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MEETING MINUTES

TOWN OF ROCKLAND



Board or Committee

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date & Time of Meeting

Monday, February 24, 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

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No



**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 6:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of the minutes of the February 10, 2025 School Committee Meeting, a motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Nothing under Audience.

On to Financial Reports for the School Department, Rockland High School Student Activities, Rogers Middle School Student Activities and Food Services . On four motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Building Rental Report - noted how busy all the buildings are.

School Newsletters – Rockland High School.

Old Business. Completed Fundraisers - we have the Class of 2025/2026 Cupcake Charlies. They raised \$462.

New Business. New Fundraisers. Esten PAC Fun Run during gym classes to raise funds for School assemblies, technology and field trips; Esten PAC Ryan's Amusement-20% given back to the school PAC to raise funds for School technology, assemblies and field trips; Class of 2029 Online clothing store by Grade 8 students selling Rockland Bulldog apparel; the RHS Girls Tennis team is doing cash calendars for \$10 for a chance to win cash each day of the month; RHS Athletic Boosters is doing a mattress fundraiser, it will be a one day sale on March 22nd; RHS Athletic Boosters will do the Harlem Wizard basketball game, the Wizards play against RPS staff to raise money to support student athletes gear and equipment on March 26th; WRPS Rockland's Got Talent Show showcasing RHS Students to raise funds for WRPS Scholarship Fund and WRPS Music Department; and the Class of 2027 is doing Seniors last day goody bags-senior parents order goody bags. All seniors will receive one but parents have the option to

add extra. On eight motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimously approved.

We are going to go back to Old Business and do Capital Requests with Ms. Hackett. We have \$1,950,000 that the committee approved a few weeks ago for Capital requests. We have had further meetings with Mark Shom from Building Maintenance and Tim Wells from the IT Department and we are making adjustments to what's headed as the 23-25 free cash requests. We have reduced our requests from 1.9 million to \$230,000. The Middle School/High School HVAC controllers/software and the Middle School/High School lights. The town is looking to explore grant funding through Mass Save. These are two critical things that need to be done, but we are looking at alternative funding sources for both. Both the High School/Middle School rooftop HVAC and the Esten School electrical upgrade is something else that we are working with the town to potentially combine with the town hall upgrades to go out to bid collectively.

F-350 Pick-Up Truck. We have withdrawn this request and replaced it with a sidewalk machine and sander. We have worked with Mr. Taylor, our maintenance department and our head custodial staff to identify some tricky areas where the equipment that we currently have does not work at Phelps; it can't get in between some of the security barriers that are up at Phelps creating some slippery conditions. We actually want to get a sidewalk plow; we purchased one for the highway department several years ago and now we want to purchase one for our own property. It primarily will be used for the Phelps and the Middle/High School complex. We don't see the need for it at the Esten School. The sidewalk plow was \$30,000 and the \$10,000 is for our Maintenance Department to have its own sander attachment on the back of one of our existing pickup trucks.

With the Chromebooks, we will reduce this from \$200,000 to \$100,000. We are getting a little additional end of life utilization out of our Chromebooks this year that we are hopeful that is going to be able to carry us through and then we have the \$90,000 in the lease agreement which is for our mobile vans – again that is down from \$135,000 from last year because we purchased a vehicle and added an additional driver. In addition we are looking at \$270,000 for Out of District costs, but looking to add the \$100,000 we saved from the Chromebooks and add that potentially to the Out of District costs for next year. Technically you don't need to vote on this because it's a lower number than what you did before Dr. Cron and I went to the Capital Planning Committee and any further discussions with the town. We felt it was important to come and let you know that we have significantly reduced our requests from the town and keep you apprised of that. No action is really required. We are really most concerned with the Middle School/High School HVAC controllers because it's actually the software that controls everything. The electronic software is starting to get a little bit quirky on our heating and programming. Our heating system has become a little bit more problematic and we are having to come back in on weekends to make corrections to the heating system to manually override; similar to the Middle

School and High School lights. These two have slipped off but they are still extremely important in the event that the town is unable to secure the grant that they are asking for. It is something that we still very much need to go forward with. Dr. Mauro-Small, "it seems like there is a lot of collaboration with the town and just thank you to everybody on our side and on their side." Mrs. Hennessy, "I know we don't have to vote but obviously when these go to the town meeting it is all endorsed by and recommended by the School Committee." Ms. Hackett responded, "I don't think at this time that there is a reason to vote as this is moving. As Dr. Cron said we are trying to make ends meet and these are some of the levers that we are pulling with an eye towards the FY26 budget and we are still having discussions about that. I think it might be better for us to hold it in conjunction with the FY26 public hearing that we are having and we can discuss it again and then perhaps vote at the next meeting when this is all done. We wanted to keep you and the public in the loop." Mrs. Maroney, "with full transparency. I agree with Dr. Mauro-Small that it's impressive that we try to work with the town and that we do believe that this is one town and it's one pie and we all need to get along so that we all get part of the money and not just one side or the other. So it is interesting that we handle it like adults."

We will go back to New business for approval of the updated bullying policy. Dr. Cron reports that there were some changes in the legislation and the DESE policy regarding bullying in the schools. The highlighted language has been added. There is nothing of tremendous substance to the additions. It's sort of a formality for the School Committee to vote, since this is already in place. Mrs. Hennessy on a motion to approve the updated bullying policy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimously approved.

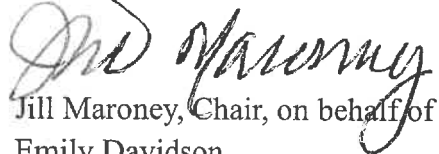
Superintendent's Report – I would like to wish all of our winter teams good luck; hockey, girls basketball played tonight, boys basketball and wrestling and I think we have some track folks who are involved as well - so good luck to all, Go Dogs! Also just a quick mention of our flags at half mast. Throughout the year for various reasons, usually ordered by the Governor; former President Carter's passing; the flags were at half mast for quite a long time. They are currently at half mast for a current State Representative who passed away, Carol Doherty who I knew personally to whom I'm very good friends with her husband. I bring this up only because she was an incredible public servant. She began as a teacher, elected to a leadership position in the Union in her school District. She then became the president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. She was a member of the School Committee and then became a state representative, but in her heart I think she was a teacher. I think at this time it's very important to remind ourselves and remind our kids and that all of you are great examples of this. When we serve others, it's an important part of being happy and a successful human being in 2025. She was amazing and will be missed.

Public Service Announcements – Dr. Mauro-Small - "I would be remiss as a pediatrician if I didn't mention, that you know how much illness we are seeing right now and how many different

viruses are around. We are seeing a lot of flu. So I am just reminding everybody to check in with their pediatricians if you're not vaccinated against the flu to consider it. Lots of good handwashing to prevent the spread of illnesses; and when your kids are sick, to please keep them home and help them recoup at home. It just keeps everybody in school to stay as healthy as they can be." Mrs. Hennessy - "congratulations to all the winter sports that made postseason; also individual performances from track and wrestling. Go Dogs! Look forward to the Spring registration opening." Mrs. Bissonnette - "Congratulations to all the kids that made SEMBSA. It's an amazing day of music and other musicians."

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Maroney, Chair, on behalf of
Emily Davidson
Secretary