

APPROVED BY

OCT 27 2025

ROCKLAND SCHOOL
COMMITTEE

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, 6:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
OCT 29 '25 AM 9:01

In attendance: Chair Mrs. Maroney, 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, Student Representative Erin Maroney and Mrs. Novio.

Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence for Richard Wokoske who was a bus driver for the Rockland Public Schools for six years. He was a beloved employee, colleague and a friend and he will be missed. Thank you.

We'll move on to the acceptance of the minutes for the meeting of September 8th. Motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, second by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor. That's a vote.

Nothing under the audience.

We'll go on to the school newsletters, we have Phelps, EECC which is the Early Education Childhood Center, Rogers Middle School, and Rockland High School. Nothing to add.

Rockland High School student activities and Rogers Middle School student activities, two motions to approve the financial reports for August by Mrs. Hennessy, two seconds by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

Monthly reports for September. We have the administrators Mr. MacAllister, Ms. Schipper, Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Scheufele, Guidance with Miss Black, Pupil Personnel Services with Dr. Maniglia and the nurse Ms. Davis. Seven motions to approve the monthly reports for September by Mrs. Hennessy, second by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

Next we would go on to executive session to conduct a strategy with respect to negotiations for non-union personnel but after consulting with legal counsel there is no need for an executive session. The committee appointed me to negotiate a contract with Jane Hackett which I have done. All members have reviewed the proposal of the proposed contract and it needs to be voted in open session not executive session, with that, do I have a motion to accept the proposed contract for Jane Hackett for Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1, 2026. A motion by Mrs. Hennessy, second by Dr. Mauro-Small. Dr. Mauro-Small commented that we are all

grateful that Jane will continue to lead our District in the direction that it has been going for quite some time. Mrs. Maroney commented that Jane has guided us financially in two ways in her eight years of being here. She has tightened up our systems internally and increased trust between town and school departments, two years of no findings by state auditors, virtually unheard of and two rounds of contract negotiations with no attorneys, resulting in fair and reasonable three-year contracts between union and administrators. She has leveraged brilliantly all federal and state funding sources through and after COVID, ARPA in Plymouth County, while supporting our need to adapt and pivot to meeting the changing needs of our students in leadership. Jane has tremendous impactful caretaking of our principals and senior leaders through the transitions from three elementary schools to one; providing steady leadership throughout the reorganization of elementary schools and construction of Phelps forecasting needs and dealing with unanticipated dynamics of bringing together three school communities into one. And that's all I had to add from there I will go with a roll call vote; we'll start with you Dr. Small - yay, Mrs. Hennessy - yay, Mrs. Davidson - yay and Mrs. Bissonnette - yay. That's a vote. Congratulations.

New Business. Jane's contract – just did that and on to fundraisers. We have the class of 2026 powderpuff football game to raise money for the senior class, time of fundraiser is November 24th; Rockland High School National Honor Society bake sale at the afternoon and evening for parent conferences to raise funds for the National Honor Society on November 6th, the middle school PAC has dining for a cause Domino Night to raise funds for field trips, school events and assist the teachers that will end in October; Name the stage - students name is added to the stage of the school to raise funds for field trips, school events and assist the teachers - that will be at the end of November; sell Rockland Bulldog PJ pants to raise funds for field trips, school events and assist the teachers - that will end in November and December; eighth grade students versus teachers Shamrock Classic to raise funds for field trips school events and assist the teachers - that will be on March 18th; next we have the Rockland High School boosters Harlem Wizards basketball game, the Wizards play against staff to raise money to support student athletes for gear, equipment and banquets; a toll booth at one to three locations in Rockland to raise money to support student athletes with gear equipment and banquets; the Rockland High School Travel Club has a holiday wreath sale, students will share online holiday wreath and decor to receive a portion of the proceeds to raise funds for students going on international tours from 2026; Senior Class Spike Ball Tournament to raise money for the senior class on November 13th; Phelps PAC Turkey feathers - kids gather loose change to buy turkey feathers with all donations going towards purchasing Thanksgiving meals to families in need and RHS GSA Pun-kin candy grams - students can purchase a candy gram containing a lollipop and a paper pumpkin with a fall or LGBTQIA+ themed pun on it to bring awareness and raise money for the GSA from 10/22-10/29. 12 motions to approve the new fundraisers by Mrs. Hennessy, 12 seconds by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

On to the 2025/2026 home education requests with Dr. Cron; I recommend the committee approve the parent requests. Mrs. Maroney, I will entertain a motion to approve, very detailed and thank you to the parents that are submitting those requests through our pupil personnel services. Motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy all requests, second by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

CTE Middle School policy. There were some new regulations as of June around our relationship with the vocational technical high school from the executive office of education and the department of education. It requires the middle school to have an access policy so that students have access to an overview of the vocational school and what it has to offer during the school day. Also has an opportunity to give our students the opportunity to go to the vocational school and visit; that is happening on October 23rd. So I just wanted to make everyone aware of that and that we are complying with the new regulations happily and hoping for great opportunities for our students. Mrs. Davidson; how is that being advertised to the middle school parents and students? Dr. Mauro-Small; I have middle schoolers so there is an email that came out that there's an informational session during the day for the students that they attended. This is for South Shore Votech, I don't know about the Norfolk County Agricultural School but for Votech there is an upcoming field trip for students that are interested in going. So emails went out with permission slips for children who are interested and then there's also a parent informational night being held there I think next week on Wednesday, the Rockland High School open house on Thursday is an informational session and there's an open house that Saturday at Votech and emails went out from Rockland High School advertising it to let us know. We all want what's best for our students and so if this is the best option for our students then we totally wholeheartedly want them to have that opportunity. Mrs. Maroney - I will entertain a motion, a motion to approve the CTE middle school policy by Mrs. Hennessy, second that motion by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

Ms. Hackett - in your packets you received a copy of our audit from the FY24 audit. So that's a year ago. We have just submitted the FY25 audit to the state and that will be audited in the next year. So folks get a sense I showed it to you before the meeting. This is the volume of information that is given to the state every year and then is audited by a registered accounting firm that's approved by the state. This lists every single fund for the school, the general fund from the taxpayers that's appropriated to us from town meetings, every single grant whether it's for \$250 or whether it's for \$450,000, every revolving fund for student activities, etc. Every single account that goes through the Rockland Public Schools is documented, forwarded to the state and then audited by an independent agency. And this will be our fourth consecutive audit of no findings meaning that all appropriate accounting procedures were followed. All procurement procedures were followed and everything matches what was budgeted and reported as expended. Mary Jo Lipson and Ira Kohler on the accounts payable, Betsy Low on payroll and the human resources component and then Mary Jo for taking all of that information from all.

She does all the grant administration as well in conjunction with the lead grant writer be it a principal, a title one, myself, Dr. Cron, whomever initiates the grant she walks through the process and ensures compliance and this report in and of itself is an incredible amount of work. We call it a right of passage for every new school business official. I remember when I did my first one and just really congratulations to all of them. What that means is that we say we spend the money is where we spend the money and they come in and check it and it was 100% right for the fourth consecutive year. So included in that I also should say my apologies, but also town hall the treasurer, Allison, and Scott Curtis, the town accountant. All of town hall's work on behalf of the schools is also included. So benefits, health insurance, etc. The school business, the Phelps Elementary School, the accounting for the Phelps Elementary School. All of that is also included and is audited by the independent agency for all of the financial work that the town does on the school on the school's behalf as well. So it's good to know that taxpayers dollars are being spent where we say it is.

Now we'll go on to electric bikes, scooters and bicycles. So I think everyone has seen an increase in the use of electric bikes and scooters. I will say they go 30 miles an hour. These electric bikes are now coming to school and we're just getting concerned. We don't want anything to happen to anyone. It's completely a safety thing. We're concerned about dismissal and drop off. I've struck up a conversation with the Rockland Police about developing a safety program that we could run on a Saturday. Maybe a two-hour start with a two-hour program. Maybe we could find someone to give some free helmets and we'll have some pizza. We'll make it fun. But I think we need to get proactive about this. I just don't want anything to happen to anyone, so I'm putting that out to parents. If your child is riding one of these scooters, I can't recommend a helmet enough. Please use reflective gear and have conversations with them about safety. When we drive and back out of a space, when you're on a regular bicycle there's a certain reaction time. With these scooters, if they're at full speed there's virtually no reaction time. So please have conversations with your kids about the scooters. I think it's something that we may have to address as a school and may have to come up with some policy around it. We're just getting started with it but we'll be talking about it more. Dr. Mauro-Small - we've been seeing a lot of traumas this year. So I think the Kiwanis Club tends to sponsor helmets and things like that if we're looking for a sponsor and they're currently not regulated in any way. Dr. Cron - there's some questions about that. There may be some regulation. We have been poking around but it's coming. You can just buy it and jump on and go. It's probably like vaping, where the technology comes first and then everybody's playing catch up afterwards as far as safety and the legalities.

On to old business. We have completed fundraisers. We have the WRPS festival 2025. It is an annual fundraiser to raise money for the WRPS scholarship fund for a graduating Rockland High School student to be held at Players. It was on 8/22 and they collected \$2,472 with \$572 in expenses for a net profit of \$1,900. So good job to all WRPS people. Thank you for that.

Now back to you Dr Cron with your Superintendent report. Dr. Cron - thank you. MCAS results came out earlier in the month. Just wanted everyone to know we're working on this at a school level. We will be putting together a report for you about how we're doing overall. I have very strong feelings about how to use that data and what that data means so we'll get into it. You know year to year it can change and fluctuate. This year as I scan the data, it's talking about decreases in science scores at the high school yet I know for a fact that our science scores last year were outstanding. So you get mixed messages sometimes with the data but I just wanted the committee and the community to know that we take it very seriously. We look at it, work hard with it. I know there's been some strong work done at Phelps already around looking at the data and breaking it out and what it means and what we're going to do with it. We lost MCAS as a north star so to speak during COVID. When you stop testing and you miss a year or miss two years; you lose the ability to compare and then it's taken a while. I think for MCAS to come back and now they remove the graduation requirement; so that changes the dynamics of the test as well. Sometimes people will say why aren't your scores as high as they are in Wellesley and I know we can talk about that but there are definite correlations between income and test scores and that's just a fact. So I am very very proud of our work at the high school and the middle school and the elementary schools. The middle school in particular has four years of exams. It's a lot of work. It's a lot of time and the teachers work very hard. They take it very personally. I know they take it very personally and finally I would just like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Jane. I cannot tell you how happy I am to know that the committee has supported this and that Jane will be taking over. I can't tell you how happy I am about that for the future of the Rockland Public Schools. Jane's dedication, professionalism and student centered approach continue to move our district forward and I look forward to supporting that work in every way possible. So I'm very very very proud of Jane and of this town and this school district and I'm just very very happy.

We'll start with our public service announcements. We'll go with our student representative Miss Erin Maroney. The homecoming football game is this Friday at 7:00 p.m in the stadium against Norwell and then Miss Rockland will be crowned at halftime. The homecoming dance is Saturday at 7:00 p.m and then Project Pumpkin will be October 25th. Then for sports; girls soccer has a game at East Bridgewater on Thursday at 4 and boys soccer is home against East Bridgewater at 4, cross country has a meet also on Thursday at 4 at Abington and volleyball has a game Wednesday at Fontbonne at 6 and another one Thursday at home against Middleboro at 5:30 and I believe it's their senior night, so show some support. Dr. Mauro-Small - I'm going to tag on your announcement of the sports and just say that the varsity cheerleaders have their first competition of the season on Sunday in Milton and then I'm going to talk a little bit from a public health perspective and just say that I know this weekend felt a lot like fall/early winter and the weekend before felt like summer but we are headed into respiratory season. So making sure that people remember to wash their hands. If you're sick stay home. If your child has a fever, please

don't send them to school and please reach out to your physician and talk about whether the flu shot or any other immunizations are right for you or your child. Mrs. Davidson - the only thing I have is I saw that the boys soccer team is ranked third in the state at the moment I believe, which is amazing so congratulations to them .Mrs. Bissonnette - I just wanted to encourage people to read the newsletters, there's so much information in there and a little plug for my former colleague Emily - there's another night at Phelps on November 3rd. These are great opportunities to meet other parents and make connections and so forth. So I just highly recommend attending some of the great things that are going on. Mrs. Maroney - I agree we're happy to have you Jane. I said it before I couldn't do this without the two of you. So since we have to do it without Alan at least we get to stick together. I think you're well qualified. I think that you're going to take us down the right path. You believe in this town even though you're from another town so I'm happy to have you and I'm happy to continue this journey with you.

And with that motion to adjourn by Mrs. Hennessy at 6:58 pm, second by Dr. Mauro-Small, all those in favor, that's a vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Emily Davidson
Secretary

chair