

APPROVED BY

SEP 08 2025

ROCKLAND SCHOOL
COMMITTEE

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025, 6:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

TOM CLERK, ROCKLAND
SEP 9 '25 AM 9:12

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of the minutes for the May 27, 2025, June 9, 2025, June 23, 2025 and July 30, 2025 School Committee Meetings; a motion was made by Mrs. Hennessy for all four, seconded by Mrs. Bissonnette. Approved.

Nothing under Audience.

New Business. Dr. Cron's Retirement.

It is with a full heart that I share my decision to retire at the end of the 2025–26 school year. Serving as your superintendent has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am deeply grateful for the passion, dedication, and heart you bring to our students every day.

We have accomplished so much together—through challenges, celebrations, and countless moments of pride in the young people we serve. Your commitment to excellence, collaboration, and care for one another has made Rockland a truly special place to learn and work.

That spirit is what we call Bulldog pride. It was here long before any of us arrived. We are simply its current caretakers. Bulldog pride welcomes every student with enthusiasm, refuses to give up in the face of challenges, and steps forward to serve others wherever and whenever needed. It's in our classrooms, our hallways, our fields, and in every act of kindness that defines our community.

As we begin this school year, I am filled with optimism and excitement. I believe it will be one of our finest—full of achievement, growth, and moments we will remember for years to come. Thank you for allowing me to lead, learn, and grow alongside you, and for carrying forward the Bulldog pride that makes Rockland who we are.

This is why I believe a smooth transition matters so much. It's not just about logistics. It's about protecting and growing the culture, the confidence, and the trust that we have all worked so hard to build together. And that was here again when I arrived and will hopefully be here for decades to come. Which brings me to Jane Hackett. She has earned the trust of every teacher, staff member, and family that has worked with her. She has earned the trust of town hall, the finance committee, the select board and other leaders across this community, our region and even at the state level. I believe that Jane is uniquely suited to be Rockland's next Superintendent of schools. And so tonight, it is my recommendation that the school committee appoint Jane Hackett as the next Superintendent of Rockland Public Schools effective July 1, 2026. Thank you. A motion to appoint Jane Hackett as the Superintendent of Rockland Public Schools as of July 1st, 2026, pending the successful contract negotiations to be conducted by the chair of our school committee, Jill Maroney, seconded by Jill Maroney. Now open for discussion.

Dr. Mauro-Small – in reference to Dr. Cron's comments about Jane Hackett being on an eight-year long job interview; it has not been lost on us. The tremendous amount of work that you have done in the financial realm to keep this district moving forward. There have been challenges through COVID, post COVID, and I expect those challenges will continue. I think you know pretty much every year at some point I see the number of grants that the school has successfully obtained, the amount of maneuvering that you do with the budget. The amount of work that the teams you lead while keeping our students at the center while we face decreased income from the state and increased expenditures. So I want to thank you for all that work and I do think it's important as we look at the future that we expect that at least over the next few years and we will continue to face even more financial challenges. I think your experience in navigating while keeping out students at the center is important. Thank you.

Mrs. Davidson - I would like to add to Dr. Cron, my time working with you has been wonderful. It's not goodbye at this moment of time. We still have a very full and active year ahead of us. Jane, I am looking forward to continued success and I think change can be difficult at times, but this might be a change that's less difficult because you know the people, the school, the staff. So I think this might be a nice transition for a lot of us.

Dr. Mauro-Small - when we look at our schools and we think about the past couple of years of opening a new elementary school, bringing three schools together, the departure of Dr. Harrison, Mrs. Schipper moving over to the High School, Mr. MacAllister coming into the Middle School. There has been a lot of change for the district in the last few years, which is good. With change comes the need for a counter balance of safety and security and the known. Keeping Mrs. Hackett at the top running the show does provide a level of stability for our district. That is very important.

Mrs. Hennessy - I'm thankful to Dr. Cron for being the steward of our district for so long through the ups and downs, the crazy world that we were in. I think Ms. Hackett has been right there with you and a strong leader and I look forward to seeing where she takes us as well.

Mrs. Maroney - promoting an assistant Superintendent to the role of Superintendent is a strategic decision that brings continuity, experience, and proven leadership to the district. Ms. Hackett is already well versed in the district's operations, the goals and challenges, having played a critical role in implementing educational initiatives, managing staff and supporting student achievement. Elevating Ms. Hackett ensures a smooth transition, minimizes disruption and reinforces the district's commitment to stability and growth by demonstrating competence, institutional knowledge, and a vision aligned with the district's long-term objectives. The promotion reflects confident in Ms. Hackett's ability to lead effectively, and inspired a continuing process.

Ms. Hackett and I have been on this road together almost since day one when I started here. I wouldn't have been able to do this job as well as I feel like I have done without you. We take sitting in these seats very seriously. I do feel like this is the right decision for the kids. We always try to make the next right decision for the students of Rockland and our faculty and staff. I will write a vote – all those in favor, hands were shown by all committee members.

New Business. 2025-2026 School Opening. Dr. Cron - the staff reports Monday, August 25th. We have district and building training on Monday and Tuesday. Our students will return on Wednesday, August 27th, and they will have Friday the 29th. So it's a four day weekend. Kindergarten and Preschool begin Wednesday, September 3rd. Our start times are the same as last year. Busing registration is closed and routes are being finalized and should be released at the end of this week. Late registrations received by Thursday, August 8th, will be assigned a bus for Tuesday, September 2nd.

Dr. Cron's Superintendent report. – Why is the Superintendent leaving? I am actually retiring from the State of Massachusetts and I am moving to Indiana. I am moving there because I am getting married and starting a new chapter. This is the best place but that is why I am leaving and we are going to continue the tradition of doing the right thing.

Public Service Announcements. Dr. Mauro-Small - I want to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work that went into reworking the middle school schedule over the summer. What an accomplishment it is to have our 5th and 6th graders back into having a recess. As a pediatrician, we know that play is so important for child development. It's a true testament to acknowledging the needs of the student and working that into the schedule.

Mrs. Hennessy suggested that we add that into our next meeting on all the changes for the Middle School. Good luck to High School fall sports tryouts and practices that started this week. Coaches are back. Good luck to all the teachers as you start next week.

Mrs. Bissonnette wanted to recognize the amount of prep that the teachers are doing in order for the kids to be ready. There's a great deal of excitement of everyone getting their assignment letters in my neighborhood. Good luck to everyone.

Mrs. Maroney. Thank you to the teachers for getting everything prepped and the custodial staff, all of those people that have been working in the main office with buses and all of those schedules. We appreciate all of you. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Cron, I know that he will be completing the school year, for his dedicated years of service, his commitment, and leadership. Through Dr. Cron's vision, perseverance and tireless efforts, our district has achieved significant milestones, fostered academic excellence and built a strong foundation for future success. Dr. Cron's leadership has touched the lives of countless students, staff and families. And I want to thank you for all that.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Davidson
Secretary