

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
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**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 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 April 14, 2025 School Committee Meeting, a motion to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Nothing under Audience.

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

School Newsletters were noted for Phelps Elementary and Rockland High School. Nothing to add.

Old Business. Completed Fundraisers. WRPS's Rockland's Got Talent collected \$1692.31, \$681 in expenses, for a profit of \$1011.31. The class of 2027 and 2028 cookie dough/pie fundraiser collected \$360 with no expenses. Congratulations to them, great fundraising.

New Business. Phelps Elementary School Curriculum Corner has been moved to the May 27 meeting.

The 2025/2026 Rockland Public School Calendar. It went through the last meeting, we will take a vote. A motion to approve the 2025/2026 School calendar by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

School Choice. Ms. Hackett – We have historically been a school choice district. Every year we give a brief update to you. We have 82 students that we receive and we send out 18 students. We have broken it down by grade and by location from where they come from. There is no need to vote to affirm. Historically we have, but if you were to decide to no longer be a school choice district you would need to vote to not be a school choice district. Questions: Mrs. Maroney -

from my understanding it's a benefit to be a school choice district. Ms. Hackett - it's debatable; Dr. Cron added that different towns feel differently about it. We have always felt it's been a benefit. Question from Dr. Mauro-Small – if we have a student who comes to us through school choice and it becomes apparent that they need an out of district placement, does that become our responsibility or does that go back to the town they come from; answer from Ms. Hackett – our responsibility to manage, however, we get additional reimbursement from the district of origin. We receive increments for in-district costs as well. We get \$5000 per student and we are actually in the process of doing this for the spring SIMS numbers. We do a cost allocation of how much we spend on an SPED individual. We only have four of 82 involved in special education. Dr. Mauro-Small – thank you, just because I know as we have looked at the budget over the past two years or so and there has been a pretty exponential increase in the costs for out of district placements and I just wanted to make sure that this wasn't impacting that or that we were just aware if participation part contributed to that expense, but it sounds like it does not. Ms. Hackett - it doesn't affect us, we are projecting our reimbursement from SPED costs to go from \$48,000 last year to \$110,000 this year. One student was placed out of district, he is actually a Rockland family who moved out of town and just wanted to stay complete school choice and then went out of district. That is our only one out of district school choice student. Question from Mrs. Hennessy - in terms of our total enrollment; the school choice is not combined with those that elect to go to South Shore VoTech or any other private or charter school. The sending district receives chapter 70, which is where the student puts their head down at night. The October 1st number. Our foundation enrollment which determines our chapter 70 allocation does not include school choice students schools. That is why at various times our enrollment number may sound different to you because these 82 students aren't included in our foundation enrollment that DESE utilizes to determine our chapter 70 allocation. It would be great if they did, but it's important to remember that these students' families commit to transporting their students. There is a level of commitment to coming here. Sometimes these are our employees' children. So they are generally very invested in and an asset. I think it's impressive that we have 82 students from other towns that want to come to Rockland. A motion to approve the school choice for the 2025/2026 school year, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

New Fundraisers – RMS PAC has a dining for cause with D'Angelos to raise funds for school events, school supplies and to assist teachers. Motion to approve one fundraiser by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Dr. Cron's Superintendent report. – nothing to report.

Public Service Announcements. Mrs. Hennessy – just wanted to say hope everyone had a great school break. I loved seeing all the travel club photos. It's close to home with my daughter and Jill's daughter both participating in this trip. They had an amazing time and thank you to Miss Walsh who spearheads the travel club and works so closely with EF Travel, as well as, the

chaperones that took such great care of our kids. Mrs. Bissonnette – the arts festival is coming up it's a big night . Dr. Mauro-Small – the middle school has their honor ceremonies this week so fifth grade today and a ton of students that made honors, high honors and earned conduct and effort awards. Congratulations to them and their families. Tomorrow will be 6th grade, Wednesday 7th grade and Thursday 8th Grade. It's really nice to see so many kids putting in hard work. I am told not as an educator that term three is the hardest term of the year so congratulations to all of those students. MCAS coming up next week, so lots of sleep, lots of rest and good vibes going their way. Mrs. Maroney - I second what Jamie said about the travel club with Miss Walsh and all the chaperones. All the years we have sat here approved trips; to have our own kids on the trip and having a wonderful time at no point was I ever nervous that my child was unsafe which is what I think the goal is. They took them to lots of countries for ten days and they had a fabulous time. Thank you for keeping them safe, thank you for giving them this opportunity. In the past few days, so many people have heard me boast about Rockland, about what this little town does and this trip was one of those things. Not every kid in every school gets to go on a trip like this and these kids did their fundraising, they made their money to earn their trip and that's a trip of a lifetime. Staff appreciation is coming next week so I wanted to thank our team, once a bulldog, always a bulldog. You hear me all the time talk about how we bleed blue and we couldn't do that without that staff taking care of all these students. We appreciate you.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Davidson

Secretary