

**Revere School Committee  
February 26, 2019**

A meeting of the **Revere School Committee** was called to order on **Tuesday, February 26, 2019** at **6: PM** in the Ferrante School Committee Room at Revere High School.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Arrigo, Chair; Mr. Michael Ferrante, Vice Chair; Ms. Susan Gravellese, Mrs. Stacey Rizzo, Ms. Carol Tye, Mr. Gerry Visconti, Secretary.

Mr. Fred Sannella attended by phone.

Mayor Arrigo requested to suspend the rules and go out of order for the meeting.

Ms. Tye

**MOVED:** That we move Old Business to the beginning of the meeting.

**VOTED**

**2. Old Business**

- a. AFSCME Local 1383 Contract Vote

Mr. Ferrante stated that the AFSCME tentative agreement had been voted through by the membership and it was now the committee's time to vote.

Mr. Ferrante

**MOVED:** That we take off the table the AFSCME Local 1383 contract and approve this contract,

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Ferrante -	Yes	Mr. Sannella -	Yes
Ms. Gravellese -	Yes	Ms. Tye -	Yes
Mrs. Rizzo -	Yes	Mr. Visconti -	Yes

Mayor Arrigo - Yes

**VOTED**

Dr. Kelly thanked Mr. Ferrante and Mr. Visconti for their support with the extended contract negotiations. Dr. Kelly also thanked several members of the union: JT Lyons, Michael Marden, Chris Salton, Dave Patch, Pauline Lyons, Christine Cavagnaro, Karen Salvati, Cynthia Nickerson, Mike Stuart and Dianne Cann for their hard work and dedication towards a comprehensive package that benefits the school committee and AFSCME members and ultimately the students of RPS.

Ms. Tye

**MOVED:** That we give the same raise to nonunion, noncontract employees that was given to the AFSCME employees.

Due to reluctance from School Committee members, Mr. Sannella withdrew his second and Ms. Tye withdrew her motion and agreed to table this for a future agenda to discuss.

Mr. Ferrante requested that the meeting continue out of order to discuss the hiring of School Committee legal counsel. The two final candidates are Valerio or Stoneman.

**3. Motions**

- a. Hiring of School Committee Legal Counsel

Mr. Ferrante

**MOVED:** That we vote for School Committee legal counsel.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Ferrante -	Valerio	Mr. Sannella -	Valerio
Ms. Gravellese -	Valerio	Ms. Tye -	Valerio
Mrs. Rizzo -	Valerio, Dominello & Hillman	Mr. Visconti -	Valerio
	Mayor Arrigo -	Valerio	

**VOTED**

Mayor Arrigo stated that the meeting will continue in order.

**4. Recognition (None)**

**5. Superintendent’s Report**

- a. Poetry Out Loud Finalists

Dr. Kelly spoke about Ms. Sara Colum and the Poetry Out Loud program at RHS. Dr. Kelly announced Shiara Pyrrus is the RHS champion and Ava Hawkes as the first runner-up and Alessandra Santos as the second runner-up. Shiara Pyrrus spoke briefly about the Poetry Out Loud program and read her poem to the audience and committee.

Ms. Tye congratulated Syrrus for her performance and asked why she chose the poem. Shiara’s poem was about the Haitian earthquake and how it affected her and her love for literature and poetry.

- b. Athletic Affiliation of GBL vs NEC

Dr. Kelly informed the audience and committee of the plan to leave the Northeast Conference and rejoin the Greater Boston League. She introduced Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health, Mr. Frank Shea to provide more specific information. Mr. Shea shared that Revere left the GBL 14 years ago and other cities left as well. The GBL was left with 4 schools to compete with each other and unable to join other leagues. These schools were allowed into NEC but this past January they were voted out. It was decided that RPS will once again being part of the GBL as we are similar to the 4 schools in the GBL based on program size, programs offered, enrollment, culture and diversity. RPS submitted a letter to NEC president in January 2019, letting them know Revere would be leaving NEC and joining GBL. Voting will be March 1, 2019. Mr. Shea

informed the committee that the hurdle of the football schedule was addressed by the verbal agreement of remaining in the NEC for football games for another year. If approved, the next step would be approval from the district athletic committee through the MIAA. This move allows for competitive balance especially for our girls teams as well as decreased travel times.

Mr. Ferrante questioned the ability to put together schedules for winter sports. Mr. Shea explained that there will be games played against non-league cities as well as league cities. Mr. Visconti asked if Mr. Shea had reached out to other non-GBL schools to see if they would like to join. Mr. Shea is hopefully that in the next 2 years to have 6-7 teams committed to GBL.

c. Project Lead the Way and Revere Cares Grants

Dr. Kelly shared the many grants that have been awarded to our teachers and schools.

Aramark awarded a Health and Wellness grant to A.C. Whelan School for \$1,500 to be used for volleyballs and basketballs for after school clubs.

Project Lead the Way awarded an expansion grant in the amount of \$7,500 to A.C. Whelan School, which will provide 2/3 kits per classroom in grades K-5.

Project Lead the Way awarded a grant in the amount of \$12,350 to provide 2 kits in each grade level.

Revere Cares provided mini grants to several schools within the district: \$900 to Revere High School for school redesigning improvement team and Youth Health Leadership Counsel for a stress less week focusing on stress reduction activities; \$1,959 to Beachmont School to fund a pilot for Science, Technology, Engineering Math and Arts clubs; \$378.78 to Garfield Middle School for partnership with North Suffolk to target students new to this country; \$840 to Garfield Elementary School to help PTO with funding for their field trips for each grade; \$940 to Revere High School for Outdoors Club camping field trip; and \$3,210 to SeaCoast High School for educational theater for productions and discussions regarding relationships, violence, bystander intervention cyber-bullying.

d. Middle School Tours and Lottery Dates

Dr. Kelly shared the dates for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade tours of the middle schools. Dr. Kelly also stated that parents are welcome to attend these tours with their child using their own transportation.

Middle School Lottery is scheduled for 5:00 PM on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Parents should be receiving the middle school applications once the visits are completed.

e. Elementary and Middle School Logic Models (Vision of a Graduate)

Dr. Mokaba shared a presentation regarding Vision of a Graduate for our middle school students. Data is generated from parent, student and staff surveys; school improvement

plans and superintendent goals. The high school logic model can be found on the RPS website. The elementary and middle school logic models are still in draft form.

Teams of teachers from each elementary and each middle school worked with Chris Kingsley, the same consultant who helped us develop the high school logic model. The middle school and elementary logic models are set up similar to the high school model some of the strategies are mirrored across all grade levels. The middle school and elementary logic models show the building strategies for the students. Strategies are also grade appropriate. The models are divided into sections: assumptions, student focused strategies and outcomes.

#### f. Superintendent's Goals Update

Dr. Kelly shared the district goals updates and stated that the links can be seen connecting to the school improvement plans, parent and student surveys on the above logic models. Dr. Kelly shared a status update on the strategic objectives listed.

There is still work to be done regarding the third benchmark which was to increasing parent opportunity to connect with Central Office. Central Office staff has been attending PTO meetings. There is also ongoing work being done to increase RELB council participation. Dr. Kelly stated that central office will be meeting with RELB committees and inform them that they need to have a parent on each of the councils (parent can be a teacher or administrator, as long as they have a child in Revere Public Schools or a community member parent).

Data is being collected to learn why educators chose to leave the Revere Public School district. There is now a newly developed exit survey that was piloted with two members of RPS who elected to leave during the school year. The exit survey has been refined and will now be used when a staff member chooses to leave the district.

Another strategic initiative that is currently ongoing is to decrease the performance gap of ELL and Special Education students with other students. Data through student evaluation will need to be received before being able to accurately assess the measurement of these benchmarks.

The third strategic initiative that is ongoing is providing professional development to all teachers and administrators to provide effective assessment and grading. This initiative ties right in to the logic models by having students take ownership of their learning. This initiative speaks to equity and making sure the assessment practices are fair to all students. Grades should reflect content knowledge not discipline or behavior issues.

The fourth strategic objective is to ensure that the district develops consistency within grading practices across subject areas/classes within the district to ensure equity across the board. The early evidence of change is shown by the two complete steps of this initiative. Teachers will meet with their directors to compare their grading policies. Members of the Grading Practices Subcommittee will collect samples of grading policies from their colleagues and compare them to the Core Belief Policy.

**6. Student Representative Report**

Wallid Soukaki began by congratulating the winter season sports teams as their seasons are coming to a close. Congratulations to the boys and girls swim teams, boys’ basketball, indoor track, and boy’s hockey team. A special congratulation to the cheerleading team for being named NEC champions.

Good luck to the Model U.N. team which will be competing at the Northeastern Greater Boston Model U.N. competition on March 1, 2019. Sixteen students will be representing RHS at this event.

Six seniors who are part of the Model U.N., team will be traveling to New York March 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The issues discussed will be social issues prevalent to RHS students.

A special shout out to Sabib Ismael who has earned a spot to represent RHS at the National Speech and Debate Championship which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in May.

Wallid spoke briefly about the Model U.N. trip to Beijing, China. Several RHS students were awarded 6 awards out of 24 possible awards. He spoke about friendships made with students from other countries and how Revere students put themselves out there to expand their horizons and understand other cultures. Wallid credits this to the diversity of RHS. There will be a more extensive presentation made at the next meeting.

**7. Public Participation (None)**

**8. Consent Calendar (Vote Required)**

Ms. Tye

**MOVED:** That we accept and approve the consent calendar with no items being removed.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Ferrante -	Yes	Mr. Sannella -	Absent
Ms. Gravellese -	Yes	Ms. Tye -	Yes
Mrs. Rizzo -	Yes	Mr. Visconti -	Yes

Mayor Arrigo - Yes

**VOTED**

**9. Report of Sub-Committees**

Mr. Ferrante shared that he has been named the Vice-Chair and Mr. Visconti has been named the Secretary of the Revere School Committee. Mr. Ferrante shared the standing sub-committee members for the remainder of this year.

**10. New Business (None)**

**11. School Committee Interests (None)**

**12. Executive Sessions (None)**

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 @ 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DK/rp

Dianne K. Kelly, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools