

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55  
January 29, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Zoom link:**

<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/95561881344?pwd=OxKszymWvS8ZMw4qrs4PR5MgaDhcal.1>

Meeting ID: 955 6188 1344

Passcode: 798324

*This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, Administrators and public will have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Jr. High School at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom. Supporting documentation for agenda items can be found on the School Committee webpage:*

<https://www.oldrochester.org/district/sc>

**1. Meeting to Order**

**2. Administrative and School Committee Reports**

**a. Chairperson Report**

That the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson.

**b. Central Office Report**

That the School Committee hear a report from the Central Office team regarding current happenings in the school and local community and the Superintendent's Newsletter.

**3. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)**

**a. Regular Meeting: October 9, 2025**

**b. District Wellness Committee: December 10, 2025**

**4. General**

**a. Superintendent's End-Cycle Documentation Review**

That the School Committees review the timeline and documentation for the upcoming Superintendent's End-Cycle Review in June 2026.

**b. 2026-2027 School Calendar (VOTE)**

That the School Committees review and discuss the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

**c. Vision of the Graduate Update**

That the School Committees hear an update from administration on the Vision of the Graduate.

**5. Policy Review (VOTE)**

**1st Reads**

None

**2nd Reads**

• **ECAB – Access to Buildings and Grounds**

This new model policy provides an outline, to be adapted locally, for access to buildings and grounds during both the school day and during non-school hours. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed and recommended this policy at their September 25, 2025 meeting. The Joint School Committee 1<sup>st</sup> read was October 9, 2025.

• **KBG – Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)**

Massachusetts state law requires the formation and support of specific Parent Advisory Councils for Special Education and English Language Learners. This model policy outlines the district obligations and cross references the DESE guidance for PACs. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed and recommended this policy at their September 25, 2025 meeting. The Joint School Committee 1<sup>st</sup> read was October 9, 2025.

• **Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy**

Massachusetts state regulations (603 CMR 4.00) require sending districts to CTE schools and programs to maintain a districtwide Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy that documents how middle school students in the district are made aware of, and gain exposure to, career technical education (CTE) schools and programs available to them in their district, regional, agricultural, and other public

high schools. This policy must be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>. After submitting this to DESE, the District received feedback on additional revisions. The ORR School Committee 1<sup>st</sup> read was December 15, 2025.

- **IKF – Graduation Requirement and IKFE – Competency Determination**  
DESE has shared guidance for districts regarding the required Competency Determination policy. The guidance document, which can be found on DESE’s website, requires that all districts submit a Competency Determination policy approved by their committees along with their IKF - Graduation Requirement policy no later than December 31, 2025. The ORR School Committee 1<sup>st</sup> read was December 15, 2025.

#### Revisions

- **JFAD – ORRHS Admission Policy for Vocation Technical Education Program**  
In the fall, the District submitted its policy to DESE in alignment with the CTE regulations that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education amended last spring. In December, the District received feedback for revisions to ensure alignment with the regulations related to the application process, selection process and record maintenance. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed and recommended this policy at their meeting on January 15, 2026.
- **GBEBC – Gifts to and Solicitation By Staff**  
Raffles and other games of chance are very strictly regulated in Massachusetts. School districts may not be sponsoring organizations; students may not participate in organization of or sales for raffles. While parent groups supporting schools may conduct such activities, they are bound by the state laws and regulations surrounding such games. The following updates to current policies ensure this is made clear. This updates current model policy to note that staff may not organize raffles while acting as employees, as the district cannot be a sponsoring organization. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed and recommended the revised policy at the September 25, 2025 meeting and it was discussed at the Joint School Committee meeting on October 9, 2025. Mr. Matthew Monteiro inquired about the section Raffles and Games of Chance in the policy, recommending maybe to further clarify the language that staff would be barred in their professional activities or at school to be more specific and it was recommended to be reviewed again by the Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed, made additional revisions and recommended this policy at their meeting on January 15, 2026.
- **BAA – Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures** – The Policy Subcommittee reviewed this policy at the May 2025 meeting based on a recommendation from community member Anne Fernandes. Ms. Cowles reviewed and edited the policy based on current practice for the Policy Subcommittee on September 25, 2025 which recommended this policy to the Joint School Committee on October 9, 2025. At this meeting, the Joint School Committee discussed it further and ultimately decided to refer it back to the Policy Subcommittee to consider the additional feedback shared by members at the Joint School Committee meeting. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed and recommended this policy at their meeting on January 15, 2026.
- **IN – Artificial Intelligence** – The Joint School Committee approved this new policy, IN – Artificial Intelligence in June 2025. Rochester School Committee Chairperson Kate Duggan recommended further review by the Policy Subcommittee to discuss acceptable use and disclosure of AI use within the policy which took place at the September 25, 2025 meeting. At that meeting, the Policy Subcommittee discussed AI constantly changing, MASC workshops and concerns for academic integrity. Ultimately, the Subcommittee decided to revisit this policy at its next meeting. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed additional revisions and recommended this policy at their meeting on January 15, 2026.
- **BGB – Policy Adoption** – Rochester School Committee and Policy Subcommittee member Josh Trombly recommended revisions to policy BGB which were discussed at the Subcommittee’s meeting on September 25, 2025. The Policy Subcommittee at this time recommended to hold any revisions to review further. After that meeting, community member Lazaro Rosa of Rochester submitted what he believes is an edit that would clear up any confusion with how the policy is currently worded and would align it with current practice. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed Mr. Trombly and Mr. Rosa’s feedback, made additional revisions and recommended this policy at their meeting on January 15, 2026.

#### 6. Information and Future Agenda Items

a. Information

b. **Timeline**

i. Joint School Committee: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

c. **Future Agenda Items**

- i. Approval of School Committee Dates (spring)
- ii. Professional Development Plan Approval (spring)
- iii. Superintendent's Mid-Cycle or End-Cycle Evaluation (spring)

**7. Public Comment**

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy. Per the committee's policy, we will offer up to 30 minutes for public comments this evening.

**8. Executive Session (VOTE)**

Recommendation: That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

**9. Adjournment (VOTE)**

RCVD MARION TOWN CLERK  
2025 JAN 27 PM 1:58