

APPROVED BY

AUG 18 2025

**ROCKLAND SCHOOL
COMMITTEE**

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025, 5:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
SEP 5 '25 AM 11:52

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, Ms. Carpine, Kelsey Holbrook, Angela Sulmonte and 3rd Grade students and Parents in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance. Loretta Truelson (3rd Grade Student) did sign language.

Acceptance of the minutes of the May 12, 2025 School Committee Meeting, a motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Audience. Kelsey Holbrook, acting Principal of Phelps Elementary, introduced Angela Sulmonte, Third Grade Teacher, who discussed their cross-curricular animal research project. The Phelps mission is that students will be active engaged participants in their learning. They will move, create, interact, question and think deeply about their learning. For students to achieve high level thinking and learning instruction, it must be meaningful and engaging. We started a non-fiction unit in both reading and writing. There are eight classrooms in third grade and the Garden Pod has four of those classrooms represented here tonight; Loretta Truelson, Alice Almeida Barbosa Baia, Charles Corbett, Weston Chan, Kaliah Gordon, Logan McDonald, Madeline Leonido, Griffin Rubio, Lane Bailey and Ryan Caputo. The project involved multiple steps, with students first selecting an animal and conducting research using various sources. First student explained that they had to decide which animal we would choose and check in with our teacher. We also went on Epic, which is a website with non-fiction texts to help with our research, as well as, looking at library books. Students compiled their research in packets with specific topics to help narrow the focus, gathering information from the Franklin Park Zoo website, Epic, and library books. After collecting their research, students transformed their notes into complete sentences and paragraphs creating introductions, supporting details, and conclusions. They then transferred their work to Google Slides, where they added photos, interesting facts and text features. Alice presented her research on Blanding Turtles, including information about their habitat in the northeastern United States and southern Canada, their diet of aquatic insects, and their endangered status in Massachusetts. Loretta shared her project on Ring-Tailed Lemurs, explaining how they protect themselves using powerful scents on their wrists and chest, and even included a joke, "What's a Lemur's favorite type of music? Swing music." For mathematics, students worked on a "Design-a-Zoo" project that required them to map out animal exhibits and calculate the area and perimeter of each one. They also created a

list of animals they would need to purchase worth \$5,000, a schedule of events that would happen and added up their money that the food court would make a profit. The project will culminate with a field trip to Franklin Park Zoo in the coming week where students will see their research animals in real life. Parents are invited to an author share on June 11, where they can view the slideshow presentations and artwork. Mrs. Bissonnette commented and praised their work, "We only had books from the library 30 years ago. The fact that you are getting information off the internet, places like Epic so you have digital and hard books, that's huge. Your tables of contents are excellent. The beginning, middle, the end, all this foundational stuff travels with you. Keep reading. Thank you, that was excellent".

Reports. Financial reports for the School Department, Rockland High School Student Activities, Rogers Middle School Student Activities and Food Services. Four motions to approve the reports by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

Building Rental Report. Our schools are filled with different things, very busy in all places.

Department Head Monthly Reports. Athletic Department, Mr. Kimball; Art, Mrs. Thompson; Computer Technology, Mr. Wells; Consumer Science/Phys. Ed, 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. 15 motions to approve the reports by Mrs. Hennessy, 15 seconds by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Completed Fundraisers. Class of 2026, Senior lawn signs collected \$1781.35 with \$761.35 expenses with a Net Profit of \$1020. RHS Tennis did a Raise 365, collected \$1065 with 0 expenses. RHS Athletic Boosters did a mattress fundraiser and collected \$3005, \$270 to students for bonus, for a NET profit of \$2735, RHS Athletic Boosters had Harlem Wizards Basketball Game and collected \$29,804, \$11,840.31 in expenses, Net profit of \$12,963.69, the class of 2027 and 2028 sold Hilliards chocolate bars and collected \$3,200; \$1600 in expenses, with a NET profit of \$1600, the Class of 2027 sold Rockland blankets and collected \$700 with \$489.30 in expenses for a NET profit of \$210.70, the Class of 2027 had a Spring Garden Fundraiser at the Rockland Garden Center and collected \$350 in profit, and the Class of 2027 had Seniors last day goody bags and collected \$1015, with \$615 in expenses with a NET profit of \$400.

New Business. Transfer Student School Rank. Two changes were requested by Principal Cheryl Schipper of Rockland High School to the Rockland High School Student Handbook regarding transferring student rank and valedictorian calculation timing. The first change allows transfer students' GPAs from previous schools to be calculated toward class rank. The second change moves the calculation of valedictorian from the end of term four to the end of term three. On a

motion to approve each from Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

Paraprofessional Contract. A new Paraprofessional contract was ratified that includes adjustments to make salary more competitive with neighboring communities, adding a 183rd workday to align with teacher's schedules, providing paid lunch breaks, and a 2.5% raise in years two and three. On a motion to ratify the Paraprofessional contract by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

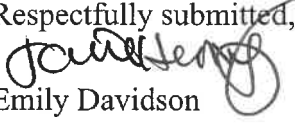
Surplus technology. On a motion to approve the surplus technology from Tim Wells as part of an annual review process by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

Homeschool Application. On a motion to approve a homeschool application by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimously approved.

Dr. Cron's Superintendent report. – We are into ceremony season. Amazing Memorial Day ceremony at Phelps. I want to thank the Police and Fire Departments, our Veteran's Agent, for being such great partners to us. We had every student in that glorious space. Mr. Popadic played the trumpet, children were singing and recorders were playing. Good luck to Rich on his first Philly trip as Principal, he is very excited about that and we are excited for the kids. Congratulations to our night school graduates, Val does such a great job leading that program and we are very proud of them.

Public Service Announcements. Mrs. Hennessy – good luck in the last month of school. We have maybe two school committee meetings left. Seniors enjoy these last few days of great activities. There's underclassmen academic awards coming up next week, Philly trip, a lot of good field trips across the schools. Thank you to the teachers and chaperones. Mrs. Bissonnette – this is a great time for the students, it's the memorable things and a great time to reflect and look back on things that they have done since September and the amazing growth that they have had. Mrs. Maroney wanted to recognize the night school graduates; Patrice Ann Burley, Thomas Raymond Finnegan, William Stanley Fitch, Paulina Gomes Hunter, Diamond Lee Ramos, Eric Spring and Layla Marie Walston.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Davidson
Secretary