee Meeting, a motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Nothing under Audience.

On to monthly reports for Nurse-Ms Davis; financial reports for the School Department, Rockland High School Student Activities, Rogers Middle School Student Activities, Food Services; Department Head monthly reports; Athletic Director-Mr. Kimball, Art Department-Mrs. Thompson, Computer Science/Physical Education-Ms. Newcomb, Dean-Mr. Damon, English-Ms. Donovan, Foreign Language-Mrs. Tabares, Math Department-Mr. Casagrande, Middle School-Mr. Griffin & Ms. Thomas, Music-Mr. Piazza, Radio/TV Station-Ms. Breeden, Science-Ms. DiCanzio, Social Studies-Mr. Rowe, Special Education-Mrs. McGonnigal. Before our motion, I would like to highlight that Department Heads share a lot of great information about what is happening with the curriculum across the different grade levels. On 19 motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

School Newsletters – Phelps and Rockland High School. It is always impressive to see all that's going on in our schools.

Old Business with two completed fundraisers; 8th Grade Philly Trip did a pop up store and collected \$10,713 with no expenses and WRPS had bowling at Timber Lanes and they collected \$349.60 in profit with no expenses.

New Business. We have the RHS Program of Studies request for changes with Ms. Schipper. There will be three changes. Firstly, within the History Department we are going to remove American Conspiracies which was a class that had run for a while but hasn't run in the last five years. We are going to tweak the law elective class to law and government adding a government component to that course and we are looking to add a new elective called Global Perspectives in

Geography. We are focusing on Multicultural awareness and the interplay between human and physical geography.

The second one, we had in the program of studies some language about two credit courses. We haven't been running two credit courses in a really long time so we are looking to remove that.

And lastly, we are looking to change the language within the graduation requirement. It had read that to pass MCAS, students had to complete 22 credits of study, 25 hours of community service and to pass MCAS exam. With the ballot question in November changing the graduation requirement to not include passing MCAS, we are looking to change that to take the MCAS so students will still be expected to take the MCAS. They will be allowed to take retests which we will facilitate. Occasionally some students will want to take a retest if they want to become eligible for the Abigail Adams Scholarship. They will have the ability to do that but they won't be mandated to continue taking until they pass, that is a big change. It will also eliminate the need to have an educational proficiency plan; which we need to have on file when students don't pass. Lastly there is some language about schedule changing. We are also looking to streamline the process of once a student picks courses, you will only be allowed to change if there is a scheduling conflict or our inability to staff. Schedule changes have to be for a good reason and approved by Guidance and an Administrator. Questions from School Committee – Law and Government class; “will that change the textbook?” and for Global Perspectives in Geography; “will we be needing a new textbook?”. Ms. Schippers response, “not right now for law, as we already have materials and for Geography, we are just trying to put it together and gauge student interest and then see what we need and move toward that. Question: “and then in the schedule change, this doesn't impact the elective add drop, there's a whole different section” – yes. A motion to approve the three proposed changes to the Program of Studies Guide by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

Unit A Collective Bargaining – every three years we renegotiate our contracts with all of our units. The Teachers unit is generally who we work with first and they are our largest unit. We settled on a three-year contract with a 2.5% increase with one new step per year for three years. Regarding parental bonding time, we have settled on a policy of sick time access being limited to the 12 weeks immediately following what we are calling the qualifying event because it's not just birth; it could be adoption, foster and so forth. The first ten work days within the first 12 weeks of the qualifying event, no sick time will be charged. Finally we are requiring all Behaviorists to be National Board BCBA certified to be a member of the unit. Those are the big changes. We begin negotiations each time by thanking whatever unit we are working with. Obviously our teachers are arguably second to the students. They are the most important people we have in our buildings, the heart and soul. They make connections with the students and they do incredibly important work. We are very fortunate in this District to have such phenomenal teachers, and we are very pleased to get to this agreement. A lot of work goes into this and years

of relationships go into making this a smooth process. It's very important to say thank you to the President, Sharon McGonnigal and Chief Negotiator, Fred Damon. They have done a lot of work on behalf of the members for this. Jane Hackett and her team, Jill and Jaime who sat in with the negotiations, so thank you to all. I think it's a great fair contract for everyone and we get to continue to move forward. I'm very pleased to present this, it's been ratified by the unity by the teachers and the last step is for approval here tonight. We as School Committee members appreciate all the hard work that they do and we're happy we have got to this point. We are hearing lots of things around the state and we're just lucky to have who we have sitting at the table and sitting in our classroom, so thank you to all of them. Motion to approve Unit A Collective Bargaining agreement by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonette, unanimously approved.

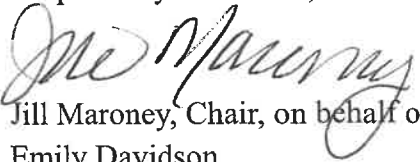
New Fundraisers – 8th Grade Philly trip to sell Hilliards Chocolate bars during the month of February for 40 bars at \$3 each to make a profit of \$1.75 per bar, \$70/box; the Class of 2027/28 to have a Cookie Dough/Pie fundraiser to raise money for their classes; the Class of 2025 will have a volleyball tournament - the senior class boys vs. junior class boys and the girls will coach to raise money for their class and the Class of 2027 will host Hoops Hysteria a 3 v 3 Student/Teacher Basketball tournament to raise money for their class. Four motions to approve from Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonette, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report – nothing to report.

Public Service Announcements – A reminder that the High School is doing a Polar Plunge again this year and it's on February 6 to raise money for the Special Olympics, put on by the Student Council. Kudos to Mr. Bergman and the Rogers Middle School drama group on their musicals. Students were poised and polished, it was very impressive and a great performance. A ton of faculty in the audience. Phelps Elementary Winter Arts Night is tomorrow night, January 28th from 5:30-7:30; schoolwide art show and third and fourth grade chorus concert starts at 6:00 pm

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonette, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jill Maroney, Chair, on behalf of  
Emily Davidson  
Secretary