



# *Town of* **ROCHESTER**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023**





*Town of Rochester*

*Annual Town Report 2023*

# The 2023 Annual Report Dedication



## Deputy Chief Benner

Deputy Chief Benner started his firefighting career with the RFD in 1961. In his nearly 60 years with the department, he held the ranks of Lieutenant and Captain before being promoted to Deputy Chief, 25 years ago. When Deputy Chief Benner started in the department there were only 2 pieces of apparatus in town, a pickup truck with a small pump and 1 engine as compared to the full complement of over 20 pieces of apparatus today. He recalled that back in the 60s they used privately owned station wagons to transport injured and sick people to the hospital. Deputy Chief Benner became one of the Town's first EMTs completing his EMT course at Tobey Hospital in the first class to graduate in the early 70s. Deputy Chief Benner worked as the Town's Civil Defense Director for 8 years in the late 70's. He is a Union Carpenter by trade and worked for Local 1331 of Cape Cod for over 40 years before his retirement. He was born and raised in Rochester and has lived in town his entire life. He has been married to his wife Evelyn for nearly 60 years. Deputy Chief Benner has 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Deputy Chief Benner is probably best known to town residents as the Fire Inspector as his primary responsibility now is smoke alarm, fire alarms and oil burner inspections. In 2016, Deputy Chief Benner was recognized by the Rochester Police Association with a Dedicated Service Award for over 50 years of service to the Town of Rochester and its residents. Deputy Benner is the second of three generations of firefighters with his father, a Rochester Firefighter and his grandson Nick, a Norwood Firefighter. Deputy Chief Benner plays a critical role at the Annual Father's Day Clambake and oversees the making of the famous clambake stuffing. He has also donated countless hours volunteering in many different roles at the Annual Memorial Day Boat Race. Deputy Chief Benner has many other merits, awards, and accomplishments in his years of dedicated service to the town. We recognize Deputy Chief Ward Benner for his nearly 60 years of service as a Member of the Rochester Fire Department and to the Town of Rochester and its residents.

# **Town of Rochester, Massachusetts**

## **Plymouth County**

The Town of Rochester was founded in 1679 and incorporated on June 4, 1686. At that time the areas now known as Marion, Mattapoisett and West Wareham were all part of Rochester. These towns were subsequently separated from Rochester and by 1857 Rochester stood alone, having had the foresight to reserve rights on the seashores of the other towns.

Rochester is located in southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Lakeville and Middleboro on the north, Wareham and Marion on the east, Mattapoisett on the south and Acushnet and Freetown on the west. Rochester is about 19 miles northeast of New Bedford; 50 miles south of Boston; 49 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 227 miles from New York City.

**Year incorporated as a town:** 1686

**Total area square miles:** 39

**Land area square miles:** 36.39

**Miles of accepted roads:** 67.88 (Does not include State Highway Routes 28, 195, 495)

**Population:** 5,698 (according to the Federal Census)

### **Legislators:**

U.S. Senator	Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator	Edward Markey
U.S. Congressman	William Keating
State Senator	Michael Rodrigues
State Representative	William M. Straus

### **U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates:**

Snipatuit Pond, Marion, Assawompsett Pond, New Bedford North

Regional Planning Agency:

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area: New Bedford

# **Board and Committee Schedules**

## **Select Board**

Office Hours Monday- 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Friday- 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  
Meetings First and Third Monday at 6:00 P.M.

## **Tax Collector**

Monday Evenings 5:00 P.M - 7:00 P.M.

## **Town Treasurer**

Monday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Friday 8:30 A.M – 1 P.M.

## **Town Clerk**

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. – Noon  
Monday evenings 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

## **Assessor's Office – Board of Assessors**

Monday- 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Friday- 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  
Meetings Every Monday Evening at 5:00 P.M.

## **Board of Health – 37 Marion Road**

Meetings First and Third Wednesday of Each Month as Needed at 4:00 P.M.

## **Building Commissioner – 37 Marion Road**

Monday- 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Friday- 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

## **Conservation Commission – 37 Marion Road**

Monday- 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Friday- 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  
Meets First and Third Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00 P.M.

## **Council on Aging – 67 Dexter Lane**

Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Meets the First Wednesday of Each Month at 9:00 A.M.

## **Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee**

Meets Third Wednesday Every Other Month at 7:30 P.M. at  
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School

### **Old Rochester Regional District School Committee**

Meets the Second Wednesday of Each Month 6:30 P.M. at  
Old Rochester Regional High School

### **Rochester Memorial School Committee**

Meets the First Thursday of Each Month, 6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall

### **Park Commission**

Meets as Needed

### **Personnel Board**

Meets as Needed

### **Planning Board**

Meets the Second and Fourth Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 P.M.

### **Soil Conservation Board**

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month as Needed at 7:00 P.M.

### **Historic District Commission**

Meets the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

### **Historical Commission**

Meets the First Monday of Each Month 7:00 P.M.

### **Water Commission**

Meets the Second Wednesday of each month

### **Joseph H. Plumb Memorial Library Board of Trustees**

Meets the Second Thursday of Each Month at 6:30 P.M. at the Plumb Library  
Library hours: Monday 1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
Thursday 1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Friday 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Saturday 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

### **Veteran's District Office (Mattapoisett Town Hall)**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

# Directory of Elected Town Officials

## **MODERATOR**

David Arancio

## **TERM EXPIRES**

2024

## **SELECT BOARD**

Paul Ciaburri

2024

Bradford N. Morse

2025

Adam C. Murphy

2026

## **TOWN CLERK**

Margie Barrows

2026

## **TAX COLLECTOR**

Beatrice Renauld

2026

## **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR**

Jeffrey Eldridge

2025

## **TREE WARDEN**

Jeffrey Eldridge

2024

## **CONSTABLES**

David L. Hughes

2025

Marc Slabodnick

2025

## **HERRING INSPECTOR**

William D. Watling, Jr.

2026

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Sarah Tisdale Eby

2024

Glenn Lawrence

2025

Dale Barrows

2026

## **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Jana Cavanaugh

2024

Diana Knapp

2025

Suzanne Szyndlar

2026

## **PLANNING BOARD**

Christopher Silveira

2025

Michael C. Murphy

2025

Marc Rousseau Jr.

2026

Lee Carr

2026

Arnold Johnson

2027

Bendrix Bailey

2028

John DeMaggio

2028

**PLUMB LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Shauna Makuch	2024
Kelley Medeiros	2024
Kimberly Burt	2025
Michael King	2025
Heather Alford	2026
Jane Taylor	2026

**CEMETERY COMMISSION**

Molly Ross	2024
Lori Souza	2025

**PARK COMMISSION**

Kenneth Ross	2024
David Hughes	2025
David Sylvia	2026

**WATER COMMISSION**

David Hughes	2024
Richard Charon	2025
Frederick Underhill	2026

**ROCHESTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Robin Rounseville	2024
Jason Chisholm	2024
Sharon Hartley	2025
Anne Fernandes	2026
Katherine Duggan	2026

**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Matthew Monteiro	2024
Joseph Pires	2026

# Directory of Appointed Town Officials

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

### **CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER**

Glenn Cannon	2025
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## **TOWN PLANNER**

Nancy Durfee	2024
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## **ACCOUNTANT**

Suzanne Szyndlar	2025
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Kathleen McHenry, Assistant	2025
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## **TOWN TREASURER**

Kory Lydon	2025
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## **POLICE CHIEF**

Robert Small	2024
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## **FIRE CHIEF**

Scott Weigel	2025
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## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Kristen Cardoso	2025
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## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Kristian Stoltenberg	2024
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Anthony Ruocco	2024
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Peter Armanetti	2025
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David Arancio	2025
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James Austin	2026
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## **BUILDING COMMISSIONER**

Paul Boucher	2025
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## **PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

Lawrence Ferreira	2024
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Stephen McGraw, Assistant	2024
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## **GAS INSPECTOR**

Stephen McGraw	2024
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Lawrence Ferreira, Assistant	2024
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## **SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Jack Savastano	2021
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## **OLD COLONY VOCATIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Shirley Bourque	2024
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David L. Hughes	2025
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Sharon Cruz	2026
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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Matthew Bache	2024
Carl MacDerrmott	2024
Bill Milka	2024
Bendrix Bailey	2024
Michael Gifford	2025
Christopher Gerrior	2025
Merilee Kelly, Conservation Agent	

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Jeffrey Costa, Associate	2024
Michelle Upton, Associate	2024
Thomas Flynn	2024
David Arancio	2025
Richard Cutler	2026
Donald Spirlet	2027
Davis L. Sullivan	2028

**SOIL BOARD**

Albert Weigel, Associate Member	2024
Richard J. Charon, At-Large Member	2025
David True, Board of Health Representative	2026
John Dvorski, Conservation Commission Representative	2026
Gary Florindo, Planning Board Representative	2026

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Marjorie Barrows	2024
Susan Norton	2024
Patrice Joy	2024
Sandra Charron	2025
Pauline Munroe	2025
Mary Bessey	2025
Mike Daniel	2026
Andrew Revell	2026
Marjorie O’ Brien	2026

**WIRING INSPECTOR**

Kevin Rittenhouse	2024
George Randall, Assistant	2024

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Connie Eshbach	2024
George Owen	2025
Timothy Bates	2025
Susan LaFleur	2026

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Ginette Castro, Associate Member	2024
Theodore Brillon	2024
Susan Flemming	2024
Matthew Monteiro	2025
Stephanie Carr	2025
Sara Johnston	2026

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

Bradford Correia	2024
Travis Lalli	2024
William Chamberlain	2025
Ominique Garner	2025
Daniel Hartley	2026
Steven Harding	2026
Sandra Romero	2026

**PERSONNEL BOARD**

Peter Bourgault	2025
Kristine Nash	2025
Greg Hardy	2026

**CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Jordan Pouliot Latham	2024
Mary McCann	2024
Erin Lewis	2024
Elizabeth McGrath Garvey	2025
Erica Rys	2025
Kimberly Amato	2025
Lorraine Thompson	2026
Sarah Hasbrouck	2026
Katherine Duggan	2026

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS**

Anne Estabrook	2024
Rebekah Tomlinson, Assistant	2024

**ANIMAL INSPECTOR**

Anne Estabrook	2024
Rebekah Tomlinson	2024

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR**

Scott Weigel	Indefinite
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**FOREST WARDEN**

Scott Weigel	2024
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**DEPUTY FOREST WARDEN**

Ward A. Benner	2024
Albert Weigel	2024

**GREEN WAYS COMMITTEE**

Susan B. Teal  
Douglas W. Ellis  
Bunny Mogilnicki  
Laurene A. Gerrior  
James Holden  
Amy Johnson  
Stephen Pena

**OPEN SPACE ACTION COMMITTEE – INDEFINITE TERMS**

Laurell J. Farinon  
John Teal  
Ginette Castro  
Rosemary Smith  
Michael Oleksak  
Halima Tiffany  
Susan Teal

**ROCHESTER HOUSING PARTNERSHIP – INDEFINITE TERMS**

Roland Grenier, Sr.  
Jean Rose  
Amy Johnson  
Arnold Johnson (Planning Bd. Rep.)

**SUPERINTENDENT OF INSECT PEST CONTROL**

Jeffrey Eldridge 2024

**VETERANS SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Christopher Gerrior 2024

**VETERAN GRAVES SUPERVISOR**

David Watling 2024

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

Jeffrey Eldridge 2024

**MATTAPOISETT RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY  
PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sandra Keese 2024  
Merilee Kelly 2024  
Richard Charon 2025

**TRI-TOWN RIVER COMMISSION**

David Watling 2024  
Bradford Morse, Selectmen’s Representative 2024

**PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION COMMITTEE – INDEFINITE TERMS**

Paul Ciaburri  
Jeffrey G. Eldridge  
Scott Weigel  
Robert Small

**MATTAPOISETT RIVER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

Jeffrey G. Eldridge	2024
Merilee Kelly	2024
Richard Charon	2024

**ROCHESTER REPRESENTATIVE TO MARION WATER COMMITTEE**

Frederick W. Underhill

**HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR**

Dale Barrows	2024
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**SEMASS CERTIFIED WEIGHERS**

Karyn Franks	2024
Emanuel Santiago Gonzalez	2024
Joanne Brunette	2024
Joseph Barney	2024
Cindi Duggan	2024
Jason Monast	2024
Jason Denwood	2024

*Report of the*  
**SELECT BOARD**

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to submit its 2023 Annual Town Report. Adam Murphy was elected to a three-year term on May 24th, 2023. The Board reorganized on June 5th, 2023, as follows: Paul Ciaburri Chair, Bradford Morse Vice-Chair, and Adam Murphy as Clerk.

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 22nd, 2023, at the Rochester Memorial School, where the Town voted, in an overwhelming agreement, to withdraw the Town from the Green Communities Program and remove all of its requirements from residents.

With the Town Election held on May 24th, 2023, Adam Murphy defeated incumbent Woody Hartley to secure a three-year seat on the Board; the Select Board expresses its gratitude to Mr. Hartley for his time served on the Board.

In 2023, the Town worked in conjunction with Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School to secure a co-op student to work within the Town’s Facilities Department; this collaboration was proven to be a success and a great learning experience for this student, the Town hopes to participate in the program again in the future.

In the summer of 2023, SEMASS Covanta donated two flagpole setups that were installed in front of the Town Hall. The Select Board thanks SEMASS Covanta for their generosity.

The Town of Rochester was awarded \$750,000 to fund the Highway Department’s proposed salt shed project.

This year also brought forth the Town’s first Winery Pour License to A & M Winery on New Bedford Road; all other liquor licenses were renewed with a unanimous vote on December 11th, 2023.

Also, in December of this year, the Town’s Annual Tree Lighting took place in front of the Town Hall. This year’s event had a record turnout, and the Board was happy to announce Rochester Memorial School Student Adriana Cruz as this year’s poster contest winner.

Further, The Board would like to express its appreciation to Town Administrator Glenn Cannon, Executive Assistant Amanda Baptiste, Administrative Assistant Emily Dumas-Harding, and all of the other Town employees and elected/appointed officials for their commitment and dedication to the Town of Rochester.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Ciaburri, Chair  
Bradford Morse, Vice Chair  
Adam Murphy, Clerk

Glenn Cannon, Town Administrator  
Amanda Baptiste, Executive Assistant  
Emily Dumas-Harding, Admin Assistant

*Report of the*  
**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

The Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) valuation of Real and Personal Property was again completed in-house by office staff and the Board of Assessors. The Assessing Department completed our yearly data collection on properties having building permits, new construction, real estate sales and also a random selection of properties as part of our regular inspection program.

Our department is responsible for the fair and equitable valuation of more than one billion dollars of real estate and personal property.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) reviewed our analysis and modifications and approved the values, the appraisal methodology and the calculations supporting the tax rate. Our single tax rate of \$11.06 per thousand dollars of valuation was certified by the DOR on October 13, 2023.

The Board extends its gratitude to our staff and other town departments for their efforts in helping us to be the 22nd community, out of 351 cities and towns, to set their tax rate.

The recapitulation of the Town’s assessments and levies includes the following information:

<b>Class of Property</b>	<b>Valuation by Class</b>	<b>Percent of Total Levy</b>	<b>Levy by Class</b>
Residential	\$1,286,285,865	86.77	\$14,226,322.67
Commercial	43,605,710	2.94	482,279.15
Industrial	81,820,355	5.52	904,933.13
Personal	70,775,390	4.77	782,775.81
TOTALS	\$1,482,487,320	100.00	\$16,396,309.76

The summary of fund sources and taxation for FY 2024:

Funds from estimated receipts and other sources	\$10,451,295.00
Funds to be raised by tax levy	\$16,396,309.76
TOTAL FUNDS SOURCES	\$26,847,604.76

The office now utilizes the PK mass-appraisal software system, a valuation system that assists the Board in its assessment practices and data quality. On-line public internet access to the database and assessors’ maps continues on the Town’s website. The assessment administration and procedures manual is updated as needed. Sold properties and new construction inspections were conducted. Commercial and industrial properties, automobile excise and personal property accounts were also reviewed. Assessment and DOR certification is completed in-house by the Board of Assessors and the Director of Assessing with assistance from Paul S. Kapinos & Associates, LLC.

The Board expresses its appreciation for the dedicated service provided to the townspeople and the assessors by Administrative Assistants Margaret Gonneville and Jennifer Allain. We also wish to thank our Director of Assessing, Karen Trudeau, for her exemplary knowledge of assessment practices and her dedication to the Town and our office.

The Board continues to work with other Town boards and departments on assessment related topics. They also continue to participate in the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers and the Plymouth County Assessors' Association as well as to attend educational courses, in-services, conferences, etc. sponsored by these organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Diana Knapp, Chairperson

Jana Cavanaugh

Suzanne Szyndlar

# ***Report of the*** **TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

The Town Accountant's office is committed to maintaining the key financial records of the Town of Rochester. These records verify that the town's monies are collected and disbursed in accordance with the municipality's financial policies and the Massachusetts General Laws.

The financial statements submitted for fiscal year 2023 are:

- General Fund Balance Sheet
- Special Revenue Funds Balance Sheet
- Capital Projects, Agency Funds, Trust Funds and General LT Obligations Balance Sheet
- Combined Balance Sheet – All Fund Types
- General Fund Expenditures
- General Fund Revenues

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Szyndlar, CGA  
Town Accountant

Kathleen McHenry  
Assistant Town Accountant

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

**ASSETS:**

Petty Cash	900.00
General Cash	4,099,545.10
Receivables:	
Personal Property	
Levy of 2015	267.61
Levy of 2016	553.41
Levy of 2017	924.67
Levy of 2018	778.28
Levy of 2019	1,228.94
Levy of 2020	1,720.05
Levy of 2021	693.90
Levy of 2022	870.15
Levy of 2023	12,055.18
Real Estate	
Levy of 2023	73,332.29
Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	(197,627.16)
Tax Liens (Titles)	108,697.77
Motor Vehicle Excise	
Levy of 2017	3,362.07
Levy of 2018	2,158.80
Levy of 2019	3,197.45
Levy of 2020	3,196.94
Levy of 2021	3,373.22
Levy of 2022	8,108.11
Levy of 2023	76,367.70
Departmental	
Veterans Benefits	28,427.00
Ambulance Services	403,172.28
Tax Possessions (Foreclosures)	37,199.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,672,503.52</b>

**LIABILITIES:**

Accrued Payrolls Payable	402,811.00
Deferred Revenue:	
Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes	(105,202.68)
Tax Liens (Titles)	108,697.77
Tax Possessions (Foreclosures)	37,199.76
Motor Vehicle Excise	99,764.29
Departmental - Veterans Benefits	28,427.00
Departmental - Ambulance Services	403,172.28
Prepaid Taxes	2,081.22
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$976,950.64</b>

**FUND EQUITY:**

Fund Balance Reserved for:	
Prior Year Encumbrances	283,348.88
Subsequent Year's Expenditures	500,000.00
Carryovers - Continuing Appropriations	897,778.04
Future Excludable Debt	5,712.06
Undesignated Fund Balance	2,008,713.90
Appropriation Deficits	0.00
Unprovided for Abatements & Exemptions	0.00
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$3,695,552.88</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$4,672,503.52</b>

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE BALANCE SHEET**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

	SCHOOL LUNCH	HIGHWAY CHAPTER 90	TOWN SPEC REV	SCHOOL SPEC REV	RECEIPTS RESERVED	REVOLVING	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS:</b>							
Cash	10,851.06	196,233.16	512,070.72	366,543.98	82,015.72	222,215.32	1,389,929.96
Receivable - Highway Chapter 90		1,268,514.04					1,268,514.04
Title V Betterments Receivable						12,012.03	12,012.03
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,851.06</b>	<b>\$1,464,747.20</b>	<b>\$512,070.72</b>	<b>\$366,543.98</b>	<b>\$82,015.72</b>	<b>\$234,227.35</b>	<b>\$2,670,456.03</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>							
Deferred Revenue		1,268,514.04				12,012.03	1,280,526.07
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,268,514.04</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,012.03</b>	<b>\$1,280,526.07</b>
<b>FUND EQUITY:</b>							
Fund Balance Reserved for:							
Subsequent Year's Expenditures					16,000.00		16,000.00
Appropriation					66,015.72		66,015.72
Fund Balance Designated for:							
Federal Grants			411,608.29	(19,877.41)			391,730.88
State Grants		196,233.16	(131,077.54)	340,378.05			405,533.67
Other Purposes	10,851.06		231,539.97	46,043.34		222,215.32	510,649.69
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$10,851.06</b>	<b>\$196,233.16</b>	<b>\$512,070.72</b>	<b>\$366,543.98</b>	<b>\$82,015.72</b>	<b>\$222,215.32</b>	<b>\$1,389,929.96</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$10,851.06</b>	<b>\$1,464,747.20</b>	<b>\$512,070.72</b>	<b>\$366,543.98</b>	<b>\$82,015.72</b>	<b>\$234,227.35</b>	<b>\$2,670,456.03</b>

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER**  
**CAPITAL PROJECTS, AGENCY FUNDS, TRUST FUNDS AND GLTOAG**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TRUST FUNDS	AGENCY FUNDS	GENERAL LT OBLIGATIONS
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Cash	\$2,376.77	\$4,438,474.12	\$20,726.52	
Amounts to be provided for:				\$5,590,000.00
Payment of Bonds				\$306,830.00
Compensated Absences				
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,376.77</b>	<b>\$4,438,474.12</b>	<b>\$20,726.52</b>	<b>\$5,896,830.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>				
Bond Anticipation Note				
Payroll Withholdings	\$394,800.00			\$306,830.00
Compensated Absences				\$85,000.00
Bonds Payable (Inside):				\$120,000.00
Hiller Land Acquisition \$1.75 mil - Exempt				\$10,000.00
Town Hall Renovation \$250K				\$20,000.00
Library Renovation \$25K				\$20,000.00
Police Station Roof \$40K				\$10,000.00
COA Roof \$40K				\$60,000.00
Fire Station Renovation \$25K				
Fuel System \$125K				
Bonds Payable (Outside):				\$1,060,000.00
RMS Renovation \$2,188 mil - Exempt				\$4,090,000.00
RMS Addition/Renovation \$9.5 mil - Exempt				\$65,000.00
School Feasibility \$153,519 - Exempt				\$50,000.00
Water Equipment \$100K			\$6,154.52	
Tailings			\$35,604.88	
Planning Board Escrows			(\$18,058.96)	
Police Details			(\$7,343.75)	
Police Gun Licenses			\$7,125.00	
Collector's Fees			\$8,006.02	
Student Activity Fund			(\$10,761.19)	
Payroll Withholdings				
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$394,800.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,726.52</b>	<b>\$5,896,830.00</b>

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER**  
**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	AGENCY & TRUST	GENERAL LT OBLIGATIONS	TOTAL MEMO ONLY
<b>ASSETS:</b>						
Cash	\$4,100,445.10	\$1,389,929.96	\$2,376.77	\$4,459,200.64		\$9,951,952.47
Receivables:						
Real Estate Taxes	\$73,332.29					\$73,332.29
Personal Property Taxes	\$19,092.19					\$19,092.19
Allowance for Abatements	(\$197,627.16)					(\$197,627.16)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$99,764.29					\$99,764.29
Tax Liens	\$108,697.77					\$108,697.77
Departmental Receivables	\$431,599.28					\$431,599.28
Tax Possessions (Foreclosures)	\$37,199.76					\$37,199.76
Other Receivables		\$1,280,526.07				\$1,280,526.07
Amts to be provided for Retire of L-T Debt					\$5,590,000.00	\$5,590,000.00
Amts to be provided for Compensated Absences					\$306,830.00	\$306,830.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,672,503.52</b>	<b>\$2,670,456.03</b>	<b>\$2,376.77</b>	<b>\$4,459,200.64</b>	<b>\$5,896,830.00</b>	<b>\$17,701,366.96</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>						
Bond Anticipation Note				(\$10,761.19)		(\$10,761.19)
Payroll Withholdings						\$402,811.00
Accrued Salaries Payable	\$402,811.00					\$31,487.71
Other Liabilities				\$31,487.71		\$1,852,584.49
Deferred Revenue	\$572,058.42	\$1,280,526.07				\$2,081.22
Prepaid Taxes	\$2,081.22				\$306,830.00	\$306,830.00
Accrued Compensated Absences					\$5,590,000.00	\$394,800.00
Bond Anticipation Notes						\$5,590,000.00
Bonds Payable						
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$976,950.64</b>	<b>\$1,280,526.07</b>	<b>\$394,800.00</b>	<b>\$20,776.52</b>	<b>\$5,896,830.00</b>	<b>\$8,569,833.23</b>
<b>FUND EQUITY:</b>						
Fund Balances:						
Reserved						\$5,949,366.27
Designated	\$1,686,838.98	\$216,476.40	(\$392,423.23)	\$4,438,474.12		\$1,173,453.56
Unreserved		\$1,173,453.56				\$0.00
Undesignated	\$2,008,713.90					\$2,008,713.90
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$3,695,552.88</b>	<b>\$1,389,929.96</b>	<b>(\$392,423.23)</b>	<b>\$4,438,474.12</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$9,131,533.73</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$4,672,503.52</b>	<b>\$2,670,456.03</b>	<b>\$2,376.77</b>	<b>\$4,459,200.64</b>	<b>\$5,896,830.00</b>	<b>\$17,701,366.96</b>

**Town of Rochester**  
Schedule of Expenditures  
FY23 Budget vs. Actual

Account	Original Budget	(+) C/O & Encumb 6/30/22	Supplemental Budget Articles	Transfers	(-) C/O & Encumb 6/30/23	Final Budget	YTD Total expenditures	Unencumbered Unexpended
<b>General Government</b>								
<i>Operating budget</i>								
Town Meeting	754.00					754.00	174.56	579.44
Moderator	300.00	300.00				600.00	-	600.00
Selectmen	15,513.00				430.80	15,082.20	15,082.20	-
Finance Committee	300.00					300.00	-	300.00
Reserve Fund	70,000.00			#####		28,335.26	-	28,335.26
Capital Planning Committee	300.00					300.00	-	300.00
Accounting	162,851.00	60.00				162,911.00	162,021.23	889.77
Info. Systems	171,080.00				9,791.11	161,288.89	142,208.10	19,080.79
Assessors	222,056.00					222,056.00	195,313.48	26,742.52
Treasurer	129,502.00					129,502.00	128,366.73	1,135.27
Collector	46,836.00					46,836.00	43,372.61	3,463.39
Legal Counsel	106,536.00				2,743.78	103,792.22	102,950.72	841.50
Personnel Board	200.00					200.00	-	200.00
Town Clerk	46,469.00				120.00	46,349.00	45,619.94	729.06
Elections	16,497.00					16,497.00	15,474.71	1,022.29
Registrar	11,217.00			2,217.46	1,854.91	11,579.55	9,884.49	1,695.06
Conservation Commission	94,647.00	29.19			19.50	94,656.69	93,537.04	1,119.65
Planning Board	108,202.00	9.00			9.75	108,201.25	102,815.19	5,386.06
Appeals Board	300.00			16.67		316.67	316.67	-
Soil Board	100.00					100.00	-	100.00
Public Building & Property Maint.	482,385.00	19,993.91		11,659.13	7,791.14	506,246.90	488,609.32	17,637.58
Town Hall Annex	46,400.00	-	-	-	24.95	46,375.05	45,596.91	778.14
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>1,732,445.00</b>	<b>20,392.10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>22,785.94</b>	<b>1,702,279.68</b>	<b>1,591,343.90</b>	<b>110,935.78</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>								
Police	1,632,454.00	1,621.74		26,003.50	2,950.93	1,657,128.31	1,657,128.08	0.23
Fire	377,089.00			2,556.39	1,686.41	377,958.98	377,958.98	-
Emergency Medical Technicians	564,904.00	1,363.11		13,250.34	444.94	579,072.51	579,072.51	-

**Town of Rochester**  
Schedule of Expenditures  
FY23 Budget vs. Actual  
Continued

Building Inspection	184,161.00		34.00	184,127.00	170,201.78	13,925.22
Gas Inspection	8,900.00			8,900.00	7,556.33	1,343.67
Plumbing Inspections	7,400.00			7,400.00	4,762.59	2,637.41
Electrical Inspections	16,715.00			16,715.00	13,766.21	2,948.79
Gasoline Account	85,400.00	20,530.30	45.35	105,884.95	105,884.95	-
Emergency Management	1,465.00			1,465.00	1,465.00	-
Animal Control	12,275.00			12,275.00	7,424.01	4,850.99
Forestry	30,395.00	2,215.00	11,550.00	21,060.00	17,308.00	3,752.00
Constable	400.00			400.00	-	400.00
Communication Center	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>3,121,558.00</b>	<b>5,199.85</b>	<b>16,711.63</b>	<b>3,172,386.75</b>	<b>3,142,528.44</b>	<b>29,858.31</b>
<b>Education</b>						
Rochester Memorial School	6,671,152.00	698,617.68	512,952.27	6,856,817.41	6,836,668.28	20,149.13
ORR 7-12 Transportation	-			-	-	-
Bristol County Agricultural Assessment	289,698.00			289,698.00	266,145.27	23,552.73
Old Rochester Regional Assessment	5,165,848.00			5,165,848.00	5,165,848.00	-
Old Colony Reg. Voc. Tech. Assessment	1,482,221.00	-	-	1,482,221.00	1,482,221.00	-
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>13,608,919.00</b>	<b>698,617.68</b>	<b>512,952.27</b>	<b>14,822,221.00</b>	<b>14,822,221.00</b>	<b>43,701.86</b>

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUES**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

**TAXES:**

Real Estate	14,868,993	
Personal Property	772,682	
Motor Vehicle Excise	1,151,284	
Penalties and Interest	26,762	\$16,819,721

**IN LIEU OF TAXES:**

SEMASS/Covanta	4,353,699	
City of New Bedford	114,525	\$4,468,224

**OTHER CHARGES FOR SERVICES:**

Waste Connection Fees	8,745	
Ambulance	332,447	\$341,193

**OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE:**

Assessors	1,693	
Treasurer	10	
Tax Collector	0	
Conservation Commission	400	
Planning Board	7,824	
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,669	
Police	13,453	
Fire	1,856	
Board of Health	16,177	
Tax Title Costs	16	
Municipal Liens	8,250	
Town Clerk	8,190	
Textile Recycling Receipts	187	
Solicitor Fingerprint Fee	420	
Police 3rd Party Fees	6,675	\$67,819

**LICENSES:**

Liquor License	3,225	
Police Department	4,125	
Board of Health	2,030	
Cable TV Franchise Fee	755	\$10,135

# ***Report of the*** **TOWN TREASURER** *(As of June 30th, 2022)*

Beginning Cash Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$ 8,883,652.01
Cash Receipts 7/1/2022-6/30/2023	30,905,934.97
Warrants Paid 7/1/2022-6/30/2023	<u>(29,838,534.51)</u>
Total Ending Cash balance on hand 6/30/2023	\$ 9,951,052.47
Petty Cash/Accountant	<u>900.00</u>
Total Cash Proof to Accountant	\$9,951,952.47

General Funds 9,992,261.75

Agency Account: - RMS Student Activity 37,510.49

Escrow:

- Appeals Board	0.00
- Conservation	9,231.31
- Board of Health	3,335.03
- Planning Board	41,356.61

Surety:

- Conservation	0.00
- Planning Board	35,604.69

Special Revenue Fund Balances:

Cultural Council	325.81
Education Fund	615.46
Parks & Recreation	62,676.80
Scholarship Fund	187.50
Septic Repayment/Betterment	37,803.16

Stabilization

– General	583,070.00
– Public Safety	64,029.33
– School Assessment	112,647.45
– SPED	52,136.53
– Road Improvement	56,021.24
– Capital Improvement	54,410.58

Conservation Commission 5,937.33

<u>Trust Fund Balances:</u>	<u>Non-Expendable</u>	<u>Expendable</u>
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*School Funds:*

Dr. Caleb Briggs	4,000.00	10,133.34
Thomas Ellis	4,440.26	12,027.31
Brendan M. McGee Music Scholarship	0.00	337.43

<u>Trust Fund Balances continued:</u>	<u>Non-Expendable</u>	<u>Expendable</u>
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*Library Funds:*

Judah Hathaway	1,500.00	5,257.23
Elizabeth G. Leonard	1,500.00	5,393.21
Elizabeth G. & Charles F. Leonard	1,500.00	1,680.97
Clarence W. Maxim	1,336.33	4,886.57

John S. Ryder	2,722.63	4,355.39
Sophronia G. Sherman	1,300.00	3,953.67
Annie R. Thorpe	1,500.00	4,822.73

*Miscellaneous Trusts:*

Law Enforcement Trust	0.00	4,296.46
Clarence W. Maxim - Red Cross	2,495.84	14,969.37
Clarence W. Maxim - School Athletics	2,495.84	2,536.19
Clarence W. Maxim - Boy Scouts	1,247.93	1,326.57
Marcus & Rebecca Officer Maxim Memorial Lot	0.00	7,391.81
Samuel Sprague - Worthy Poor Legacy	500.00	12,375.08

*Cemetery Perpetual Care:*

Ashley Cemetery	200.00	85.63
Center Cemetery	3,650.00	1,475.25
Hillside Cemetery	13,371.70	2,874.15
North Rochester Cemetery	18,970.00	17,376.62
Sherman Cemetery	16,900.00	9,492.00
Union Cemetery	7,495.37	2,953.85
Woodside Cemetery	1,311.94	542.80
Total Trusts	88,437.84	147,841.27

OPEB Trust	171,285.83
Total Cash	\$ 9,951,052.47

Total Long Term Debt Principal Outstanding June 30, 2023 \$ 5,590,000.00

Schedule of Long-Term Debt and Interest Outstanding:

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>
#1 04/15/2004	Land Acquisition-Cons	4.20	10/15/2023	2,018.75	
				04/15/2024	2,018.75
85,000.00					
Total Land Acquisition-Conservation				4,037.50	85,000.00
<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>
#2 1/15/2011	School Project/Fire Trk	3.64	07/15/2023	82,431.25	
			01/15/2024	82,431.25	535,000.00
			07/15/2024	72,400.00	
			01/15/2025	72,400.00	555,000.00
			07/15/2025	61,300.00	
			01/15/2026	61,300.00	570,000.00
			07/15/2026	49,900.00	
			01/15/2027	49,900.00	590,000.00
			07/15/2027	38,100.00	
			01/15/2028	38,100.00	615,000.00
			07/15/2028	25,800.00	
			01/15/2029	25,800.00	635,000.00
			07/15/2029	13,100.00	
			01/15/2030	13,100.00	655,000.00
Total School Project/Fire Truck.				686,062.50	4,155,000.00

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>
#3 1/1/2013	Multi-Purpose Twn/Sch	2.00	07/01/2023	15,525.00	
			01/01/2024	15,525.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2024	14,175.00	
			01/01/2025	14,175.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2025	12,825.00	
			01/01/2026	12,825.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2026	11,475.00	
			01/01/2027	11,475.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2027	10,125.00	
			01/01/2028	10,125.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2028	8,437.50	
			01/01/2029	8,437.50	135,000.00
			07/01/2029	6,750.00	
			01/01/2030	6,750.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2030	5,062.50	
			01/01/2031	5,062.50	135,000.00
			07/01/2031	3,375.00	
			01/01/2032	3,375.00	135,000.00
			07/01/2032	1,687.50	
			<u>01/01/2033</u>	<u>1,687.50</u>	<u>135,000.00</u>
Total Multi-Purpose Town/School				178,875.00	1,350,000.00

*\*Indicates true interest cost over loan life*

Total All Long-Term Debt Principal \$5,590,000.00

Total Short Term Debt Principal Outstanding June 30, 2023 \$444,600.00

Schedule of Short-Term Debt and Interest Outstanding:

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Principal</b>
#1 10/21/2022	BAN-Ambulance	4.38	10/20/2023	4193.12	96,000.00
#2 07/1/2022	BAN-Fire Pumper	2.75	07/01/2023	9,559.87	348,600.00
Total All Short-Term Debt Principal					\$444,600.00

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashling McLoughlin, Treasurer

# *Report of the* **TOWN CLERK**

## **2023 VITAL RECORD INFORMATION**

### **DEATHS – 43**

Rodney M. Quintal, Jr.	January 12, 2023
Kari b. Sgourakes	January 22, 2023
Irene D. Lopes	February 1, 2023
Lee Roberts	February 4, 2023
Richard Moniz	February 16, 2023
Lawrence G. Leger	February 17, 2023
Helen Edith Demello	February 26, 2023
Karen J. Ouelette	March 2, 2023
John Joseph Forest	March 5, 2023
Todd Michael Pouilot	March 9, 2023
Carol A. Munroe	March 27, 2023
Timothy Lloyd Clark	April 7, 2023
George B. Dornblaser Jr.	April 19, 2023
Janice A. Kirby	April 27 2023
Thomas J. Medeiros	May 8, 2023
Bruce Falukner, Jr.	May 17, 2023
Jeanette M. Magan	May 18, 2023
Torrie Eric Wrightington	June 5, 2023
John Gonsalves	June 14, 2023
Marcia Jean O'Neill	June 21, 2023
Henry De Mello Jr.	June 19, 2023
John Sousa	June 16, 2023
Karen Estelle Cole	June 28, 2023
Scott P. Ashley	July 22, 2023
William R Kirshkaln	July 31, 2023
Shannon Gangemi	August 23, 2023
Scott Gauvin	August 30, 2023
Paul Francis Bodeau	September 13, 2023
Diane A Delowery	September 19, 2023
Timothy Scott Ridings	September 22, 2023

Bernice Louis (Decker) Sylvia	September 30, 2023
Dianne Jardin	October 4, 2023
Kristopher Michael Westcoat	October 2, 2023
Judith Marie Ferrari	November 12, 2023
Paul Michael Boudreaux	November 16, 2023
Jonathon A Fernau	November 19, 2023
John King	November 23, 2023
Alexander J Thomson	November 27, 2023
Christopher J Peck	December 2, 2023
Barbara J Mabee	December 3, 2023
Louise Mae Robinson	December 4, 2023
Ernest J Davoll Sr.	December 10, 2023
Michael J Kauranen	December 25, 2023

### **BIRTHS:39**

Males –21 Females – 18

### **MARRIAGES: 17**

**Town of Rochester**  
**Annual Town Meeting - May 22, 2023**

Town Moderator David Arancio, having declared the presence of a quorum, called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Moderator Arancio introduces the various Town Officials on the stage and explains the rules of procedure to be used during the course of the Town Meeting.

Kris Stoltenberg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided the Town Meeting with an update concerning the overall financial outlook of the Town.

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the following be allowed to address the Annual Town Meeting:

- Glenn Cannon, Town Administrator
  - Jay Talerman, Town Counsel
  - Andrew Daniel, Facility Director
  - Robert Small, Police Chief
  - Karen Trudeau, Principal Assessor
  - Eric Poulin, Council on Aging Director
- Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 1: REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, That the Town accept the annual reports of all Town Officers and Committees.

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES**

Kris Stoltenberg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to fix the salaries of the elected officials of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024 as provided in the recommended column of Article 2.

	Previous	Requested	Recommended
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	100	100	100
Special Town Meeting	50	50	50
Select Board (3) each member	5,171.00	5,326.00	5,326.00
Board of Assessors (3) each member	7,030.00	7,241.00	7,241.00
Tax Collector	29,876.00	30,773.00	30,773.00
Town Clerk	42,024.00	43,285.00	43,285.00
Tree Warden	1,795.00	1,850.00	1,850.00
Constables (2)	15.00/hr.	15.00/hr.	15.00/hr.
Highway Surveyor	90,706.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
Board of Health Chairman	2,424.00	2,497.00	2,497.00
Board of Health (2) each member	2,024.00	2,085.00	2,085.00
Herring Inspector	514	530	530

**MOTION**

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 3: PERSONNEL BY-LAW AMENDMENT –CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN**

Kris Stoltenberg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town amend Part IV, Classification and Compensation Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, effective July 1, 2023 as printed in the warrant and remove the COA Outreach position, Library Youth Services position, the Program Assistant COA position, the Library Page position, the Van Driver position and the COA Custodian position from the table as reflected in the handout.

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 4: ROCHESTER FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET**

Kris Stoltenberg, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Town vote to transfer:

\$500,000 from Free Cash  
\$12,000 from Receipts reserved for appropriation - Dog Fund  
\$4,000 from Receipts reserved for appropriation - Sale of Cemetery Lots  
To raise \$24,559,010 and appropriate \$25,075,010  
for the purposes specified in the Finance Committee recommendations printed in the warrant, as amended by prior votes; and that the complete text of Article 4 be included in the official record.

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 5: SPENDING LIMITS ON REVOLVING FUNDS**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town fix the spending limits for fiscal year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023 for the revolving funds established in the town by-laws in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as provided in Article 5 as printed in the Warrant.

Motion passed by Majority Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 6: NATURAL RESOURCE EXPENSES**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, move that the Town raise and appropriate \$300 for the Natural Resource Expenses as printed in the Warrant.

FUND FY 2024 NATURAL RESOURCE EXPENSES

DEPARTMENT ITEM/PROJECT

Select Board Planting of Shellfish (Marion) \$300.00

TOTAL ASSESSMENT \$300.00Motion

Passed by Majority Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 7: OPEB FUNDING**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the total sum of \$15,000 to fund the Town’s future obligations for the cost of Other Post-Employment Benefits identified by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 75 Report.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 8: STABILIZATION FUND**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded that the Town

transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to the Stabilization Fund.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 9: PUBLIC SAFETY STABILIZATION FUND**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Public Safety Stabilization Fund.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 10: ROAD IMPROVEMENTS STABILIZATION FUND**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to the Road Improvements Stabilization Fund.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 11: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Capital Improvements Fund.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 12: BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to the Board of Assessors for the purpose of funding Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandates as they relate to revaluation/recertification processes.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 13: CAPITAL PLAN FUNDING**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from the Capital Improvements Fund the total sum of Two Hundred Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Two Dollars (\$208,532) for the capital expenditures as printed in the warrant.

**Fire/EMS** – Forty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$43,732) for a Power Load System for Ambulance 207

**Fire/EMS** – Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$20,350) for a Power Pro Stretcher

**Park** – Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for an AED Machine at Dexter Park

**Highway** – Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$22,350) for Dump Body/Chip Box

**Library** – Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) for a Basement Heat Pump

**Rochester Memorial School** – Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for HVAC Building Management System

**Rochester Memorial School** - Twenty-Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$23,100) for Surveillance Cameras

**Highway** – Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for a Double Cab Plow Truck Moderator  
Arancio declares the motion passed by the required 2/3 vote.

#### **ARTICLE 14: MATCHING GRANT FUNDS**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for matching grant fund requirements.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 15: OLD COLONY BORROWING AUTHORIZATION**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that The Town approve the \$500,000 indebtedness authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School District to pay costs of a feasibility study relating to the possible renovation and/or construction of the District High School, located at 476 North Avenue, Rochester, Massachusetts, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 16: HIGHWAY/FIRE OVERTIME – PRIOR YEAR**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Three dollars and Fifty cents (\$13,843.50) and authorize the Town Accountant to make necessary distributions to the respective department budgets relative to the DPW employees working overtime as call Fire Fighters for the past two fiscal years.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 17: PERSONNEL BY-LAWS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to reimburse eligible Town employees that attend qualified educational classes as outlined in the Personnel By-Law dated June 9, 1997 amended through August 19, 2022, Part X, Educational Assistance.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 18: NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from free cash the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Forty-One Dollars (\$29,041) for the prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders in accordance with the State-Subdivision Agreement.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 19: COA GENERATOR**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Forty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000) for the purchase of a Generator for the Council of Aging, and related costs.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

#### **ARTICLE 20: FY22 POLICE SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL – PRIOR YEAR**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Thousand One Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,175) and authorize the Town Accountant to make the necessary disbursements to the respective departmental budgets per the terms and conditions of the Police Union Contract dated August 15, 2022.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 21: POLICE – 111F – INJURED ON DUTY PAYOUT**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to fund any 111F payments for police officers.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 22: BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL – FY22 PRIOR YEAR**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$71,756) to fund the outstanding Bristol County Agricultural High School Capital Debt for Fiscal Year 2023 as outlined in the settlement agreement dated March 28, 2023.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 23: BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL – FY23 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

Finance Committee Chair Kris Stoltenberg moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$65,767) to fund the outstanding Bristol County Agricultural High School Capital Debt for Fiscal Year 2023 as outlined in the settlement agreement dated March 28, 2023.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 24: VETERANS TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town establish a property tax work-off program for taxpayers who are veterans. Under this program, the veteran “volunteers” his or her services to a city or town and earns a reduction in his or her property tax bill. The Town may adjust the exemption by: (i) allowing an approved representative for persons physically unable to provide such services to the city or town; or (ii) allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$1,500.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 25: APPOINTED TOWN CLERK**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town change the elected position of Town Clerk to a Select Board appointed position of Town Clerk pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41 § 1B.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 26: SOLAR – PILOT REWILD RENEWABLES**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”) pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 38H, or any other enabling authority, in a value equivalent of property taxes assessed on a full and fair cash valuation basis and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board may deem in the best interest of the Town, for real and personal property attributable to a solar photovoltaic facility on privately owned land located at 0 Cushman Road MAP 33, Parcel 11, 0 Featherbed Lane MAP 46, Parcel 24, 0 Braley Hill Road MAP 48, Parcel 32, Parcel 33 and Parcel 34, 523 Snipatuit Road, MAP 47, Parcel 1, Parcel 4 and Parcel 9.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 27: RESCINDING ARTICLE 4 OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2018 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (STRETCH ENERGY CODE GENERAL BY LAW) AND EXITING THE GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town rescind Article 4 of the November 19, 2018, Special Town Meeting (Stretch Energy Code General By Law), and authorize the Select Board to withdraw from the Green Communities Program.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 28: RESCIND ARTICLE 16 OF THE MAY 22, 2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (CHAPTER 19.60: TEMPORARY MORATORIUM MARIJUANARETAILSALE)**

Prior to action on this Article, Planning Board Chair informed the Town Meeting that the Planning Board conducted a public hearing on this Article on April 11, 2023. Following said hearing the Planning Board voted to recommend passage of this Article to the Town Meeting.

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town amend the Town of Rochester Zoning Bylaws to delete Chapter 19.60: Temporary Moratorium Marijuana Retail Sale.

Motion Passed by a Declared 2/3 Majority

**ARTICLE 29: AMEND THE TOWN OF ROCHESTER ZONING BY LAWS CHAPTER 22.10 SECTION 1.14.2**

Prior to action on this Article, Planning Board Chair informed the Town Meeting that the Planning Board conducted a public hearing on this Article on April 11, 2023. Following said hearing the Planning Board voted to recommend passage of this Article to the Town Meeting.

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town amend the Town of Rochester Zoning Bylaws Section 22.10: Site Plan Review and Approval, Section 1.14.2 (Cost Covered by the Review Fee), as amended through December 15, 2020.

Delete the last sentence in Chapter 22.10, Section 1.14.2:

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44. Section 53C

Insert the Following:

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44. Section 53G

Motion Passed by a Declared 2/3 Majority

**ARTICLE 30: AMEND THE TOWN OF ROCHESTER ZONING BY LAWS TO REMOVE CHAPTER 19.50 (ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT)**

Prior to action on this Article, Planning Board Chair informed the Town Meeting that the Planning Board conducted a public hearing on this Article on April 11, 2023. Following said hearing the Planning Board voted to recommend passage of this Article to the Town Meeting.

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town amend the Town of Rochester Zoning Bylaws to remove Section 19.50: Orderly Development.

Motion Passed by a Declared 2/3 Majority

**ARTICLE 31: TOWN ELECTION**

Select Board Chair Greenwood Hartley, III moved, and it was duly seconded, that the Town choose by ballot all necessary officers for the ensuing year, viz; one member of the Select Board for three years; one Tax Collector for three years; one Town Clerk for three years; one member of the Board of Health for three years; one member of the Cemetery Commission for three years, one member of the Board of Assessors for three years; one member of the Park Commission for three years; one Herring Inspector for three years; two members of the Board of Library Trustees for three years; two members of the Planning Board for five years; two members of the Rochester Memorial School Committee for three years; one member of the Old Rochester Regional School Committee for three years; one member of the Water Commission for three years; and to vote on Question No. 1 as follows: Shall the Town vote to have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk?; for the Town; on Wednesday, the 24th day of May, 2023, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning in the Rochester Senior Center, 67 Dexter Lane, in said Rochester.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 32: CITIZEN’S PETITION –GREEN COMMUNITIES STRE**

Bendrix Bailey moved, and it was duly seconded, to indefinitely postpone Article 32.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote

There being no further business to come before the Town Meeting, Town Moderator David Arancio declared the Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Motion Passed by Majority Voice Vote.

## ***Report of the*** **PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board met regularly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. throughout the year, with the exception of November and December in the Town Hall Meeting Room for deliberations and conducted periodic project site visits during evenings or on Saturdays. The Rochester Planning Board reviewed the following matters with the assistance of the Town Planner Nancy Durfee and Board Administrator Dawn DeMaggio:

### Special Permits

Special Permit/ Groundwater Application and Scenic Highway in the Groundwater Protection District / 7 Marion Road, Map 30, Lot 25A, for an inground pool.

Amendment to a Large-Scale Photovoltaic Installation Special Permit and Groundwater Protection Decision / Featherbed Lane South Solar, LLC / 0 Featherbed Lane, Map 46, Lot 24.

Amendment to a Large-Scale Photovoltaic Installation Special Permit and Groundwater Protection District / Braley Hill North Solar, LLC / 0 Braley Hill Road, Map 48, Lots 32 and 36.

Large Scale Photovoltaic Installation Special Permit and Site Plan Review Application and Special Permit for Groundwater Protection and Mattapoissett River Valley Watershed / Bluewave Solar, d/b/a BWC Snows Pond, LLC / 0 Cushman Road, Map 33, Lot 41 A-0.

Extension Request for a Large-Scale Photovoltaic Special Permit and Groundwater Protection District Special Permit / 0 Cushman Road, Map 33, Lot 11.

Special Permit and Site Plan Review Application / Rochester Properties, LLC / 621 County Road, Map 17, Lot 47 for a marijuana and retail operation.

Special Permit for a Residential Back Lot Application and Approval Not Required / Leith Patnaude / 572 Snipatuit Road, Map 43, Lot 8.

### Definitive Subdivisions

1. A Modification to Definite Subdivision and Flexible Development Plan/Edgewood Development/ Connect Woods, designated at Map 30, Lot 25D.

### Scenic Highway

Buzzards Bay Coalition and Elliot Farms/ 0 Marion Road, Scenic Highway Application for deer fencing.

### Approval Not Required

Blais Family Trust / New Bedford Road

Alan Cervelli / 338 Vaughn Hill Road

Rebecca & Logan Smith / 2 Bishop Road

Leith Patnaude / 572 Snipatuit Road

JPF Development, LLC / Kings Highway & Route 28

### Site Plan Reviews

Rochester Properties, LLC / 0 Cranberry Highway

Tree Talk Natives / 157 Vaughn Hill Road, Nursery

Mark & Ashley Briggs / 0 New Bedford Road, Hobby Barn, Withdrawn Without Prejudice

JPF Development, LLC / Kings Highway & Route 28, Storage Facility

## **Zoning By-Law Amendments**

Chapter 19.20 General Zoning

Chapter 19.50 Orderly Development

Chapter 19.60 Temporary Moratorium Marijuana Retail Sale

Chapter 22.50 Large Scale Photovoltaic Installations

Chapter 40A Amendment to the Zoning Map and Rochester Zoning By-Laws

Chapter 22.10 Site Plan Review, Typographical Error Correction

## **CHAPTER 61A (AGRICULTURAL/HORTICULTURAL LAND) AND 61B (RECREATIONAL LAND)**

May 9, 2023 - Notice of Intent to Sell Chapter 61A Agricultural and Horticultural land from William Chamberlain, Manager Decas Cranberry Co. LLC, for property off Mary's Pond Road designated as Map 12, Lot 2. The Planning Board recommended the Board of Selectmen to not exercise the First Right of Refusal

June 13, 2023 - Notice of Intent to Convert Chapter 61A Agricultural and Horticultural land from Fruit d'Or Real Estate, for property at 109 Neck Road designated as Map 40, Parcel 3. The Planning Board recommended the Board of Selectmen to not exercise the First Right of Refusal

December 12, 2023 – Right of First Refusal: Marc Wilson: Chapter 61A, Notice of Sale: 0 Bishop Road, Map 43-A, Lots 71 and 72: The Planning Board recommended the Board of Selectmen to not exercise the First Right of Refusal

December 12, 2023 - Notice of Intent to Convert Chapter 61B Recreational land from Judith Dupont, for property off Featherbed Lane designated as Map 46, Lot 24. The Planning Board recommended the Board of Selectmen to not exercise the First Right of Refusal

The Board has provided oversight of several projects including the Village at Plumb Corner, The Playground at Countryside Child Care, Connet Woods, Trailside, Solar Projects on Old Middleboro Road and Neck Road, Meagan's Organic Market, Tree Talk Natives Nursery, Kings Highway Storage Facility, and National Storage Facility.

Respectfully submitted by the Rochester Planning Board and staff,

Arnold Johnson, Chairman

John DeMaggio, Vice Chairman

Bendrix Bailey, Clerk

Michael Murphy, Associate Clerk

Lee Carr, Member

Christopher Silveira, Member

Marc Rousseau, Member

Dawn DeMaggio, Board Administrator

Danielle Craig, Recording Secretary

Nancy Durfee, Town Planner

## ***Report of the***

# **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals held a total of fifteen (15) meetings and received twenty (20) applications for public hearings in 2023 resulting in 3 Special Permits granted and 9 Variances granted. There was also one (1) Special Permit and two (2) Variance applications denied.

**#1174** Travis Andrade and Caitlin Vandal of 9 Coombs Road, identified on Assessor's Map 44A, Lot 37, requesting a one-year extension on their Variance which was originally approved on February 24, 2022, by the Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals. APPROVED FOR 6 MONTH EXTENSION ON 3/9/2023.

**#1187** Chris Barton for property located at 3 Bennet Road, identified on Assessor's Map 44A, Lot 18, who is seeking a Variance for the construction of an addition to an existing garage to be located closer than the 40-foot setback requirement to the side property line under Chapter 20.40, Section D.1., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. APPROVED ON 01/12/2023.

**#1184** Continuation -JPF Development, LLC for property located at 0 & 25 Cranberry Highway, identified on assessors Map 17, Lots 29, 29A, 30, 31A 55, 56, who is seeking a Special Permit to allow the use of a self-storage facility in the industrial zone under Chapter 20.40, Section F.6, of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. APPROVED ON 01/26/2023

**#1182** Continuation-Matt Dessert on behalf of Robert Murphy for property located at 19 County Road, identified on Assessor's Map 10, Lot 3A, who is seeking a Variance to construct an 80- foot by 204-foot steel building with 10 separate bays for personal use, which is over the 1,000 square feet that is allowed per Chapter 20.40, Section E.2. of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. DENIED ON 01/26/2023.

**#1185** Continuation- Petition of Matt Dessert on behalf of Robert Murphy for property located at 19 County Rd, identified on Assessors Map 10, Lot 3A, who is seeking a Special Permit to rent a few bays of a proposed 80-foot by 204-foot steel building, with 10 separate bays, and to have a trucking establishment on the property with up to 3 employees under Chapter 20.40, Section F.6., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. DENIED ON 01/26/2023.

**#1181** Continuation-Erik Zak for property located at 0 Quaker Lane, identified on Assessor's Map 38, Lot 16, who is seeking a Variance for the creation of a single house lot which does not meet the minimum frontage requirement per Chapter 20.40, Section D.1. of Rochester Zoning By-Laws. DENIED ON 03/09/23.

**#1188** Scot D. Machos on behalf of the Life Estate of Jeanette Barboza, for property located at 15 County Road, identified on Assessor's Map 10, Lot 3D, who is seeking a Variance under Chapter 20.40, Section E2, for approval of the construction of a shed less than 10 feet from the rear lot set back requirement. GRANTED ON 3/9/2023

**#1189** Sharon Grant, for property located at 24 Mayflower Lane, identified on Assessor's Map 21A, Lot 41, who is seeking a Special Permit under Chapter 20.40, Section F.9, for approval of the construction of an additional dwelling unit above the garage. GRANTED ON 4/27/23

**#1190** Carl H. MacDermott III, for property located at 128 Dexter Lane, identified on Assessor's Map 6, Lot 11E, who is seeking a Special Permit under Chapter 20.40, Section

F.9, for the approval of the conversion of the basement into an additional dwelling unit. WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE ON 5/11/23

**#1191** Carl H. MacDermott III, for property located at 128 Dexter Lane, identified on Assessor's Map 6, Lot 11E, who is seeking a Variance for minimum required lot square footage and a Variance for minimum required lot frontage, under Chapter 20.40, Section E.16. GRANTED ON 5/11/23

**#1192** Randal G. Hutchings, prospective buyer for property located at 8 Robinson Road, identified on Assessor's Map 36, Lot 11, who is seeking a Use Variance under Chapter 20.40, Section F.6., for the approval of the operation of a small, wood pallet recycling business from the property. WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE ON 5/11/2023

**#1150** Five O'Clock Farms, LLC for property located at 66 Burgess Avenue, identified on Assessor's Map 15, Lot 19D, for a Special Permit under Chapter 20.40, Section F.6 (formerly Section VIII.D.6.), to operate a commercial equine operation. This is a remand hearing pursuant to Land Court Case No. 20 MISC 000507 (DRR). WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE 5/25/2023

**#1193** Walter Hartley on behalf of Jon and Jaqueline Hartley, for property located at 178 Clapp Road, identified on Assessor's Map 11, Lot 6M, who is seeking a Variance for the minimum required 40 ft. front lot line setback on the construction of an addition to an existing dwelling, under Chapter 20.40, Section D.1., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. GRANTED ON 6/8/2023

**#1194** Robert and Christine Murphy for property located at 19 County Road, identified on Assessor's Map 10, Lot 3A, appealing a Notice of Violation/Cease and Desist order issued by the Town of Rochester Building Commissioner on April 25, 2023, for the operation of a trucking business with stockpiles of construction materials on the property in violation of the Rochester Zoning By-Law. APPEAL DENIED DUE TO UNTIMELY FILING ON 7/13/2023. CEASE AND DESIST UPHELD.

**#1195** Scot D. Machos for property located at 15 County Road, identified on Assessor's Map 10, Lot 3D, appealing a Notice of Violation/Cease and Desist order issued by the Town of Rochester Building Commissioner on June 4, 2023, for the operation of a transportation company on the property in violation of the Rochester Zoning By-Law. APPEAL GRANTED ON 7/27/2023. CEASE AND DESIST OVERTURNED.

**#1196** Amy and Jesse Hartley-Matteson, for property located at 149 Marion Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 8, Lot 17C, who is seeking a Variance for the lot size requirement, and a Variance to allow an increase in the structure floor area to exceed 30%, under chapter 20.40, Section F.9.a., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. GRANTED ON 08/10/2023.

**#1197** Logan Smith, for property located at 2 Bishop Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 43A, Lot 34, who is seeking a Variance for the 40 ft. minimum side setback of an existing pool shed, under chapter 20.40, Section E.2., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE ON 09/28/2023

**#1198** William and Lori Souza, for property located at 85 High St, identified on Assessor's Map 21, Lot 17B, who is seeking a Special Permit for the purpose of renting of rooms or furnishing of board for not more than four persons in a single-family dwelling unit, under Chapter 20.40, Section F.2., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. GRANTED ON 09/28/2023

**#1199** Benjamin & Elizabeth Frade, for property located at 16 Bishop Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 43A, Lot 86, who are seeking a Special Permit for an in-home dog training business, under Chapter 20.40, § F. 6., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. CONTINUED UNTIL 11/30/2023-WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE 11/30/2023

**#1200** Luis and Kerri Rivera, for property located at 142 Sarah Sherman Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 29, Lot 16, who is seeking a Variance from the minimum required 40-foot rear setback on an above-ground pool, under Chapter 20.40, Section E.2., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws. GRANTED ON 11/9/2023

Respectfully submitted,  
David Arancio, Chairman  
Thomas Flynn, Vice Chairman  
Richard Cutler, Member  
Davis Sullivan, Member  
Donald Spirlet, Member  
Jeffrey Costa, Associate Member  
Michelle Upton, Associate Member  
Andreia Lacerda, Administrative Assistant

*Report of the*  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND TOWN  
FOREST COMMITTEE**

Members & Purpose

Rochester has a long history of preserving important ecological, agricultural, cultural and water supply related lands for future generations. The Town of Rochester established the Conservation Commission & Town Forest Committee (“Commission”) in 1963 under the Conservation Commission Act.

The Commission is responsible for protecting Rochester’s natural resources, managing the Town Forest and conservation lands, administering the Massachusetts and Town Wetland Protection statutes, and advising other municipal officials and boards on conservation and environmental matters.

The Rochester Conservation Commission office is located at the Town Hall Annex at 37 Marion Road; office hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The office can be reached by calling 508-763-5421 extension 206. The Commission holds public meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room. All hearings are advertised in The Wanderer at least five (5) calendar days before the meeting.

Commission Staff

The Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent and Board Administrator work under the direction of the Conservation Commission and provide support, coordination, and professional management of the Conservation Commission in carrying out its mission to protect Rochester’s natural resources. Commission staff assists landowners, developers, applicants, engineers and the general public to provide due diligence information and professional advice on the Wetlands Protection Act and Rochester Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Commission staff assists the Commission in planning, acquisition, administration and management of municipal conservation land and conservation restrictions.

The Conservation Commission welcomed a new recording secretary, Danielle Craig, and Drew McManus was sworn in as a new member. The Commission wishes to recognize associate member Kevin Thompson for his years of dedicated service to the Rochester Conservation Commission.

**2023 Wetland Protection Act and Rochester Wetlands By-law Filings**

The Rochester Conservation Commission held 18 meetings and attended 2 Interdepartmental Meetings in the year 2023. The following is a summary of the applications received and formal actions by the Commission in 2023.

Permits/Actions

Building Department Interdepartmental Review	
Board of Health Percolation Review	22
Notice of Intent Applications	9
RDA Applications	8
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area	
Delineation (ANRAD)	2

Extension of Order of Conditions	3
Certificates of Compliance	11
Emergency Certifications	0
Enforcement Orders	2
Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal	4
Chapter 91 Waterways License	1
Conservation Restriction	1
Tree Removal Request	1

2023 Accomplishments

Commission Members and Staff Conducted Field Site Visits on Weekends Throughout the Year to Review Proposed Projects and Monitor Construction Activity.

Commission Members and Staff participated in a training program through the MACC (Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions) that ensures that conservation commissions make informed, smart, and legally sound decisions protecting wetlands and open space and implements the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Christopher Gerrior, Chairman  
 Bendrix Bailey, Vice-Chairman  
 Matthew Bache  
 Bill Milka  
 Michael Gifford  
 Carl MacDermott  
 Drew McManus  
 Dawn DeMaggio, Board Administrator  
 Danielle Craig, Recording Secretary  
 Merilee Kelly, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

# ***Report of the***

## **MATTAPOISETT RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### History and Purpose of MRVWSPAC

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee (MRVWSPAC) was established in 1980 by the Towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, and Rochester. The organization grew out of a concern for the aquifer underlying the Mattapoisett River watershed, from which all four towns draw water supplies. Special legislation was enacted in 1983 (Chapter 407) formalizing the Committee.

The MRVWSPAC is made up of three (3) representatives from each Town for a total of 12 members. The MRVWSPAC holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works Office in Fairhaven. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MRVWSPAC has been meeting remotely using Zoom since April 2020 with the exception of the November 2022 meeting, which was held at Fairhaven Board of Public Works Office.

In February 2023, Ms. Angeline Lopes Ellison, Fairhaven Town Administrator, was appointed by the Fairhaven Select Board as the third Fairhaven representative for the Committee following the retirement of Ms. Wendy Graves.

In February 2023, Mr. David Pierce was appointed as the third Marion representative for the Committee replacing Nathaniel Munafo.

### Mattapoisett River Valley Aquifer

The Mattapoisett River and its aquifer provide fresh water for water supply, recreation, and agriculture to several communities in Bristol and Plymouth Counties in Massachusetts. In 2023, the aquifer supplied approximately 1.68 million gallons per day for Mattapoisett River Valley Water District residential and commercial water supply customers in the Towns of Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, Marion, and Rochester.

### Summary of 2023 MRVWSPAC Accomplishments

Monitored stream flow and water levels at numerous locations in the vicinity of the Mattapoisett River. Maintained a database of critical water level data.

Funded Annual Mattapoisett River Hydrologic Monitoring Report.

Purchased the following new monitoring well electronic equipment to replace malfunctioning devices, which reached the end of their useful life.

- o Three (3) water level transducers (Leveloggers).

- Environmental review of projects in the Mattapoisett River Valley:

- o Reviewed plans for the following projects within the watershed and sent comment letters to the Rochester Planning Board:

1. ANR Application – Map 38, Lot 16 Quaker Lane, Rochester.

2. 250kW Solar Canopy – Rochester Memorial School.

3. ANR Application – 572 Snipatuit Road, Rochester.

4. Solar Array Construction – 0 Cushman Road, Rochester.

• The Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) continued to work on funding the balance of the land purchase of approximately 240 acres of land owned by Dennis Mahoney & Sons, Inc. and Long Plain Land Co., LLC. following receipt of a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant in August 2022. Additional funding included \$150,000 from the MRVWSPAC, private fund raising, other grant applications, and Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding with partnering Towns including Acushnet, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. CPC funding was approved by all Towns in 2023 and all properties were formally acquired in July 2023. A ceremony dedicating the land acquisition occurred on November 20, 2023.

• In November 2023, Mr. David Wong from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conducted a presentation for the Advisory Committee on invasive species in Snipatuit Pond and the Mattapoisett River Watershed. Mr. Wong discussed various invasive species that have been identified in the area, various means that can be implemented to mitigate species currently in place, preventative measures to minimize the spread of invasive species, and funding opportunities for invasive species control.

The MRVWSPAC wishes to recognize the members of its consulting team for their excellent work and contributions in 2023:

Tata & Howard	Engineering Consultant
Blair Bailey, Esq.	MRVWSPAC Counsel
David Watling	Mattapoisett River Valley field monitoring and data collection
Meagan McCarthyData	reduction and graphing
Nettles Design	MRVWSPAC website management
Respectfully submitted,	
<u>Fairhaven Committee Members</u>	<u>Mattapoisett Committee Members</u>
Angeline Lopes Ellison	Daniel Chase
Vincent Furtado, Chairman	William Nicholson
Jeffrey Furtado, Treasurer	Henri Renauld, Vice Chairman
<u>Marion Committee Members</u>	<u>Rochester Committee Members</u>
Meghan Davis, Clerk	Rick Charon
Randy Parker	Sandy Keese
David Pierce	Merilee Kelly

## *Report of the* **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The Building Department issued the following permits from the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Add 1st Floor Bedroom	2	\$25,000.00	\$335.00
Additions	2	\$407,881.95	\$1,380.00
Alterations	5	\$187,350.00	\$1,660.00
ATM Kiosk	1	\$82,140.00	\$650.00
Barns	3	\$140,679.00	\$1,130.00
Basements (Finish)	3	\$128,059.54	\$315.00
Bulkheads	6	\$48,000.00	\$480.00
Decks / Porches	6	\$89,266.00	\$877.00
Demolition	3	\$30,000.00	\$375.00
Doors & Windows	33	\$389,414.21	\$2,600.00
Farmers Porch	1	\$8,000.00	\$114.00
Finish 2nd Floor Bedroom	1	\$40,000.00	\$400.00
Foundations	7	\$105,000.00	\$1,445.00
Garages	10	\$1,361,000.00	\$4,527.00
Gazebo	1	\$43,000.00	Waived
Heat Pumps	2	\$55,000.00	\$150.00
Kitchen Remodel	4	\$178,100.00	\$866.00
Mechanical	24	\$442,320.00	\$1,800.00
New Dwellings	11	\$3,800,811.00	\$17,481.00
Pavilion	2	\$20,000.00	\$200.00
Pellet & Wood Stoves/ Inserts/ Liners/Chimneys/Fireplaces	5	\$27,310.86	\$395.00
Pool House	1	\$6,000.00	\$256.00
Pools & Spas	10	\$284,575.00	\$1,160.00
Roofing	58	\$1,068,497.00	\$10,758.40
Shed & Pumphouse	1	\$49,500.00	\$528.00
Subtotal		\$9,144,964.00	\$49,882.40
Signs	3	\$3,000.00	\$250.00
Solar – Ground-Mounted	1	\$45,875.00	\$265.00
Solar – Roof-Mounted	70	\$3,216,973.09	\$46,351.00
Solarium	1	\$68,322.44	\$380.00
Temporary Tents	6	\$6,267.00	\$400.00
Weatherization	68	\$324,211.72	\$4,424.00
Wireless Tower Alterations	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>12,809,612.00</b>	<b>\$101,952.40</b>

The Building Department also issues all electrical, gas, and plumbing permits.

The number of permits issued and fees collected were as follows:

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Fee Collected</b>
Electrical	213	\$25,968.08
Gas	101	\$7625.00
Plumbing	78	\$8,420.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>\$42,013.08</b>

(The issuance of Oil Burner Permits was taken over by the Fire Dept. on 7/13/20)

The Building Department office hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Building Commissioner attends meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board as needed and attends monthly seminars for continuing education credits.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Boucher, Building Commissioner

Lori Walsh, Administrative Assistant

*Report of the*  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Our department has continued to see increases in activity. We have also been fortunate enough to obtain several grants to purchase much-needed equipment.

We had several full-time officer positions to fill this year due to retirements, and deployment of personnel to the Southern Border.

I would like to thank our officers for their efforts to maintain staffing levels and productivity. Thank you to Lt. Kemmett and our administrative assistants for their efforts in recruiting, hiring and training new personnel.

**Full Time Personnel & Appointment Date**

Chief Robert F. Small Jr.	1998
Lieutenant Donald D. Kemmett	1998
Sergeant Jason D. Denham	2014
Sergeant Austin R. Alves	2021
Sergeant Richard E. Heslin	2022
Detective Brendan M. Emberg	2017
Officer Sean J. Crook	2001
Officer Catherine M. Connolly	2022
Officer Emmanuel Matias	2022
Officer Connor Leddin	2023
Officer Amin Lakhal	2023
Officer Eugene Robinson	2023
Officer Andrew Bumpus	2023
Officer Eric Foley	2023
Administrative Clerk Patricia Knight	
Admin. Assistant Suzanne Maksy	

**Part Time Personnel**

Officer Scott Smith	2016
Officer Elijah Vicente-Roberts	2020
Officer James Hightower	2021
Officer Daniel Allende	2023

**Reserve Officers**

Officer Stephan Reimer  
Officer Lenard Mota  
Officer Peter Sylvia  
Police Matrons  
Patricia Knight

**Animal Control**

Anne Estabrook	
Firearms Permits Issued	205
License to carry a firearm	197
Firearms Identification Card	8

**2023 Arrests** **285**

In-custody	125
Summons	160
Protective Custody	0

<b><u>Criminal Offenses</u></b>	<b><u>562</u></b>
Homicide	1
Robbery	0
Rape	5
Indecent A&B	1
Pornography	2
Weapons Violations	8
Domestic A&B	15
Assaults	24
Aggravated Battery	6
Intimidation of a Witness	17
Operating Under the Influence	28
Disorderly Conduct	12
Liquor law violations	20
Trespassing	11
Narcotics violations	11
Burglary/B&E	4
Theft from a building	5
M/V thefts	4
Theft from a M/V	1
Larceny	23
Shoplifting	1
Vandalism/Destruction	16
Counterfeiting/forgery	4
Larceny false pretense	5
I.D theft	16
All other offenses	95
Traffic/By-law offenses	227
M/V citations	725
M/V crashes	106
Crash w/ injury	31
Fatalities	1
Overdoses	7
O.D fatalities	2
Grants Received	\$135,000
Bridge Training Reimbursement	\$ 9,000
Mass DOT Shared Spaces FY 23	50,000
Med Project	1,300
Municipal Road Safety FY 23	25,000
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance FY 24	49,700

As always, we have continued to receive tremendous support from the Town and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Robert F. Small Jr.  
Chief of Police

## *Report of the* **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

It is with great pride and honor that the officers and members of the Rochester Fire Department present this Calendar Year-2023 Annual Report. The information contained in this report serves as a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our Firefighters and EMT'S. We are thankful for the tremendous support received from our residents, Town leaders, and the other departments we have worked alongside during the reporting period. Our value to the community is measured directly by the services we provide. We pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality services to those who live, work, and visit our community.

In 2023, The Rochester Fire Department responded to 916 calls for service. Of those, 376 were Fire Department responses while 540 were EMS responses.

In 2023, the Rochester Fire Department was awarded a \$15,500 grant from the Department of Fire Services. The DFS grant money was used to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. The department has completed a Building Feasibility study outlining the needs of a new Fire Station. The selectmen have now put together a building committee which is currently seeking the most cost-effective type of building construction. Once we have a plan and cost, we can then share it with the residents of Rochester.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chief Scott Weigel

*Report of the*  
**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

In 2023, the Highway Department continued to work hard to provide the residents of Rochester with the best service possible by providing snow and ice removal, mowing, sweeping, tree maintenance, park maintenance, and maintaining and replacing damaged pavement of the Town’s 72 miles of roadway.

The Highway Department began repaving High Street, Brailey Hill Road, Tabor Lane and Ashley Brook Lane. The rainy season caused some delays, but the project was wrapped up in October of 2023.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all town boards, departments, and employees for their continuous support and especially to the employees of the highway department for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to the Town of Rochester.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeffrey Eldridge  
Highway Surveyor

## *Report of the*

# **MARION/ROCHESTER HEALTH DIRECTOR**

The Rochester Board of Health is pleased to submit its Town Report for 2023

Board Members are Sarah Eby, MHA, BSN, RN, Chairperson for the Board of Health, Member Glenn Lawrence, and Member Dale Barrows.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. We have part-time office hours Monday through Friday from 9 AM -12:00 PM. We are in the Annex Building at 37 Marion Road, Rochester.

Susan Kucinski has done a wonderful job as our new Board Administrator. You may recognize her name as she once was the Communication Officer/Supervisor for the Rochester Communications Center (which is now part of the ROCC). We are so lucky to have someone who has a background working for the town, and her family is well rooted in Rochester as her parents and a few family members live in Town. Susan has been busy updating our applications, stationery heading, and reorganizing the office books.

Connie Dolan, R.N. is our Public Health Nurse. She is busy following up on communicable diseases and conducting Wellness Clinics at the COA and the Annie Maxim House. She has updated agreements for insurance reimbursement, organized flu vaccine clinics, and works with the area public health nurses. She also attends the Region 5C Coalition Meetings. Thank you, Connie, for all of the good wellness programs you do for our community.

As Health Director for the Board of Health my duties include reviewing proposed septic plans, Title 5 septic inspections, witness percolation tests, inspection septic system construction, and general administration of the office.

Paul Moore, Beach Inspector collects water samples for a private beach on Bishop Road. Thanks, Paul, for helping us out.

The Board of Health, under the direction of our Tobacco Control Program, amended its tobacco regulations and adopted "Regulation of the Rochester Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products." So, the regulations define adult-only Retail Tobacco Stores, rolling papers, and Health Care Institutions. The regulations require basic cap, advanced cap, sale of business, and retail density are explained. Smoking Bars are prohibited in Rochester, cigar sales are regulated, flavored tobacco products are prohibited, nicotine content in electronic delivery systems with content greater than 35 milligrams per milliliter. Out of package sales are prohibited, nonresidential roll your own machines are prohibited. Violation and Fining Structures have been amended to meet the State's numbers.

Thank you, Megan DaCosta, Tobacco Control Program Inspector, for all your help in helping us to promulgate these regulations.

The Board of Health and area towns of Westport, Marion, Mattapoissett, and Freetown formed an inter-municipal agreement and collaborative to help with daily inspectional services. They provide personnel to do our restaurant inspections and can help with issues that come up daily. Funds for this service are provided through a Grant from the Department of Public Health. Westport serves as the Grant Administrator. It is a wonderful opportunity for Rochester to be a member in this statewide endeavor to stabilize Health Departments.

So, it is with great anticipation that I will be retiring at the end of June 2024. I have

spent close to 40 years working for Boards of Health. I am so grateful to have worked for Rochester, and I loved every minute of it! I met and worked with some awesome people, and I will truly miss my job. But the time has come for me to slow down my pace, and do the things that I enjoyed, but not enough time to do. So long Rochester and thank you for the great memories!

Inspections and Permits 2023

Percolation Tests 23

Well Permits 14

Title V Inspections 24

Septic Permits 32

Beach Samples 12

Septic Inspections 47

Building Permit Reviews 27

Karen A. Walega, MPH, CHO, RS  
Health Director

## *Report of the* **COUNCIL ON AGING**

The year 2023 was a record year for the Council on Aging. We set attendance records every single month for the entire year. Overall, 632 different people (unduplicated) visited us for the year. That means 632 individuals had a COA membership card and used it to check-in one or more times during the year. (Our previous highs were 453 people in 2022 and 436 in 2016.) We now average 297 regular visitors each month. Our small COA staff and larger group of volunteers help us produce quality programming to meet the needs of our community.

Our morning breakfast program continues to grow, and this is important as it is a daily fundraiser for the senior center. In 2023, we were awarded a grant for a new 14-passenger van which should be arriving in Summer 2024. We look forward to using it to take our seniors on various group outings. We continue to provide rides to medical and other appointments to Rochester residents aged sixty or older. While other COAs have limits on how far they will drive their residents, we are happy to say that we are able to drive our residents to their medical appointments locally and in Providence, Boston, or other locations. It is remarkable how much our transportation program has grown since the end of the pandemic, and we are grateful to the town and its taxpayers for allowing us to hire the necessary drivers and acquire the vehicles needed to make sure our older residents have their needs met.

We continued to improve our buildings and grounds throughout 2023 and more town departments are utilizing our space for meetings. We are proud of our facilities and of the elevated level of service that we provide to our town's sixty and older population. Whether they need assistance with completing a form or application, a ride to a doctor's appointment or simply to enjoy a nourishing meal and/or to socialize or participate in an exercise or activity, we are a one-stop shop that can meet their needs. When and if we cannot help, our staff and volunteers are knowledgeable enough to refer folks to another agency that can.

A big thanks to our most valuable resource, our seniors! You have raised children & grandchildren, have paid taxes, and voted and done everything that you were supposed to do. As you grow older, please know that we are here for you to offer a helping hand.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rochester Council on Aging Board of Directors

*Report of the*  
**CEMETERY COMMISSION**

The cemeteries that are under the control of the Cemetery Commissioners are:

- Ashley Cemetery located on North Avenue
- Hillside Cemetery located off High Street
- North Rochester Cemetery located on North Avenue
- Sherman Cemetery located on Pine Street
- Union Cemetery located on Walnut Plain Road
- Woodside Cemetery located on County Road
- Old Parish Cemetery located on Braley Hill Road

As part of our continuing efforts to provide perpetual care, brush was removed, and trees trimmed at all cemeteries. The Highway Department was extremely helpful in chipping and removing the debris that had been cleared. The Commission will continue these efforts as weather allows

The Cemetery fees are as follows:

Single grave site	\$ 150.00
Perpetual Care (single)	\$ 200.00
Total fee to open and to close a single grave	\$ 550.00
Fee to inter cremations	\$ 125.00
Fee to install a monument footing	\$ 250.00
Fee to install foot stone	\$ 150.00
Fee to set a military monument	\$ 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Souza  
Molly Ross

## *Report of the*

# **ROCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The Rochester Historic District Commission has the duty of safeguarding the character of Rochester's town center.

Historic District Commissions do not prevent changes from occurring but encourage new construction that is compatible with the surrounding architecture and the nature of the town center.

A building permit cannot be issued until the Commission grants a certificate for any exterior work. Applications for certificates are available at the Building Department, and we work with the applicants to simplify the process.

An historic district creates a continuing sense of the past by maintaining the integrity of setting, feeling, and association with Rochester's long and rich history.

### **Members**

Matthew Monteiro - Chairperson and Clerk

Theodore Brillon

Stephanie Carr

Susan Fleming

Sara Johnston

Ginette Castro - alternate

## *Report of the* **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

2023 was a successful year for the Rochester Historical Commission in terms of fulfilling its duty to the residents of Rochester by protecting and preserving buildings and places that reflect the history of the town and sharing this information with the residents of the town now and into the future.

Most notably was the May 2023 dedication ceremony of the granite monument adjacent to the Town Hall honoring the residents of Rochester who fought, died, and supported The Cause of the American Revolution. The honoring included former residents of the original acreage of Rochester, which included present-day Rochester, Marion, Mattapoisett, and a small portion of Wareham. During the ceremony, the Colonial Navy Fife and Drum organization performed, there was a small parade led by Honor Guard of the Wareham Minutemen group, and members of the Historical Commission and local veterans read out various surnames of those who volunteered. Approximately one to two hundred area residents attended and was one of the Historic Commission's proudest moments.

Additionally, the Historic Building Plaque Program continued offering and distributing plaques for area buildings to recognize the year the building or structure was constructed. One plaque was provided to the North Rochester Church, and another was provided to a local private resident/home owner. The program will continue into 2024 with reservations for a small number of plaques already requested.

Finally, the Historic Commission continued its annual Rochester Memorial 3rd grade visit to introduce the town's children on the rich history that the town holds. There were various stations set up displaying artifacts and discussing history related to schools, Native American life, cranberry bogs, and other areas of interest. The students split up into groups and spent 10-15 minutes at each station.

*Report of the*  
**JOSEPH H. PLUMB MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Board of Library Trustees and Library Director

**Library Statistics**

<b>Total</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Items borrowed from the library	36,774	36,882
Items borrowed on Overdrive/Libby	10,265	7,248
Print and digital items available in library’s collection	81,763	81,929
Patrons registered for a library card	207	191
Children’s		
Programs	189	176
Attendance	4,554	3,956
Adult/Teen Programs	123	48
Attendance	658	260

**Trustees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>End of term</b>
Kelley Medeiros	Chair	2024
Shauna Makuch	Vice-Chair	2024
Kimberly Burt	Secretary	2025
Michael King	Treasurer	2025
Heather Alford		2026
Jane Taylor		2026

**Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date of Hire</b>
Kristen Cardoso	Library Director	September 2022
Jen Frasier	Library Assistant for Circulation & Technical Services	June 1998
Lisa Fuller	Library Assistant for Youth Services	April 2008
Bridget Farias	Page	July 2020-August 2023

**Programs**

Adult programs: Jen Frasier facilitated the long-running Books & Babble Book Group at the library on the last Thursday of each month. Kristen Cardoso revived the Council on Aging Book Group in February and meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. With assistance from Jen, a local group launched a Writers Group held on the third Thursday of the month at the library. With support from the Friends of Plumb Library, we were able to offer a number of programs for adults, including a local history author talk with Andrew Noone; an author talks with former mayor of New Bedford John Bullard; an Easter floral arrangement workshop and a Christmas centerpiece workshop with Bunny’s Bouquets; a

Mosquito Seminar from the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project; and a decluttering workshop with Kendra Gula. Plumb Library was also a partner in the Massachusetts Center for the Book 2023 Reading Challenge for adults and we loaned three pieces from our framed art collection for display at the Rochester Council on Aging.

Youth programs: Lisa Fuller ran four storytime sessions in the spring in our new downstairs Event & Meeting Space, including Baby & Toddler Tales Storytime (ages 9-24 months), a morning and afternoon Preschool Power Storytime (ages 3-5), and Twos and Threes Together Storytime (ages 2-3). She also ran monthly Book Buds book groups for teens, tweens, and younger children. The Library partnered with the Rochester Land Trust to offer three Trail Tales on local trails funded by a grant from the Rochester Cultural Council. For Halloween, retired RMS Science Lab teacher Mr. Kinsky held a Creepy Slime Lab for children aged 8 and up, followed by Trick-or-Treating at spooky stations throughout the library. Throughout the year, multiple walk-in activities were available for youth including the weekly Scrambled Word, weekly Scavenger Hunts, and take-home craft kits.

Summer program: The 2023 Summer Library Program theme was “Find Your Voice”. Programs included Mr. Vinny’s Bubble Show for all ages; Mad Science Workshops; Backyard Band Jams; Sights and Sounds at Snow’s Pond; Mr. Vinny’s Shadow Puppet Show; Follow Along Painting with Ms. Kelly; Mike Bent’s AbraKidabra Comedy Magic Show; Troops and Scoops with Girl Scout Troop 62150; Music and Movement with Ms. Teah; Mysteries on the Move games; workshops led by Teen Team and Junior Friends members; Rochester Tails n’ Trails 4H Club Animal Show; Storytime with Elsie and Blanka; and an American Sign Language Storytime. The MA Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Locally, the program is supported by the Friends of Plumb Library, the Rochester Lions Club, the Rochester Firefighters Association, the Rochester Cultural Council, Friends Marketplace at Plumb Corner, Sperry Tents, Rochester Golf Club, Captain Bonney’s Ice Cream, and many community donors and volunteers.

## **Services**

- In October, the Town Nurse offered a free flu clinic for adults and children at the library. In November and December, two S.H.I.N.E. (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors made their services available at the library on Monday nights, in addition to their appointments held at the Rochester Council on Aging.
- Notary services are available at the library by appointment.
- Faxing, photocopying, laminating, and printing services are available for a small fee. Public computers and wi-fi are available inside the building at no cost.
- With the completion of our downstairs Event & Meeting Space, we are able to offer the space to local nonprofits for use as a meeting space by reservation.
- Read, watch, and listen to Ebooks, audiobooks, music, movies, and television shows with your library card on Libby, Hoopla, and Freegal. Tumblebooks is an online collection of ebooks just for kids. Learn about knitting, quilting, and crafting with Creativebug, or take classes through Universal Class. Online newspapers, encyclopedias, and reference materials can be accessed through World Book Online and the Massachusetts Library System’s Statewide Databases.

- A telescope, snowshoes for kids and adults, ukulele kit, a voltage meter, and Wi-Fi hotspots are all available to borrow as part of our Library of Things collection.
- Moby outdoor science packs designed to get the whole family outside and exploring the world in our own backyard are available to borrow, with a new Gardening pack added this year. Other packs include Stargazing, Animal Tracks, Nature Photography, Nature Journaling, Pond Life, Weather, Rock Hounding, On the Seashore, Camping, Wildflowers, Bird Watching, and Insects.
- This year, we added two new museum passes to our collection, bringing the total available free and discounted passes to local museums and zoos to twelve, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Buttonwood Park Zoo, Heritage Museums and Gardens, Massachusetts State Parks Parking Pass, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Newport Art Museum, and Trustees of the Reservation GO Pass.

### **Building Improvements**

Facilities Manager Andrew Daniel oversees all buildings and grounds projects. The upstairs restrooms were completely renovated in March and the Constitution Way entrance stairs were reconstructed with new railings in May. In November, a mini-split was installed to heat and cool the new downstairs space using capital funds. We would like to thank Andrew and his crew for his work on the library and the Highway Department for their care of the grounds.

### **Friends of the Library**

The Friends of the Joseph H. Plumb Memorial Library is a 501(c)3 organization made up of local citizens who are avid library supporters and advocates for excellent library service. Friends work to raise funds to improve the library, help out by volunteering their time and talents, and spread the word about the library and its importance to each of us.

The Friends Board consists of: Halima Tiffany, Rebecca Rusinoski, Kimberly Burt, Shauna Makuch, and Candice Hahn.

Funds raised by the Friends are used to provide the following programs:

- The Summer Library Program for children, teens, and adults
- The Preschool, Toddler, and Baby Storytimes
- The Plumb Library Books & Babble Discussion Group
- Performers and special programs throughout the year
- Trustees of the Reservation GO Pass
- Monthly issues of review magazine Book Page

For fundraisers, the Friends ran two book sales in the library's downstairs Event & Meeting Space, one in April and one in September, as well as fall and spring Savers clothing drives. They once again held the popular "Pick-a-Prize" fundraiser in December, with twelve beautifully curated and generously donated baskets as prizes. The Holiday Fair was held on the second Saturday in December and included a silent auction, bake sale table, the Rochester Historical Society table, and photos with one of Santa's Helpers. The Friends generously donated two children's tables on wheels and ran a successful campaign to raise the money needed to purchase twelve new children's chairs to furnish our new downstairs space appropriately for youth programs.

The Junior Friends continues to do good work. They once again created centerpieces for the COA's Veteran's Day luncheon. They held one of their popular bake sales in the spring during the Friends book sale.

## **Board of Trustees**

The Joseph H. Plumb Library Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the library. The Board has the legal responsibility for the provision of library services, custody of library property, appointment of the library director, expenditure of funds, and determination of library policy. The Board advocates for and manages resources and formulates policies that will provide library users with the widest and freest access to the highest quality materials and programs feasible. Regular meetings are held monthly at the library and the public is welcome.

In February, the Board reviewed and updated the library's Meeting Room Policy, and in December reviewed and updated the library's Gifts to the Library Policy and Programming Policy.

The Trustees and staff are deeply indebted to these groups for their continued hard work and dedication and thank them for helping to improve library services. We also would like to thank everyone who has donated time, money, materials, and supplies to the library in the past year. Your generosity makes a real difference in the quality of our service to you.

We invite the citizens of Rochester to take advantage of the many services, programs, and resources the library has to offer. We hope to see you in the coming year along with our regular library users. As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. The Plumb Library's webpage is <http://www.plumblibrary.com> and we are on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen Cardoso, Library Director

Kelley Medeiros, Trustee Chair

Shauna Makuch, Vice-Chair

Kimberly Burt, Secretary

Michael King, Treasurer

Heather Alford

Jane Taylor

*Report of the*  
**CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**ABOUT THE COUNCIL**

The Rochester Cultural Council (RCC) provides public funding for the arts, humanities, and sciences through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Each year more than 5,000 cultural programs state-wide are funded with grant money provided by the MCC. These programs include school field trips, after-school programs, concerts, festivals, dance, music, theater, lectures, and more. Projects take place in community centers, schools, libraries, parks, elder care facilities and wherever else communities come together. All Massachusetts based non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply for MCC grants.

The MCC receives an appropriation of funds from the state budget destined for local programming, and it utilizes a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs), including the RCC, to manage this process at the local level. The RCC is composed of volunteers appointed by the Rochester Select Board to three-year terms; these volunteers are responsible for deciding how to award money granted to the town by the MCC, and for ensuring follow through of projects that are funded. Each RCC member can serve for up to 6 consecutive years, and a minimum of five members are required to receive state funding. 2023 was a year of remarkable growth for the Rochester Cultural Council, as we increased our membership from five to nine volunteers. The 2023 RCC members, including those whose terms expired in 2023, are:

<b>Member</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
Katherine Duggan, Chairperson	4/30/26
Randall Elgin, outgoing Treasurer	4/24/23
Kimberly Amato, Secretary	4/30/25
Jordan Pouliot, Member	4/30/24
Erika Rys, Member/incoming Treasurer	4/30/25
Erin Lewis, Member	4/30/24
Mary McCann, Member	4/30/24
Elizabeth McGrath Garvey, Member	4/30/25
Sarah Hasbrouck, Member	4/30/26
Lorraine Thompson, Member	4/30/26

These members met several times during the year to complete required obligations, as well as to develop new and improved methods for providing cultural experiences to the community.

**GRANTMAKING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

The major function of the Council is to solicit and financially support cultural events for the residents of Rochester. The first step of that process is the establishment of Rochester-specific local priorities, which are designed to respond to the needs of our town, and are complementary to the state mandated criteria as outlined on the website: <https://massculturalcouncil.org>. For 2023, the RCC funding priorities were:

1. Projects or events that will directly benefit Rochester residents by being held in the town. Other events must be hosted in surrounding towns which are easily accessible to Rochester residents.

2. Projects that are free to participants or available at a reduced rate.
3. Program eligibility: Applicants may apply for grants for programs that take place during an 18-month window of eligibility from July 1, preceding the application deadline in October, through December 31 of the following year.
4. We are always looking for qualified events that involve science, nature, environmental education, etc. as well as the humanities to round out our yearly event line up.
5. We strive to support proposals appealing to a large range of ages.

Between September 1 and October 17 of 2022, the RCC received 25 applications for events and programming; we were also notified that our FY23 allotment of funding from the state would be \$5,800. On November 7, 2022 the RCC conducted an open meeting to evaluate these proposals. Ultimately, the RCC awarded this \$5,345 to 12 grantee individuals and organizations, which the RCC felt best met all MCC and RCC eligibility requirements. The projects were as follows:

1. Education Committee of the Mattapoisett Land Trust, MLT Education Committee Educational Programs FY 2023
2. Friends of Old Rochester Drama, Inc., Keep the Music A"Live"
3. Vincent Lovegrove, Jr., "Mr. Vinny's Bubble Guy Show"
4. Marion Art Center, Inc., Arts in the Park 2023
5. MUSIC Dance.edu, I am Autistic I am Fantastic
6. New Bedford Museum and Art Center, Inc., On the Road to Creativity at YOUR Library!
7. Onset Bay Association, Inc., Chalk-Full-O-Fun Festival 2023
8. Rochester Historical Society, Inc., Maps, Signs and Celebrations Part 2
9. Rochester Memorial School Parent-Teacher Organization, Inc., The Irish in Boston - Celtic Bells
10. Sippican Choral Society, Inc., Let's Sing A Song of Joy!
11. South Coast Children's Chorus, Spreading Joy Through Singing
12. Tri-County Music Association, Inc., Complimentary Senior Tickets

In keeping with the RCC's stated goal of prioritizing "projects or events that will directly benefit Rochester residents by being held in the town," five of these events/programs will take place in the town of Rochester; the other seven will take place in Marion, Mattapoisett, and Wareham. The denied applicants were informed first (via email), as they are eligible for a 15 calendar day reconsideration period. Once the reconsideration period expired, approval letters were emailed to the 17 grantee individuals and organizations.

The RCC utilizes the Direct Payment Method offered by the MCC for the benefit of our grantees, which allows our grantees to receive their award money up front, typically in February, and requires each grantee to provide a Final Report upon completion of their project.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

In addition to the grant review process, the council performed the following activities to enhance familiarity with the RCC and encourage as many Rochester residents as possible to explore RCC funded programs.

- The RCC conducted outreach at the April 1, 2023 Egg Hunt hosted by the Rochester Lions. We led participants through an origami craft and supplied lots of candy as well

as information on the RCC and the programs it supports.

- We have continued to increase our presence on social media, sharing local events of potential interest and highlighting the work of our grantees.
- In the spring, the RCC announced our 2023 grantees in press releases to local publications the Wanderer and Sippican Weekly News.
- In August 2023, we produced and distributed press releases to promote the RCC as a funding opportunity that were also published in the Wanderer and Sippican Weekly News.
- At our September 25, 2023 meeting, we welcomed town Planner Nancy Durfee to discuss the intersection of the RCC's work around arts and culture in Rochester and the town's ongoing master planning process.
- The RCC expanded outreach by hosting a table at the Old Colony PTO's Fall Family Festival on October 14, 2023, giving away bubbles, fresh apples, and information on the RCC and the programs it supports.
- The RCC has also streamlined its record keeping, depositing archival records at the Town Hall in July 2023 and adopting a digital recordkeeping framework to both ensure we meet data retention policies and are able to locate documents efficiently.

The Rochester Cultural Council is dedicated to providing Rochester residents with as many diversified cultural programs as possible; to that end, we welcome suggestions and appreciate public discussions which will increase community awareness of the grant program. We also hope to further increase community engagement and outreach about the events we sponsor. We welcome any resident of Rochester to join the council and help us bring as much culture as possible to Rochester; you can reach us at [rochesterculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rochesterculturalcouncil@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly Amato  
Katherine Duggan  
Sarah Hasbrouck  
Jordan Pouliot Latham  
Erin Lewis  
Mary McCann  
Elizabeth McGrath Garvey  
Erika Rys  
Lorraine Thompson

## *Report of the*

# **OLD ROCHESTER COMMUNITY TELEVISION**

The year 2023 found Old Rochester Community TV continuing to grow as the needs of the local community change. This past year found ORCTV covering approximately 105 town government meetings in Rochester including each meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conservation Commission, The ORR District and Joint School Committees and The Rochester School Committee, as well as special forums and events of interest to the residents of Rochester. ORCTV also covered the 2022 Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting in January of 2023

ORCTV continued to partner with Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School on the school's video production classes and club. This partnership is now in its sixth year. The station has continued to work with the school's Co-op jobs program bringing student interns from Old Colony into the station's workplace giving the student workplace where the each student gains valuable, hands on experience in the field of video production. This is one of the few technology based options offered to the students. The station also filmed a number of events at the Rochester Memorial School including plays, concerts and the 6th grade Graduation Ceremony. During the 2022/23 school year the staff of Old Rochester Community Television worked with over 500 students and staff throughout the ORR school district training them in video production through classroom settings as well as workshop demonstrations. ORCTV staff have also been working on a weekly basis over the past five years, one on one, with special needs students at Old Rochester Regional high School, teaching the students video production and editing techniques.

The ORCTV/ORRHS video production program is now in its eighth year. The student produced news magazine 'Bulldog Weekly' highlights student life and activities at the high school and features weekly segments from Principal Mike Devoll and Athletic Director Christopher Carrig during each weekly 30 minute episode. The show continues to be entirely written, filmed and edited by ORRHS video production students. ORCTV also continued to work closely with the ORR Athletic Department filming regular season and playoff games throughout the school year. In addition to working with the ORRHS athletic department, the staff and student interns also recorded and livestreamed many other ORRHS school events such as plays, lectures, concerts, the annual promenade and pep rallies.

Both the ORRHS and Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School Commencement ceremonies were broadcast live as were those of the local elementary schools and the Junior High School. The students and staff also worked with the ORR school district to bring local viewers a number of school concerts, award ceremonies, holiday events and school assemblies and school committee meetings throughout the year from each of the District's six schools. ORCTV staff members work with the ORR School District's web designer to provide content for the District's websites. This material includes video, aerial drone shots and photographs from ORCTV productions of school events.

Throughout 2023 Old Rochester Community Television continued our work with local civic groups and government agencies. ORCTV carried the weekly sermons of the First Congregational Church of Rochester, which we have done since 2006. ORCTV provided coverage of events for The Rochester Historical Society, the Rochester Council on Aging,

the Plumb Library, The Tri-County Symphonic Band, holiday festivities as well as Town Hall sponsored events and ceremonies. ORCTV member producers who reside in Rochester created a variety of shows including regular contributions from Linda Medeiros with her program ‘What’s Linda Cooking?’ and Kendall Smiley with her program the collective chat “The Collective Chat”.

As part of both our Educational TV program and also our mission to serve the station’s members, the ORCTV staff taught camera and editing classes and held production workshops to teach residents how to create programming for our local audience. Through our social media outlets and our online video on demand platforms these vital productions continue to reach over 10,000 people per week in addition to our thousands of subscribers who view programs on the station’s five channels via their cable tv packages. As we continue to stress since our inception, Old Rochester Community Television takes the community portion of our name very seriously. Helping our members tell the story of their home towns through television productions which they have been creating since we first went on the air in 2006.

ORCTV has nearly completed a new podcasting/radio studio offering our audience more ways to participate in community media. The project’s construction began during the summer of 2023 and should be completed by spring of 2024. During 2023 the ORRHS Athletic Boosters broke ground for a press box at David S. Hagen Memorial Field, ORRHS’s main outdoor sports stadium. ORCTV is still on track to install a permanent production facility in the press box to provide state of the art broadcasts for the community of most events that occur at the stadium. At the time of this report there is no completion date for the press box, however, ORCTV has purchased the equipment and will be able to install it as soon as construction on the project is completed.

Over the course of the year 2023 ORCTV cable-casted 8,300 hours of programming on our public channel, over 6,570 hours of programming on our educational channel and over 6,500 hours of programming on Rochester’s government channel. ORCTV has always been proud to call the Tri-Towns our home and to serve our community as your local cable access media center. We look forward to our continued service to the town of Rochester for the foreseeable future.

## ***Report of the*** **HERRING INSPECTOR**

The 2023 Mattapoissett River herring count this year was 4,050, an increase of 1,718 over the 2022 count of 2,332. The counting conditions were ideal, and the count appears to be accurate for the Mattapoissett River.

Alewives Anonymous also installed an electronic fish counter on the Sippican River at Leonard's Pond fish ladder. The count there was 65. Hopefully this run will improve in the coming years.

Alewives Anonymous cleaned portions of the Mattapoissett River in the spring in preparation for the herring run and plan to do the same again this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
William D. Watling Jr

## ***Report of the*** **VETERANS AGENT**

The Tri-Town Veterans Services Office serves the Towns of Rochester, Marion, and Mattapoisett. We are located at the Mattapoisett Town Hall at 16 Main Street, Mattapoisett, MA. The Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. The telephone number is (508) 758-4100, Ext. 212/214. The Veterans Services Office assists Veterans and their families as defined by Massachusetts General Laws. Chapter 115 is a state-funded, needs-based program available to Veterans and Widows/Widowers who meet Executive Office of Veterans Services (EVOS) income guidelines. We also assist Veterans and their families with seeking benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our office continues to serve Veterans and their families on an individual basis to see that they receive the assistance they need when they need it. We continue to partner with local, state, and national organizations to ensure that all of their needs are met to the best of our abilities.

In 2023 the effects of inflation continue to take a toll on our Veterans, many of whom are seniors and live on modest fixed incomes. We increased our partnerships with area food pantries to help counteract the high cost of groceries. The price and availability of housing in our area are also major concerns to our Veterans. Our office submitted three times the number of VA claims compared to 2022. The number of Veterans receiving VA benefits also increased, resulting in thousands of more dollars being paid out and put into our local economy. This past year our office saw a steady uptick in both walk-ins and appointments with most Veterans citing other Veterans as referrals. So please, if you are a Veteran, a Veteran's widow or widower, or know a Veteran who may need financial or medical assistance please reach out to our office.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Gerrior, Veterans Agent  
Diane Sweeney, Administrative Assistant  
Veterans Services Office  
Towns of Rochester, Marion, and Mattapoisett

## *Report of the* **PERSONNEL BOARD**

It is with great pleasure that I submit the annual report of the Rochester Personnel Board. In the fall of 2022, the Personnel Board was reconstituted with the appointments to three-year terms of the following individuals: Adam Murphy, chairperson; Kristine Nash, vice-chair; and Peter Bourgault, secretary. In addition, Harrison Harding joined the board as the non-voting employee representative. In spring 2023, Greg Hardy replaced Adam Murphy who stepped down after being elected to the Board of Selectmen.

A chief responsibility of the Personnel Board is to ensure the accurate and equitable implementation of the town's Personnel By-Laws for those employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, elected to a position, or covered by an individual contract. The town's Personnel By-Laws outline some of the Board's responsibilities as the following: approving new job descriptions, working with department heads to make hiring decisions, dealing with personnel issues, holding grievance hearings, setting wages for by-law employees, and establishing a classification and compensation plan.

During its first year, the Personnel Board set three major goals: 1.) to ensure job descriptions were written for all twenty-one positions using a consistent format, 2.) to revise the current Classification and Compensation Plan making sure it follows the By-Laws language, and 3.) to review and update the Personnel By-Laws. I am pleased to say that the Board has completed goals one and two and is well on its way to completing goal three, revising the Personnel By-Laws.

The Personnel Board recognizes the lack of representation by-law employees have endured during the almost seven year stretch without this board. With well over thirty meetings held, sometimes two or three in a month, I wish to take this opportunity to thank board members for their commitment and dedication. Further, the Personnel Board members wish to thank all of the town hall employees who have provided valuable assistance and contributions in aiding us to achieve our goals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Kristine E. Nash, Chairperson  
Members:  
Peter Bourgault, Vice-Chair  
Greg Hardy, Secretary  
Harrison Harding, Employee Representative

# *Report of the* **ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR REPORT**

### **Introduction**

Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 serve the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Dedicated educators and staff serve the three communities of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester and the four school district structure, working collaboratively to provide a high quality education for our students preparing them for post-secondary success. The support provided to the school-system from the three towns from a resource standpoint helps ensure the ongoing success of our students through strong educational programming and by providing safe learning environments.

The 2022-2023 school year marked the final year of the school-system's strategic plan known more commonly as Vision2023. For a five-year period, beginning in 2018, the school community has worked diligently to towards the desired outcomes articulated in Vision2023. By following a clear strategic plan to guide the direction of the school-system, the stakeholders within the school community were able to work collaboratively on common objectives and initiatives on behalf of the Tri-Town's students and families.

The progress achieved has positioned the school-system to adopt its new strategic plan and begin the ongoing work of meeting our students' educational needs into the future. With Vision2023 coming to an end, the strategic planning process begun in the 2022-2023 school year to ensure the school-system's next strategic plan was in place for the coming school year.

Ultimately, the mission of our school-system remains steadfast to inspire all students to think, to learn, and to care.

As you read this report, you will see examples of our students' achievements, staffing and program changes, as well as signs of the structural improvements that have taken place in our buildings to upgrade learning spaces, technology infrastructure and safety.

### **Strategic Plan Overview**

Vision2023 was created in the spring of 2018 by a steering committee with the help of focus groups from all three towns. The steering committee narrowed the scope of the work to three priority areas; social and emotional learning, global awareness, and 21st century learning. The anchoring outcome or theory of action is:

#### **IF WE ...**

provide all students with life and career skills, learning and innovation skills, and technology skills, by integrating these skills into a rigorous and relevant curriculum,

#### **AND**

develop and consistently utilize evidence-based approaches and strategies that foster the social and emotional well-being of students to promote their success,

#### **AND**

create a school district environment that broadens our students' leadership skills, understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism, diversity, and global

awareness by building relationships to establish a broader worldwide network, inspire all students to think, to learn, and

**THEN WE WILL ...**

have provided our Tri-Town students with 21st-century academic skills, strengthened their social and emotional competencies and prepared them to be engaged global citizens.

**Strategic Plan - Year Five**

During the 2022-2023 school year, school stakeholders (i.e. students, teachers, staff members, families, school leaders, and school committee members) worked hard to complete the desired outcomes identified in the fifth year of the strategic plan. The Vision2023 strategic plan includes strategic initiatives and desired strategic outcomes for each of the five years. Below are the fifth year outcomes for each of the three goal areas within Vision2023:

**21st Century Learning Year Five**

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Outcomes	5th Year
<b>Core Subjects</b> Enhance all curricula by embedding them with 21st-century skills and themes.	Core Subjects - Adopted 21st Century skills and theme based curricula is documented using Atlas Rubicon design and management system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assemble a Curriculum Team to develop a comprehensive curriculum review plan PreK-12 that will lead us into the next 5 year strategic plan.</li><li>• Develop a Curriculum Review Plan which will include a multi-year review of specific content areas utilizing the DESE Curriculum Implementation Guide aligned with MA State Frameworks and DESE Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading.</li><li>• Gather tools and resources to determine consistency and alignment of grade level and content area curriculum, instruction, and assessments for best practices and designs for curriculum writing.</li></ul>
<b>Life and Career Skills</b> Expand the opportunity for all students to work collaboratively through project-based learning (PBL) experiences in every subject area and discipline.	Life and Career Skills - Collaborative project-based learning experiences have been established and are integrated into all grade level curricula.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revisit Project Based Learning with faculty.</li><li>• Provide review training on the PBL ‘Project Overview Template’.</li><li>• Assess and document that PBL are aligned to the ‘Project Overview Template’.</li><li>• Ensure leading or guiding questions of PBL aligned to real life problem-solving issues.</li><li>• Publish PBL finished projects including ‘Project Overview Template’ and ‘Rubric’ for accessibility to all staff.</li></ul>

<b>Learning and Innovation</b> Engage students in learning that is purposely designed to incorporate 21st-century skills of collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking/ problem-solving (4Cs).	Learning and Innovation - Student learning and professional practice goals for educators and administrators are utilized to improve 21st Century teaching and learning skills (4Cs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct District-wide Administrative Learning Walks to look for evidence of the 4Cs (collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking/ problem-solving) in the classroom.</li> <li>Create best practices and designs for curriculum writing ensure the 4Cs will be reviewed for application, coverage and consistency.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology</b> Support students and educators to use technology to strengthen their ability to research, apply, and communicate responsibly, meaningfully, and effectively.	Technology - Integrated digital instruction is embedded and embraced in all learning environments to improve student digital literacy outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain momentum with technology instructional initiatives as a result of ongoing 1:1 district-wide.</li> <li>Continue to embed Digital Literacy standards in the K-12 grade level and content area curricula for best practices in teaching and learning.</li> <li>Implement staff and student use of Promethean Boards during instructional learning and Presentations.</li> <li>Assess instructional technology used by students throughout the district.</li> </ul>

## Social Emotional Learning Year Five

Strategic Initiatives	Strategic Outcomes	5th Year
<b>Relationships</b> Build strong, positive relationships with each student and focus on the student as an individual to build a sense of belonging and engagement.	Relationships - Students are invested in their learning and feel they are valued members of their learning communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing/annual training for all eligible district staff in Responsive Classroom. RC practices will continue to be utilized throughout PK-8 classrooms across the district. SEL programming will be utilized at the High School during Bulldog Block.</li> <li>Student feedback will be gathered bi-annually through Panorama surveys and/or building based surveys to gauge engagement and sense of belonging. Data will be used to identify strengths and areas of need.</li> <li>District Administrators will continue to utilize the Kaleidoscope (RC) tool in elementary schools and JHS to monitor and ensure best practices of Responsive Classroom implementation across all grade levels.</li> <li>School SEL teams will identify at-risk students and will create an intentioned plan to support these students.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Behavior Management</b> - Develop and expand effective and consistent discipline practices, expectations, and teacher language throughout our learning communities.</p>	<p>Behavior Management - Consistent and effective discipline practices characterized by teacher language and expectations to promote responsible decision making, self-management, and a sense of community are established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All classrooms and other learning settings will routinely establish clear behavioral expectations on an annual or as needed basis.</li> <li>• Consistent and aligned incident/discipline data collection methods are fully implemented through PowerSchool extension. Training for administrators and teaching staff will occur.</li> <li>• The District will adopt an established and consistent discipline philosophy that will be modeled and utilized in each school.</li> <li>• Building-based behavioral interventions and discipline practices will be guided by CASEL competencies and restorative practices.</li> <li>• Common student handbook language related to school behavioral expectations and discipline practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships</b> Enhance family and community engagement opportunities, communication, and practices.</p>	<p>Partnerships - Maximized partnerships among family, community, and staff to ensure short and long-term student success are formed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district will adopt a collaborative and inclusive family engagement philosophy that will be modeled and utilized in each school. The DESE Family Engagement frameworks will be used in guiding the development of this philosophy.</li> <li>• Specific family engagement practices and opportunities will be established at the district, building and classroom level. Parental and community involvement will continue to be the primary focus of family engagement.</li> <li>• All schools will communicate identified family engagement opportunities with their school communities and stakeholders in a timely manner during the course of the school year.</li> <li>• Teachers will continue to demonstrate best practices in regularly communicating and engaging with families and use a variety of strategies to support every family to participate actively and appropriately in the education of their children.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Safety and Security</b> - Identify and enhance effective and comprehensive safety and security measures.</p>	<p><b>Safety and Security</b> - A learning environment is created which protects and promotes the physical and psychological safety of our students and staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All district buildings will have current and operational crisis plans, which incorporate research-based best practices. These plans will be shared with building staff.</li> <li>• The district will integrate school safety software that enables schools to screen visitors, track volunteers, report on drills, respond to emergencies, and reunite families</li> <li>• All buildings will conduct annual student and staff Alice safety trainings over the course of the 2022-2023 school year.</li> <li>• Review and analyze school safety Panorama data for all stakeholders, identify strengths and areas for improvement, implement at least one action item to address areas of improvement during the course of the 2022-2023 school year. CPI Safety Training will continue to be provided to identified staff in each building.</li> </ul>
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### Global Citizenship Year Five

<b>Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>Strategic Outcomes</b>	<b>5th Year</b>
<p><b>Global Awareness</b> - Support students as they learn from, and work collaboratively with, individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, and community contexts</p>	<p><b>Global Awareness</b> - A diverse and inclusive curriculum that offers a wide range of voices, perspectives, and experiences of local and global communities is developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic content area units will be reviewed to include lessons and/or learning experiences for global/multicultural learning with links and resources to integrate into curriculum.</li> <li>• Work toward integrating a sense of belonging through classroom group work and communication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Responsibility</b> - Encourage students to act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind while demonstrating personal integrity, honesty, and ethical behavior.</p>	<p><b>Personal Responsibility</b> - A school culture exists where students are invested in their learning and respect differences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content area units that include experiences for global/multicultural learning will be reviewed and digital tools will be embedded into those lessons.</li> <li>• Clear behavioral expectations will be communicated and visible in learning settings to encourage strong ethical behavior and tolerance.</li> </ul>

<b>Civic Literacy and Citizenship</b> - Involve students in civic life through understanding the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national, and global levels.	Civic Literacy and Citizenship - An updated social studies and civics curriculum for prek-12, aligned to the state frameworks and learning standards is adopted and implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing the new curriculum review plan, the PreK - 12 vertical team will reconvene to review and continue to update the Civics and Social Studies curriculum.</li> <li>Civics and Social Studies curriculum will ensure that the curricula is taught with needed resources and continues to align with the new MA State Frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>Empathy</b> Teach students to demonstrate an understanding of others' perspectives and needs while listening with an open mind to understand others' situations.	Empathy - Ongoing learning opportunities for students and professional development for all staff are provided to foster empathy for others' perspectives and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old Rochester Regional School District and Superintendency Union #55 will provide building-based and district-wide opportunities that foster students' sense of belonging within our school community.</li> <li>Conduct a series of multicultural awareness community events for students, parents and staff that brings in the perspective of empathy and open-mindedness.</li> </ul>

### School Leadership

During the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Michael S. Nelson continued to serve as the Superintendent of Schools, supported by Mr. Howard G. Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Sharlene Fedorowicz joined the team as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Mr. Craig J. Davidson remained as the Director of Student Services. In addition, Mr. Eugene Jones, Director of Facilities, Mrs. Jill Henesey, Director of Food Service, and Mrs. Doreen Lopes, Early Childhood Education Coordinator continued to serve our schools in their capacities.

At the school building level – our administration teams remained relatively constant from the previous school year. The Marion School District welcomed back Ms. Marla Sirois, Principal and Mr. Peter Crisafulli, Assistant Principal. As for the Mattapoisett School District, Mr. Kevin Tavares became the Principal of Old Hammondtown School and Dr. Linda Ashley was appointed as the Principal of Center School after the retirement of Mrs. Rose Bowman. Mr. Michael C. Devoll, Principal, and Mrs. Vanessa Harvey, Assistant Principal, returned to lead the Old Rochester Regional High School during the 2022-2023 school year. At the Junior High School, Silas Coellner, Principal and Ms. Kelly Chouinard, Assistant Principal, both also returned. Ms. Lauren Millette also joined the secondary team as the Director of Guidance. Lastly, the Rochester School District continued to be led by Derek J. Medeiros, Principal and Mr. Charles West, Assistant Principal.

### School Buildings

The Facilities Department worked hard with each town and within each building to ensure safe and secure educational facilities. Security in all schools remained paramount. We have added cameras, communication equipment and door access upgrades across the District. Phase replacement of facility equipment and machinery conducted throughout the four

districts extending our capability to continue the high material condition of our buildings and grounds.

At Rochester Memorial School, we completed the security/surveillance upgrade, which improved the overall safety by providing enhanced surveillance and access to our school and grounds. A new kitchen serving line and washing machine for food service department was installed. We completed Phase 1 of HVAC recommissioning to improve energy efficiency and air quality and installed Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) on boiler pumps to maximize efficient and cost saving operation of the boiler/heating system. All mandated yearly inspections and tests were completed. We continued routine maintenance on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Old Rochester Regional Junior and Senior High Schools, we completed the running track surface restoration and track field improvements, including irrigation. This restoration allows the students, staff and community to enjoy a modern track and field to enjoy outside athletics. We replaced the entire baseball backstop and bullpen area providing a safe and functioning backstop and dugout area for players and observers. The press box construction started as well. We conducted routine maintenance as well as minor repairs conducted on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Sippican Elementary School, the rear playground construction started, swing banks were installed and Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) surfacing laid. The Sippican Garden Project was started. We also completed Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) flooring resurfacing in all 1st grade rooms and the School Resource Officer's office, which was funded by Capital. The main office roof top unit (RTU) was overhauled utilizing Capital funding as well. We completed complete restoration in room 208 after the May 23rd sprinkler activation. Lastly, we conducted routine maintenance and minor repairs on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Center School, a complete HVAC upgrade utilizing Capital Improvements ensured optimum operation of our HVAC/BMS. We conducted an overhaul of the roof top unit (RTU) supplying the administration suite. Outside, we resurfaced basketball court asphalt and properly lined for age appropriate regulation. Lastly, routine maintenance and minor repairs took place on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

At Old Hammondtown School, we executed a phased replacement of the food service kitchen serving line along with a phased replacement of the clothes washer and dryer. Faulty sewage pumps and floats were placed and we completed repairs to side playground. Also on the exterior grounds, we replaced two basketball hoops and striped for age appropriate regulation. Lastly, routine maintenance and minor repairs were conducted on all facility machinery and equipment to ensure proper operation and reliability.

### **Student Services and Special Education**

In Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester, students who receive special education services range in age from 3 to 21. For our youngest students our integrated preschool programs, Project Grow, provides services for preschoolers who are eligible for special education in their least restrictive environments. There are some students at this age level that also come to their local schools to receive therapies on an appointment basis based on their individual needs.

Students that are elementary age and receive special education services may be eligible

through mild learning, language and/or social emotional disabilities, developmental delays or more significant disabilities (multiple, intellectual, autism). Services are determined through initial/triennial evaluations and annual review of individualized education plans. The complexity of certain disabilities may require services that occur after school or during the summer vacation period. Students that are at junior high, high school and 18-22 program level additionally receive services that focus on transition where school-based teams assist in surveying career and post-secondary education goals and begin to work with adult agencies for students that are entitled to these support services. There is a community-based component to our Life Skills and Transition programs to facilitate skill development in the area of transition (job exploration, daily living, and community experiences).

During the 22-23 school year, the percent of students with disabilities within our school districts were as follows:

District	Marion	Mattapoissett	Rochester	ORR	District-Wide	State-Wide
SWD%	21.5%	19.5%	19.5%	15.3%	18.75%	19.4%

The average percentage of students with disabilities (SWD) was 18.75%, which falls below the state average.

Students in grades 9-12 have had the opportunity to participate in Unified Sports. In the fall, athletes and partners played basketball with local area unified sports teams. In addition to both home and away games, highlights included senior recognition presentation, jamboree of all local teams hosted by Dartmouth High School and a game against a team comprised of our local police departments. In the spring athletes returned for Track and Field where they demonstrated their skills in the areas of javelin, shot put, long jump and track. Selected students were invited to the state tournament. Selected students from grades 2-12 and the transition program also participated in the Tabor Academy Unified Sports day. Tri-Town students along with Tabor Academy students participated in events such as soccer, volleyball and bocce to name a few. After participating in the sports activities, all students are recognized for their efforts.

Professional development was provided to staff district wide on two full days and four half-day afternoons. Responsive classroom training was provided to new teachers and staff. School Nurses focused on professional development topics that included the school nurses role in the development and review of policies and procedures. Early Childhood staff focused on equitable supports for children in early childhood programs and kindergarten readiness. Special education staff (special education teachers, paraprofessional staff and related service providers) participated in topics that ranged from helping traumatized children learn, Google training, Medicaid billing, creating therapeutic classrooms for all learners, mentorship, data collections and supporting students who may become dysregulated.

The Office of Student Services collaborated with Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) to provide community wide events for students and families. The Community Talks series continued in the fall with a virtual presentation by Dr. Robert Brooks entitled “Nurturing Resilience in Our Children and Teens During Challenging Times”. In the winter, Ms. Sarah Ward presented “Powerful Strategies to Help Children Develop Independent Executive Function Skills”.

Our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) hosted meetings and workshops for our Tri-Town parents. Workshop topics included “Basic Rights: Evaluation and

Eligibility” and “Effective Communication”.

Within the Tri-Town educational community staff, students, families and community members continue to work collaboratively as a team to provide high quality educational opportunities for our students. Our student services staff are dedicated to providing supports that develop the whole child and develop a sense of belonging. Our student services staff are innovative, caring and committed to providing exceptional educational services.

**Finances**

Federal and state grants continue to offset staffing in all four school districts, as well as provide staff development for targeted student needs including social and emotional learning, language-based learning disabilities, and students with significant and complex needs. Grants also offset a percentage of preschool programming. Finally, the continued investment in providing special education services within the neighborhood schools enriches the quality of teaching available to all students, improves the school culture and ultimately results in students with disabilities and their families maintaining a higher level of independence.

**The School Budgets**

The table below displays the trends in the budgets of the Tri-Town district in recent fiscal years.

The per pupil cost for education in the schools of the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 is compared to each other as well as to the Massachusetts state average:

	<b>FY’20</b>	<b>FY’21</b>	<b>FY’22</b>
Marion	\$17,017	\$19,705	\$20,722
Mattapoisett	\$20,891	\$23,679	\$23,988
Rochester	\$14,805	\$16,832	\$17,019
Old Rochester	\$17,110	\$17,952	\$19,953
State Average	\$17,572	\$19,117	\$20,271

The source of support for public education programs in the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 includes funding sources described in the tables below:

**Local Tax Assessments: Local School Budgets (Grades K-6 Elementary School Program)**

	<b>FY’20</b>	<b>FY’21</b>	<b>FY’22</b>	<b>FY’23</b>
Marion	\$6,165,701	\$6,301,167	\$6,456,815	\$6,561,086
Mattapoisett	\$7,185,583	\$7,357,475	\$7,511,872	\$7,646,778
Rochester	\$6,424,585	\$6,609,831	\$6,798,275	\$7,065,014

**Local Tax Assessments: Local School Budgets (Grades K-6 Elementary School Program)**

	<b>FY’21</b>		<b>FY’22</b>		<b>FY’23</b>	
	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>
Marion’s share	\$4,743,800	\$212,223	\$4,901,695	\$201,747	\$5,069,289	\$319,174
Mattapoisett’s share	\$5,885,034	\$292,716	\$5,952,951	\$278,197	\$5,933,462	\$420,233

Rochester's share	\$4,627,733	\$264,464	\$4,727,285	\$260,692	\$4,780,838	\$385,010
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State Aid (Towns (K-6) & ORR District (7-12)

	FY'20	FY'21	FY'22	FY'23
Marion	\$860,344	\$860,344	\$872,434	\$1,041,767
Mattapoissett	\$839,485	\$839,485	\$851,365	\$980,381
Rochester	\$2,057,549	\$2,057,549	\$2,072,039	\$2,384,342
Old Rochester	\$3,043,394	\$3,043,394	\$3,074,894	\$3,384,440

Grants

	FY'20	FY'21	FY'22	FY'23
Federal and State Entitlements	\$896,276	\$1,410,874	\$3,087,836	\$1,020,794
Federal and State Competitive	\$76,977	\$47,689	\$389,652	\$1,315,009
Federal Targeted	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,185
Private Grants	\$3,414	\$9,675	\$33,572	\$28,113

Each fiscal year the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 receives awarded grant funding that are identified in various grant categories. These categories are recognized as Entitlement (or Allocation) and Competitive and Targeted grants, which are received from Federal, State or Private Sources.

**Entitlement grants** are funds allocated school districts from federal or state sources based on predetermined criteria such as demographics, economic indicators, income, or specific characteristics. Recipients of entitlement grants automatically qualify for the funding without having to compete with others through an application process. These grants are often distributed to meet the needs of a particular group or population, and eligibility is typically determined by meeting specific criteria set by the grantor and are less competitive than that of competitive grants. Examples of these grants awarded are the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for \$714,339, Title I Part A for \$152,795, or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Early Education and Care grant for \$18,257 are included in the \$1,020,794.

**Competitive grants** are funds provided by governments, foundations, or other organizations through a competitive application process. In this model, multiple individuals or entities submit proposals or applications for a specific project or program, and the grant is awarded to the most deserving or promising proposal. The selection criteria often include factors such as the feasibility of the project, the qualifications of the applicant, and the potential impact of the proposed initiative. Competitive grants are intended to encourage innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness by fostering healthy competition among applicants. Examples of these grants awarded are the Summer Acceleration Academies for \$160,000, Math Acceleration Academies for \$250,000, Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning for \$200,000, and Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials for \$466,000. These grants are included in the \$1,315,009 total.

**Targeted grants** are designed to address specific issues or target particular populations or regions. These grants are distributed to meet the unique needs of a defined group or to support initiatives that align with specific goals. The focus is on achieving specific outcomes or addressing particular challenges within the identified target area or population. Examples of these grants awarded are CTE Secondary and Postsecondary Programs — Perkins Reserve for \$5,000 and Rural Energy for America Program for \$50,185. These

grants are included in the \$55,185 total.

**Private grants** refer to financial assistance or funding provided by non-governmental entities, typically private foundations, corporations, or individual donors. These play a significant role in supporting a wide range of initiatives and organizations, contributing to positive social, environmental, and cultural impact. Private grants are derived from the resources of private entities or individuals. Examples of agencies providing these grants awards are the Tri-Town Foundation, Boston College and the Cape Cod 5. These source type of grants received total \$28,113.

The following are some of the Federal and State Competitive Grants from one time funding received in Fiscal Year 2023 that may not be available next fiscal year:

**Summer Acceleration Academies Grant** is to fund the implementation of a specific strategic initiative, the Acceleration Academies, during summer 2022 to help accelerate the learning of students most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Acceleration Academies are intended to supplement, not supplant, programming an applicant is already planning to offer over the summer, therefore the Summer Acceleration Academy program should take place between the end of an applicant's currently planned summer school programming and when the applicant's teachers return for the 2022-2023 school year. The focus areas are Early Literacy Academy for rising kindergartners, rising 1st graders, and rising 2nd graders and Math Academy for rising 3rd graders, rising 4th graders, rising 8th graders, and rising 10th graders.

**Math Acceleration Academies Grant** is to fund the implementation of a specific strategic initiative, the Acceleration Academies, to help accelerate the learning of students most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds from this grant can be used to support the implementation of math focused Acceleration Academies for students in grades 3 through 10. The Math Acceleration Academies must take place during the February and/or April school vacation weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

**Development and Expansion of High Quality Summer Learning Grant** is to fund support for the development and expansion of high quality, comprehensive summer learning opportunities and partnerships in districts to address both the academic and social-emotional impacts of COVID-19 on students.

**Massachusetts Lead for Literacy Institute Grant** is to support educators and administrators to create a literacy plan aligned to the multi-tiered system of support model (MTSS) for grades K–5. Through this collaborative Network, districts will create K–5 literacy plans that include instructional leadership responsibilities, literacy priorities and goals, evidence-based instruction and intervention, assessment, and professional learning.

**Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials Grant** is to equip schools and districts with the high-quality core instructional materials needed to accelerate literacy learning, particularly as schools recover from extended closures and students require rich instructional support to accelerate their learning. It will support schools and districts with 50% of the purchase price of new core instructional materials for literacy, and up to the entire cost of the initial professional development for educators.

## **Enrollment**

The October 1st enrollment totals in the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 Districts are showing a fluctuation from year to year. Enrollment in Massachusetts public schools has fallen nearly 4 percent —

or by roughly 37,000 students — since fall 2019, a decline that is attributed to shifting demographics, housing costs, and fallout from the pandemic. It is important to note that our homeschool numbers are almost at the same level they were prior to COVID-19. In 2019, we reported 24 students districtwide. In 2020 we reported 92 students K-12 and in 2021 there were 31 students K-12 that were homeschooled. In 2022, 30 students in grades K-12 were homeschooled.

**October 1 – Preschool through Grade 6**

	<b>FY’20</b>	<b>FY’21</b>	<b>FY’22</b>
Sippican School	400	403	386
Center School	235	229	228
Old Hammondtown	187	189	168
Rochester Memorial	511	489	491
ORR Junior High School	388	390	396
ORR Senior High School	600	559	530

Although a high percentage of the elementary school students K-6 are enrolled in the Tri-Town Public Schools, there is some movement to independent and parochial schools from grade seven and a more significant movement to independent, parochial, and vocational schools, after the eighth grade. The following chart captures trends in student transfers. The largest transfer trend is seen from Grade 8 to Grade 9 where some of our students opt to go into Vocational High Schools, such as Upper Cape Cod Technical High School, Old Colony Regional High School and Bristol County Agricultural High School.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Grade 6	208	187	207
Grade 7	183	212	181
Grade 8	205	178	215
Grade 9	135	134	134
Grade 12	170	151	136
Graduating Class*	188	192	168

\* Graduating class figures are as of June 2023; other figures are as of October 1, 2023.

GRADE	NON-RESIDENT			MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
	NON TUITION						
ELEMENTARY:	MR	MT	RCH				
PROJECT GROW				23	24	19	66
K	1			35	45	62	142
1		1		45	53	57	155
2	1	1	2	51	55	60	166
3				55	51	61	167
4		2		54	47	70	171
5			1	66	60	73	199
6	1			57	61	89	207
SUB-TOTALS	3	4	3	386	396	491	1273
JUNIOR HIGH:*				MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
7				59	64	58	181
8				69	63	83	215
SUB-TOTALS				128	127	141	396
SENIOR HIGH:*				MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
9				48	48	38	134
10				39	48	40	127
11				45	53	31	129
12				36	50	50	136
SP				1	2	1	4
SUB-TOTALS				169	201	160	530
SUB-TOTALS 7-12				297	328	301	926
Charter School Students 7-12 (FY23 Reporting)				3	1	7	11
FY 23 School Choice 7-12 (sending)				6	3	5	14
SUB-TOTALS 7-12				306	332	313	951
GRAND TOTAL				683	724	792	2199
UPPER CAPE COD:				MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
9				5			5
10				14			14
11				5			5
12				6			6
TOTAL				30	0	0	30
OLD COLONY:				MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
9					6	25	31
10					9	20	29
11					9	35	44
12					9	17	26
TOTAL					33	97	130
BRISTOL COUNTY							
AGGIE:				MR	MT	RCH	TOTAL
9				0	1	1	2
10				0	2	1	3
11				0	0	2	2
12				0	0	3	3
TOTAL				0	3	7	10

\*not including school choice

SP= Special Program (18-22 years of age)

GRADE	SCHOOL CHOICE
	<b>MATTAPOISETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>
<b>K</b>	4
<b>1</b>	1
<b>2</b>	2
<b>3</b>	1
<b>4</b>	3
<b>5</b>	2
<b>6</b>	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>JUNIOR HIGH:</b>	<b>OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL</b>
<b>7</b>	11
<b>8</b>	24
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>SENIOR HIGH:</b>	
<b>9</b>	25
<b>10</b>	19
<b>11</b>	18
<b>12</b>	16
<b>SP(18-22)</b>	2
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

**The following students graduated in 2023 as part of the School Choice Program**

Theodore Carroll	Fairhaven
Gabriel DeBlois	Wareham
Giovani Dupras	New Bedford
Nathan Guerreiro	New Bedford
Elizabeth Higgins	Onset
Sofia Irish	Wareham
Konstantinos Jorjakis	Wareham
Brady Kidney	New Bedford
Aiden Lamontagne	Acushnet
Kyle LeBlanc	Fairhaven
Myles Lopes	Wareham
Angus MacLellan	Wareham
Paul Petronelli	Wareham
Henry Richards	Buzzards Bay
Norah Schiappa	Wareham
Haralambos Sivvianakis	Wareham
Jacob Smith	West Wareham
Gio Theodore	Wareham
Jamal Gomes	West Wareham

## **Union Agreements**

During the 2022-2023 school year the following agreements were negotiated and settled as follows:

On June 13, 2023, the Marion School Committee ratified an agreement with the Marion Teachers' Association for a successor agreement to begin on September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026.

## **2022-2023 Academic Performance**

At Old Rochester Regional School District MA Superintendency Union #55, we are extremely proud of our school community's efforts and achievement on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The 2023 school year was the second year for the full MCAS administration since 2019. Grade 10 students in 2022 had not taken an MCAS assessment since they were in grade 7 in 2019.

Trends from the state show that the slide in scores due to the pandemic has halted and recovery is underway. Although state science achievement scores decreased slightly across Massachusetts, English Language Arts (ELA) and math achievement scores are stable or increasing. Now that we are on the road to recovery, the state realizes we have significant ground to make up to reach pre-pandemic achievement levels. The state is using the 2019 MCAS results, the last pre-pandemic assessment, as a goal to improve student achievement toward our road to recovery. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) acknowledges that the last few school years have not been normal and therefore predicted the learning loss due to the pandemic.

The ORRSD and MA Superintendency Union #55 is proud to share that the majority of our scores consistently trended above the state average in achievement and recovery. In many cases, our recovery path well exceeded the state and we are accelerating toward or above the 2019 MCAS score level. The dedication and hard work by the students and educators in the district did not go unnoticed.

Although we are pleased with our scores and recovery, we pride ourselves on a continued effort to focus on the rigorous standards and ways to refine and enhance our teaching and learning to guide our instruction. We are extremely proud of our school community's achievement and success.

We continue to cultivate a sense of belonging and partnership with families and students creating rigorous instructional delivery and scaffolding to meet the learning needs of our students. At our local school committee meetings this past fall, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning along with the Principals, conducted MCAS presentations on the scores and results.

The following data in this Annual Report discusses an overview of both MCAS and Accountability results. The MCAS results are for diagnostic and improvement purposes to support planning for the district and school buildings. The assessment is computer based and focuses on critical (independent) thinking abilities, application of knowledge, and ability to make connections between reading and writing.

MCAS Achievement levels are broken down into four categories ranging in increments of 30 from 440-560. A score of 500 or above is considered "meeting expectation" and a score of 530 or above is "exceeding expectations" which are both passing scores. Scores under 500 are not considered a passing score in MCAS. These include the categories of "Partially Meeting Expectations" or "Not Meeting Expectations".

In terms of accountability status, this is the first year DESE is providing full accountability determinations for schools since 2019. DESE has provided an accountability percentile for schools in the state of Massachusetts. An accountability percentile ranges between the numbers of 1 and 99. The percentile score is an indication of a school’s overall performance relative to other schools with similar grades, and is calculated using multiple accountability indicators from contiguous years, such as MCAS data from 2022 & 2023. Although percentiles are calculated for schools, they are not calculated for districts. The table below shows an at-a-glance overall performance of each school according to these accountability measures. Overall, our schools performed well and are classified as “Not requiring assistance or intervention”.

2022/2023 Accountability Percentile	
Schools Improvement Targets (%)	Overall Progress Toward
Rochester Memorial School	50%
Sippican School	24%
Mattapoisett (Old Hammondtown School and Center School)	77%
Old Rochester Regional Junior High School	28%
Old Rochester Regional High School	36%

In our school districts, we continue to improve learning by utilizing data, including MCAS and other assessments, to analyze, inform, and guide instructional strategies. We are proud of the persistent endurance and growth of our students, as well as the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff and administrators. Further, cultivating a sense of belonging in addition to collaborating with families and students creates strong connections that support and enhance the educational experience for our students. Each school’s individual MCAS performance is discussed further in this report.

**Rochester Memorial School Performance**

Rochester Memorial School is made up of pre-k through grade 6 students. Rochester Memorial School students continue to perform at a high level in all subjects.

Students at Rochester Memorial School in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score very close or above the 500 threshold consisting of 494 for grade 3, 496 for grade 4, 492 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 3% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Rochester Memorial School students were 498 for grade 3, 500 for grade 4, 494 for grade 5 and 507 for grade 6. The school performed 6% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 501 in science. Grade 5 is the only elementary grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 6% better than the state average in science.

The table on the next page describes the 2023 performance by grade at Rochester Memorial School.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 – ELA	44	44	3	7	41	37	44	40	12	16	68	494	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 – MATH	47	41	4	8	43	33	41	39	12	20	68	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 – ELA	44	40	4	5	40	34	44	43	12	17	73	496	51	71
GR. 4 – MATH	43	45	4	8	39	37	54	37	3	18	72	500	51	71
GR. 5 – ELA	36	44	1	5	34	39	51	40	14	16	87	492	39	84
GR. 5 – MATH	37	41	2	5	34	36	54	46	9	13	87	494	39	84
GR. 5 - SCIENCE TECH/ENG	50	42	9	8	41	33	41	40	9	19	86	501	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 – ELA	73	42	14	8	59	34	16	34	11	24	63	508	70	61
GR. 6 – MATH	71	41	8	7	63	34	27	42	2	17	63	507	80	61

### Sippican School Performance

Sippican School serves students pre-k through grade 6. Sippican School students continue to outperform the state at a high level in ELA, Math and Science.

Students at Sippican School in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score close to or above the aforementioned 500 threshold consisting of 499 for grade 3, 496 for grade 4, 499 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 4% better than the state average in ELA.

Average Math scores for Sippican School students were 502 for grade 3, 504 for grade 4, 500 for grade 5 and 504 for grade 6. The school performed 13% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 497 in science. Grade 5 is the only elementary grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 3% lower than the state average in science.

The table on the next page describes the 2023 performance by grade at Sippican School

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
<b>GR. 3 - ELA</b>	47	44	9	7	38	37	40	40	13	16	53	499	N/A	N/A
<b>GR. 3 - MATH</b>	43	41	13	8	30	33	53	39	4	20	53	502	N/A	N/A
<b>GR. 4 - ELA</b>	41	40	13	5	28	34	41	43	19	17	64	496	41	59
<b>GR. 4 - MATH</b>	64	45	14	8	50	37	23	37	13	18	64	504	54	59
<b>GR. 5 - ELA</b>	43	44	11	5	32	39	45	40	13	16	56	499	49	50
<b>GR. 5 - MATH</b>	53	41	4	5	49	36	40	46	7	13	55	500	52	49
<b>GR. 5 – SCIENCE TECH/ENG</b>	42	42	11	8	31	33	44	40	15	19	55	497	N/A	N/A
<b>GR. 6 - ELA</b>	60	42	21	8	40	34	26	34	14	24	58	508	65	56
<b>GR. 6 - MATH</b>	53	41	10	7	43	34	36	42	10	17	58	504	50	56

### Mattapoisett Schools Performance

Center School serves students pre-k through grade 3. Old Hammondtown School serves students grades 4 through 6.

Students at the Mattapoisett schools in grades 3 through 6 achieved an average standard score very close to or above the 500 threshold consisting of 498 for grade 3, 501 for grade 4, 505 for grade 5 and 511 for grade 6 in ELA. The school performed 19% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Mattapoisett schools in grades 3 through 6 were 498 for grade 3, 505 for grade 4, 509 for grade 5 and 508 for grade 6. The school performed 18% better than the state average in math.

The grade 5 average score was 508 in science. The school performed 23% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at Mattapoisett schools.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 ELA	48	44	6	7	42	37	48	40	4	16	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 MATH	36	41	6	8	30	33	56	39	8	20	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 ELA	59	40	8	5	51	34	37	43	3	17	59	501	60	58
GR. 4 MATH	58	45	12	8	47	37	38	37	3	18	60	505	64	58
GR. 5 ELA	65	44	8	5	57	39	31	40	5	16	65	505	55	63
GR. 5 MATH	74	41	11	5	63	36	25	46	2	13	65	509	61	63
GR. 5 SCIENCE TECH/ENG	65	42	18	8	46	33	32	40	3	19	65	508	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 ELA	70	42	17	8	53	34	20	34	9	24	64	511	66	62
GR. 6 MATH	66	41	11	7	55	34	23	42	11	17	64	508	54	62

### Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Performance

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School serves students in grades 7 and 8 from Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Students at the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School in grades 7 and 8 received average standard scores above the 500 threshold consisting of a score of 502 in grade 7 and 504 in grade 8 in ELA. The school performed 12% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Old Rochester Regional Junior High School were 502 for grade 7 and 494 for grade 8. The school performed 6% better than the state average in math.

The grade 8 average score was 499 in science. Grade 8 is the only junior high school grade that takes the science MCAS. The school performed 9% better than the state average in science.

The table on the next page describes the 2023 performance by grade at ORRJHS.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State				
GR. 3 ELA	48	44	6	7	42	37	48	40	4	16	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 3 MATH	36	41	6	8	30	33	56	39	8	20	50	498	N/A	N/A
GR. 4 ELA	59	40	8	5	51	34	37	43	3	17	59	501	60	58
GR. 4 MATH	58	45	12	8	47	37	38	37	3	18	60	505	64	58
GR. 5 ELA	65	44	8	5	57	39	31	40	5	16	65	505	55	63
GR. 5 MATH	74	41	11	5	63	36	25	46	2	13	65	509	61	63
GR. 5 SCIENCE TECH/ENG	65	42	18	8	46	33	32	40	3	19	65	508	N/A	N/A
GR. 6 ELA	70	42	17	8	53	34	20	34	9	24	64	511	66	62
GR. 6 MATH	66	41	11	7	55	34	23	42	11	17	64	508	54	62

**Old Rochester Regional High School Performance**

Old Rochester Regional High School serves students grades 9 through 12 from the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Students at the Old Rochester Regional High School in grades 9 through 12 received average standard scores above the 500 threshold consisting of a score of 509 in grade 10 in ELA. The school performed 21% better than the state average in ELA.

Average math scaled scores for Old Rochester Regional High School were 506 grade 10. The school performed 15% better than the state average in math.

The grade 9 average score was 502 in science. Grade 9 takes the biology MCAS at the high school. The school performed 3% better than the state average in science.

The table below describes the 2023 performance by grade at ORRHS.

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations %		Exceeding Expectations %		Meeting Expectations %		Partially Meeting Expectations %		Not Meeting Expectations %		No. of Students Included	Avg. Scaled Score	Avg. SGP	Included in Avg. SGP
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State				
GR. 10 - ELA	66	58	17	15	49	43	29	30	5	11	146	509	44	133
GR. 10 - MATH	57	50	12	10	45	40	41	42	2	9	145	506	50	132
GR. 10 - SCIENCE & TECH/ENG	48	47	11	11	37	36	50	42	2	11	134	502	N/A	N/A

**Old Rochester Regional SAT Performance**

A total of 206 SAT exams were taken by students during the 2022-2023 school year. The Mean Score for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing was 573 which outperformed averages at both the state (563) and national (534) levels. In Math, the mean score for the district was 565, which outperformed the averages at both the state (558) and national (524) levels.

**Advanced Placement Coursework**

One hundred eighty-five students took advantage of the variety of Advancement Placements

courses offered at Old Rochester Regional High School in the 2022-2023 academic year. These 185 students took a total of 332 AP exams, meaning many students took multiple AP courses at the same time. Many students chose to get a leg up on college level coursework while still in high school. AP exams are developed by the College Board. With a scoring system of 1 through 5 on the AP exam, if a student earns a 3, 4, or 5, many higher education institutions offer college credit. Students enter college with credits already earned, placing them ahead in their degree aspirations. We are proud that many students take multiple AP courses and exams while at the Old Rochester Regional High School.

With AP Scholar awards, the AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college level achievement through their performance on AP exams. The AP scholar designation is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Old Rochester Regional High School had an impressive 95 students who earned this distinction. We are very proud of the robust participation of our students in Advanced Placement courses. Below is a table of the AP Awards received.

ORR Students	AP Award	AP Criteria
58 Students	AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
11 Students	AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
13 Students	AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
7 Students	AP Capstone Diploma	Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing.
13 Students	AP Seminar & Research Certificate	Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research.

### College and University Admissions

Old Rochester Regional School District students attained admissions at a variety of public and private institutions of higher education. The largest portion of Old Rochester Regional High School’s class of 2023 students, 12 students total, chose Bridgewater State University. Nine students chose the University of Massachusetts, Amherst as their choice of school. Seven students chose Bristol Community College and six students chose the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. The top four choices were the most economically advantageous opportunities within close proximity to the Tri-Town.

**The complete listing of colleges and universities the Class of 2023 attended is listed below:**

- American University
- Baylor University
- Bentley University
- Boston College

Bridgewater State University  
Bristol Community College  
Brown University  
Cape Cod Community College  
Clarkson University  
College of Charleston  
College of the Holy Cross  
Colorado School of Mines  
Curry College  
Dean College  
Elon University  
Emmanuel College  
Endicott College  
Fairfield University  
Florida Institute of Tech  
Florida State University  
Franklin Pierce University  
George Washington University  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Iona University  
Keene State College  
MA College of Pharmacy & Health  
MA Maritime Academy  
Mass College of Art & Design  
Massasoit Community College  
Merrimack College  
Monmouth University  
Montana State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
New England Institute of Technology  
North Carolina State University  
Northeast Maritime Academy  
Northeastern University  
Plymouth State University  
Providence College  
Quinnipiac University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhode Island College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint John Fisher University  
Salve Regina University  
Simmons University  
Smith College  
Stonehill College  
Suffolk University  
The Catholic University of America

UMass Amherst  
UMass Boston  
UMass Dartmouth  
UMass Lowell  
University of Connecticut  
University of Delaware  
University of Maine  
University of New Hampshire

The graduating Class of 2023 also had students who chose to serve in the Armed Forces. We are proud of those individuals and thank each of them for their service.

**School Committee**

During the 2022-2023 school year, all of our School Committee members remained consistent.

**Old Rochester Regional District School Committee**

Term Ends

2024	Michelle Smith, Marion
2023	Frances-Feliz Kearns, Mattapoisett
2025	April Nye, Marion
2023	Margaret McSweeney, Marion
2024	Jason Chisholm, Rochester
2024	Matthew Monteiro, Rochester
2023	Joseph Pires, Rochester
2024	James Muse, Mattapoisett
2025	Rosemary Bowman, Mattapoisett

**Marion School Committee**

2024	April Nye
2025	Nichole Daniel
2024	Michelle Smith
2023	Nichole Nye McGaffey
2023	Mary Beauregard

**Mattapoisett School Committee**

2023	Carly Lavin
2024	James Muse
2024	Tiffini Reedy
2025	Amanda Hastings
2025	Cristin Cowles

**Rochester School Committee**

2025	Sharon Hartley
2024	Robin M. Rounseville
2023	Anne Fernandes
2024	Jason Chisholm
2023	Katherine Duggan

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

## ***Report of the*** **Rochester Memorial School Principal**

Rochester Memorial School's faculty and staff began the 2023-2024 school year with excitement. The start of this school year began with the implementation of a new reading program from Houghton Mifflin, titled Into Reading. This is a kindergarten through sixth grade literacy initiative that our teachers have been working diligently to learn and implement. Since its inception, our teachers have been engaging in literacy training throughout the school year. Teachers are also working with Hill for Literacy to support their implementation of the reading program as well as the assessment tool, Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). Teachers have participated in the Science of Reading training to support their literacy work. As a school, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and positive staff to engage in this important work to support all students.

In addition to literacy support, a sixth grade teacher has implemented the OpenSciEd Science Curriculum for the past two years and in August 2023 a fifth grade teacher has begun implementing the OpenSciEd Science curriculum. OpenSciEd is an innovative way to teach science where students lead the discussion and inquiry based learning through the teacher facilitating the learning process in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards. RMS students are loving their science experience in the classroom and through STEM labs.

### Intervention:

As a school, we are continuing to develop our tiered intervention of support for academics and social emotional needs. Each grade level has a designated Flex Block to focus on intervention or enrichment depending on students' needs. RMS is fortunate to have two reading interventionists, an academic interventionist for reading and math and a STEM teacher to support all students across grade levels. This work at Rochester Memorial continues to be fine-tuned in alignment with the new District Strategic Plan, which was adopted in September 2023 by the School Committee.

### Faculty and Staff Updates:

In June of 2023, the beloved principal, Mr. Derek Medeiros, resigned his position after 10 years of service to the town of Rochester. In addition, Mrs. Deborah Bacchiocchi- K Teacher, Mrs. Diane Alexander- Grade 1 Teacher, Mrs. Deborah Lucas- Grade 1 Teacher, Mrs. Dana Stupalski- Grade 2 Teacher, Mrs. James DellaCioppa- Grade 6 Teacher and Mrs. Lorraine Taylor- Gr. 6 Special Education Teacher also resigned after many years of service to the Rochester Memorial School.

In August of 2023 Mrs. Heidi Letendre was hired as the Interim Principal for the 2023-2024 school year. She joined the Rochester Memorial School community with 20 years of administrative experience. In addition, there were several new hires to start the school year. Mrs. Leigh Beson was hired as a first grade teacher along with Ms. Catherine Staier. In preschool, Ms. Alexia Pacheco was hired along with Mrs. Erin Sharp as one of the paraprofessionals. In third grade, Mrs. Melissa Mills, paraprofessional; Mrs. Bridget Houlihan was hired to teach fifth grade ELA and Social Studies and in sixth grade, Ms. Caitlyn Coelho, special education teacher.

### Responsive Classroom:

Rochester Memorial School continues to focus on the social and emotional needs of all

students. Therefore, teachers are continuing to implement the Responsive Classroom curriculum each day by holding a morning meeting to review and discuss expectations and to problem solve social situations. RMS educators have also adopted the “Give Me Five” hand signal, which is implemented across all settings.

#### Project 351 Influencers and Student Ambassadors:

Student voice is also growing at Rochester Memorial School. RMS students can volunteer to be a Project 351 Influencer or a Student Ambassador. In 2023, there were only students from fifth and sixth grade that became student influencers. In the 2023 school year, there are fourth, fifth and sixth graders working together to create a more inclusive and respectful school environment. Students volunteered to sign up to be a Project 351 Influencer and will have attended four workshops by June 2024. This student group meets monthly with their principal and social worker to plan school related projects led by the students.

The student ambassadors meet bi-weekly before school. Together, this student body plans special events for the school such as spirit week and student-staff basketball games. Their goal is to help maintain a positive school learning environment where student voices are heard and highlighted.

#### School Council:

RMS has an active school council that meets once or twice a month to write the School Improvement Plan aligned with the District’s Newly Adopted Strategic Plan. The members of this committee are Lisa Mazzuca-academic interventionist, Bridgit Wallenhaupt-special education Teacher, Donna Cisco-paraprofessional, Ashley Rounseville-parent, Doug Sims-parent, Barbara Lee-parent, Lazaro Rosa-parent and Heidi Letendre, Interim Principal.

#### After-school Activities:

Rochester Memorial School continues to offer after-school programs three times a year for up to eight weeks. The student participation rate is about 200 students per seasonal session. Students participate in dance, the great outdoors, indoor soccer and basketball, amazing Legos, Read Around the World and Steamtastic to name a few. Mr. Kevin Woodward oversees our after-school program activities, which have been very successful.

In closing, Rochester Memorial School is very fortunate to have a supportive PTO. The PTO Board together with volunteers continue to offer great assemblies, resources and events for our students and educators. The community support in Rochester has been amazing and we look forward to building this already great partnership between our school, PTO and the greater community of Rochester.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Heidi Letendre, Interim Principal

## *Report of the*

# **Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Principal**

The Junior High experienced several personnel changes in the past year.

### **The following new staff were added to the Junior High:**

Lauren Millette – Director of Guidance

Jennifer Medeiros – 7th Grade Math Teacher

Alisia Cabral – 7th Grade Science Teacher

Leslie Halnen – Special Education Administrative Assistant

Darren Gray – Paraprofessional

Amy MacDonald – Paraprofessional

### **The following staff retired/resigned from the Jr. High School:**

Camryn Kidney – Paraprofessional

Dionne Cozier – Paraprofessional

### **The following staff retired from the Jr. High School:**

Donna Kirk – Special Education Administrative Assistant

Nancy Juvinall – Health Teacher

Maureen Barrett – Grade 7 Math Teacher

### **The following staff members were reassigned:**

Kathryn Gauvin – 7th Grade Science Teacher to Health Teacher

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Continued professional development and implementation of project-based learning
- Integration of the 21st century skills focused on collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking
- The social studies department continued to develop and refine curriculum aligned with the 2018 History & Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks
- Piloted OpenSciEd Science Units in Grades 7 & 8
- Conducted multiple Aimsweb+ and IXL Benchmark Assessments
- Advisory curriculum updates
- Continued implementation of Responsive Classroom approach to teaching and learning
- Acceleration Road Map After School Program – tutoring for 6 weeks in ELA and math
- Grade 8 Civics Actions Projects (PBL)
- Grade 8 Financial Literacy Lessons in 8th grade math classes
- Music and Technology Exploratory course transitioned to Music for Life

### **Afterschool Activities**

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School offers many intramural activities. During the 2022/2023 school year, intramural activities included Girls Field Hockey, Dodgeball, Volleyball and Ping Pong.

The Boys/Girls Cross Country was offered on an interscholastic basis and Grade 8 Students were eligible to participate at the high school level on the Swim Team, Freshman Football, JV Boys & Girls Soccer, Dance Team, Girls Basketball and Girls Ice Hockey

Sports clinics were held – Volleyball, Girls/Boys Soccer, Arena Football, Girls Basketball

Additionally, many students participated in other after school activities including Student Council, Jazz Band, GSA Club, Engineering Club, Ski Club, Drama Club, Crochet & Knitting Club, Art Club and the Jr. Ambassador's Club.

E-Sports took place for our Grade 7 & Grade 8 students for the first time.

### **Project 351 Ambassadors for 2022-2023:**

Town of Rochester: Elise Modracek

Town of Marion: James Russell

Town of Mattapoisett: Olivia Thompson

The Project 351 Ambassadors met Governor Wu and participated in community service in Boston and they held a Food Drive to benefit the Good Shepherd's Food Pantry.

The Ambassadors also facilitated a clothing drive in partnership with Cradles to Crayons.

### **Community Service**

During 2022-2023 school year, our students were involved in the following projects:

- In collaboration with the High School the JHS Student Council collected food items for 15 turkey dinner food baskets, including the turkey, that were given to those families in need.
- Our Grade 8 Green Team students volunteered their time during a field trip at Gifts to Give in New Bedford.

### **Survival and S.C.O.P.E.**

Grade 7 was able to participate in the Survival Program (74 students attended) and the remainder of Grade 7 participated in the S.C.O.P.E activities

### **Grade 7 Orientation/Opening Day:**

95% of Grade 7 students attended this orientation led by Carol Herrmann and Carla Cafarella. There were over 202 of our 212 Grade 7 students attending the 4th annual orientation. Mrs. Carla Cafarella and Mrs. Carol Herrmann volunteered over the summer to organize this event; 15 teachers and 35 eighth graders volunteered to make this event a success. Students received their schedules, met staff, learned to open lockers, participated in a scavenger hunt and met students from each of the towns.

### **School Council:**

The Old Rochester Regional Junior High School's School Council met once a month from September 2022 through May 2023. The School Council reviewed and/or worked on the following: Budget, 5-Year Strategic Plan, School Improvement Plan and the Student Handbook/Code Conduct.

### **Grant Recipients**

Brian Almeida – Grade 7&8 Tech Teacher – “Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank Grant” – Technology Equipment

Eugenia Tilley - Spanish Teacher – “Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank Grant” – Purchased Spanish Books

### **Staff Accomplishment(s)**

Nichole Charbonneau, Grade 8 English Teacher (Orange Team), was selected to serve on the state level Bias & Sensitivity Assessment Development Committee for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)

### **Student Accomplishment(s)**

Booster Bash Fundraiser kick-off assembly took place on September 9. This is our annual fundraiser to support activities. Funds are used for guest speakers, field trips, student

supplies, etc. This year \$14,765 was raised. A special “thank you” to all our parents, relatives and friends of our JHS students/community who made this fundraiser such a success. We could not have done it without them!

Congratulations to our E-Sports Teams and Coach Brian Almeida for completing their first season. The Championship was held on March 11 at Uptime E-Sports Arena in Hanover MA.

“Team Slippers” Drew Butler, Eric Charron, Velez Vieira and Liam Whittaker came in 1st place in the Rocket League tournament and “Team Sons of Zeus” – Parker Erickson, Kyle Pina, Eamon Perez and Jordan Barrows competed in the “Super Smash Brothers” tournament.

The Jr. Ambassadors are made up of both Grade 7 and Grade 8 students – in FY23 - 50 students were a part of this organization and the role of the Jr. Ambassadors are to fundraise for needy families, provide tours during Grade 6 visits, as well as provide tours for parents/guardians during Open House.

Kyle Cameron was chosen to read the “Proclamation” at the Mattapoisett Veteran’s Day event held at Old Hammondtown School on November 11.

Emma MacLeod, Grade 7, was our Spelling B winner.

Old Rochester Regional Junior High to Senior High Transition

In September, 2019, Gr. 8 Guidance Counselor visits each of the Grade 8 social studies classes regarding Career Exploration and High School Planning. The Grade 8 Students participated in a High School Application Process assembly and toured the high school on October 27th.

### **Vocational School Visits**

On October 27th prior to the High School tour, students in Grade 8 had the opportunity to visit Old Colony Vocational School. (Mattapoisett and Rochester Students) and Upper Cape Vocational School (Marion Students). Transportation was provided by the vocational schools.

### **Grade 6 to 7 Student Transition**

In May, Sped Liaisons from Grade 6 meet Jr. High School Sped Liaisons and transition meetings are held with Special Ed Teachers, Guidance Counselors and the Social Workers from each elementary School.

In May, the JHS Guidance Counselor visits each of the elementary schools and meets with the incoming Grade 7 students – Q&A session is held and we have continued with a Q&A session held virtually with Grade 6 parents

In June, Grade 6 students are bussed to the JHS on 3 separate days (one for each school) for a greet and meet of staff, a tour of the building and have a lunchroom experience at the JHS.

### **Highlights**

- Teaching Staff 100% Responsive Classroom Trained
- Promethean Boards for all staff
- TLC Learning Walks
- Atlas Rubicon Curriculum Updates
- 8th Grade Civics and Government Curriculum transition completed

- Implemented Powerschool based behavior reporting system
- Relationship Mapping exercises completed
- 4 Presentations on gender identity given to staff by the HS GSA Leadership Team
- Parent Q&A Sessions were held for Grade 7 parents
- Parent Open House in-person took place – parents had the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and get a quick overview of each class.
- Maintained our summer reading program where students in grades 7 & 8 were allowed to choose a minimum of one book from a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles. A book discussion was held on their selected title in September.
- With the Mattapoisett Police and School Resource Officers, Jr. Cardoso and Laneira Lima, we trained our staff and students in the A.L.I.C.E. program (enhanced lockdown for school intruder emergencies).
- The ORRJHS Student Junior Ambassador Program has continued.
- Showcase Night returned – A celebration of learning that included a school-wide art show, academic projects and live music performed by our talented students – “thank you” to our Art Teacher Meghann Bodeau for making the night a special night for the students to show off their projects and skills.
- Drama Production took place – “Alien Invasion”
- Annual Grade 6 Visits occurred in June during Survival/S.C.O.P.E week
- 1:1 Chromebook initiative continued
- Continued late buses 3 days a week, which dropped off students at their local town libraries.
- Mandatory substance abuse screening “SBIRT” took place for our Grade 7 students.
- Conducted the annual Spelling Bee
- Unified Sports Day at Tabor Academy
- Parents supported “Teacher Appreciation Day” – a special “thank you” to April Nye and Ixia Bongiorno for making this event a great success!
- Friday Enrichment Activities continued
- 8th Grade Dinner Dance
- 2nd Annual 8th Grade Awards & Promotion Ceremony
- 2nd Annual 8th Grade Breakfast

### **Student Assemblies**

- Annual Grade 8 Jury Presentation took place in April
- Hip Hop Dance PBIS Assembly took place in June

### **Music Accomplishments**

The following music students auditioned for and were accepted into the Southeast District Music Festival.

Instrumental: Orchestra – Brianna Cabral, Mara Donnelly, Joshua Marcolini, Rebecca Schaefer and Sophie Zhou

Choral: Isabella Perez-Dormitzer and Erin Root

Respectfully Submitted,  
Silas D. Coellner, Principal

# *Report of the* **Old Rochester Regional High School Principal**

## **Our Towns**

Our school serves three southeastern Massachusetts towns: Mattapoisett; Marion; and, Rochester. All three towns have maintained their charm through careful and thoughtful community planning. Marion and Mattapoisett are quaint, close-knit seaside communities. Rochester has a more rural landscape surrounded by scenic farms, cranberry bogs, pine forests and freshwater ponds. Residents are proud of their school systems and have been very supportive in passing legislation to ensure its continued success.

## **Our School**

The 2022-2023 school year featured a student body made up of 633 students, including 71 students attending Old Rochester Regional High School through the School Choice Program. Our student body resides in the communities of the Tri-Town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. Through the School Choice Program, the school was able to welcome residents of the following communities to our school: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Lakeville, New Bedford, and Wareham.

The Class of 2023 saw 168 seniors graduate on June 3, 2023. The hard work and determination of these young scholars will not stop there as they earned themselves 594 college acceptances to 149 universities and colleges across the country. In this graduating class, 73% of the students plan to attend a 4-year college, and 7% plan to attend a 2-year college. Two graduates will be entering the Armed Forces of the United States. Eleven graduates will enter the workforce/engage in apprenticeship. Forty-eight members of this graduating class were inducted into the National Honor Society, sixty-one graduates received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, and 53 of the graduates received scholarships from a variety of 131 state and local organizations.

Graduates will be attending institutions across New England such as Brown University, Boston College, Bentley University, Northeast Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, College of the Holy Cross, Dean College, Curry College, Endicott College, New England Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytech Institute, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, Keene State College, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell, Emmanuel College, Merrimack College, Mount Holyoke College, Providence College, Suffolk University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, University of New Haven, Vermont State University, Salve Regina University, Rhode Island College, Simmons University, Mass College of Art & Design, Quinnipiac University, Roger Williams University, Smith College, Stonehill College, Western New England University, Plymouth State University, Northeastern University, University of Connecticut, and Sacred Heart University. The most well-attended New England colleges amongst these graduates include the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Bridgewater State University.

Across the country, ORRHS will send graduates to American University, Baylor University, Coastal Carolina University, Colorado School of Mines, Clarkson University, College of Charleston, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, Franklin Pierce University, Rochester Institute of Technology, George Washington University, Iona University, Monmouth University, Montana State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute, St. John Fisher College, Hawaii Pacific University, Elon University, The Catholic University of America, University of South Carolina, University of Delaware, North Carolina State University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Utah.

This year, the most popular anticipated college majors include Engineering, Finance, Business, Criminal Justice, Education, Sports Management, and the Health/Science fields including Nursing. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2023 and wish them well as they represent Old Rochester in their future endeavors.

### **Our Faculty**

Of the 61 faculty members at ORRHS, 78% have their Master's degree and 3% have their Doctoral degree. The school has a 14.5 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio.

### **Accreditation**

Principal of Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Michael Devoll was pleased to report that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, voted for continued accreditation for Old Rochester Regional High School at their April 2019 meeting. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, founded in 1885, is the oldest accrediting agency in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable agency to award accreditation to New England Schools. The Association is a voluntary accrediting agency of more than 2000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities, and vocational, technical, and career institutions. Of these, approximately 630 high schools, middle/high schools, and PreK-12 schools have been accredited through the Association's Commission on Public Schools.

### **Debate Team**

The Old Rochester Regional High School Debate Team had a successful year in 2022-23 within the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League (EMDL). After two years of online "Zoom" debates, debaters were pleased to return to in-person debates. Two tournaments were hoisted at Old Rochester Regional Senior High School. This season the debaters argued the following resolution: Resolved The United States Federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, bio-technology, and cybersecurity.

Strong debate performances were made by juniors Eva Hartley and Jacob Hadley, Jamison Gunschel, and Theo Jacobsen. The Old Rochester Regional Varsity Affirmative Debate Team was the 3rd highest-ranked four-person team in the league in the Eastern Massachusetts Debate League. Jacob Hadley was the highest affirmative speaker in the league. Alden Cole-Viera was a top Varsity Negative Speaker. Novice Debaters Sophia Bouley and Scarlet Sylvia had a highly-ranked first season. In 2022-23 the Debate Team is arguing the following resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.

### **Drama Club**

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Drama Club produced two main stage performances. In the Fall, we performed Alice and Wonderland on November 17- November 20th. With over 60 students involved in the production, it was a fantastic turnout. We had over \$12,000 in ticket sales over the production weekend. In the Spring, we performed Once Upon A Mattress on March 30-April 2. With over 60 students in the production, we were able to collect over \$10,000 in ticket sales. Within the musical we had local musicians serving in

the pit band during all four performances. With help from the Tri-Town community, both productions raised over \$4,000 in advertising of local businesses. All ORRHS Drama Club performances were well attended and had many returning tri-town community members. For both the fall and spring, the drama club was able to host a Senior Citizens show on the Wednesday of tech week. These shows were well attended by the local community and brought in donations for the local food bank. The Drama Club performs Romeo and Juliet in the Fall of 2023 and Little Shop of Horrors in Spring of 2024.

### **Class of 2026**

The Class of 2026 made great strides in coming together as evidenced by their work on the homecoming skit. The class anticipates and is planning big for next year's program. Immediately after the homecoming effort, the class held the first of two extremely successful fundraisers. With the generous donation of two tickets to see a Boston Celtics' game, the class sold raffle tickets and was happy to see our own School Resource Officer win. On the heels of that success, a second very successful fundraiser was held in conjunction with The Inn at Shipyard Park in Mattapoisett. Students and their families dined in and took home meals where a portion of the proceeds benefited the class. The class advisors are working on exciting new plans with class officers.

### **Mock Trial**

The Mock Trial club returned to in-person competitions in January and February while competing in turn as both the plaintiff and defense in a simulated civil case involving a wrongful death lawsuit following an aviation stunt that ended in tragedy. Seniors Caitlin Collier and Sam Williamson returned and gave strong performances as attorneys. Junior Ella Caesar also performed strongly in the attorney role, and the team was joined by junior Liam Yurof, sophomore Eden Dupre, and freshman Austin Scully in the witness roles, as well as freshmen Alex Fiano and Makenzie Crowley, who took on attorney roles. All students performed incredibly well, showing great skill and adaptability throughout the season. This year marked one of the strongest overall performances by the team in recent memory, while just missing advancement to playoff competition. In the 2023-2024 season, the team will return to competitions in Fall River District Court, rather than in school classrooms.

### **Music**

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Music Department had eight students participate in the Southeast District Music Festival. So far in the 2023-2024 school year, we have had five students accepted to and participate in the District Festival, as well as one student recommended to audition for All-State. This past December, the Music Department had a successful Winter Concert and performance trip to Faneuil Hall in Boston. We have already held auditions for the Spring Musical, and rehearsals began before the holiday break.

In May 2023, the Concert Band and Chorus returned to the Great East Music Festival. The Chorus received a Platinum rating and the Concert Band received a Gold rating. We plan to return to the Great East Music Festival this Spring. The 2023 FORM Concerts were well attended and supplied solid funding for our Senior Scholarships.

### **DECA**

ORR DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA is open to all students who want to know more about business and the professional world, as well as those who simply enjoy traveling and meeting new people. The 22-23 school year was a great one for DECA, as our club welcomed many

new members, traveled to new places, and reached great levels of competitive success. In January 2023, we took a bus to Hyannis for our first competitive conference of the year. At this competition, our students competed very strongly, with 17 students advancing to the next level of competition—the State Career Development Conference (SCDC) in Boston. At SCDC, our members also competed well, with 6 members making it to the final level of competition at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando. It is worth noting that this year we had the most ICDC competitors in ORR DECA's history. Most recently, in January of 2024, our club traveled to Hyannis again to start the competitive season. Of the 20 members in attendance, 18 will be advancing to SCDC in March, and 7 additional members will proceed directly to SCDC through a written business report. In total, 25 students from ORR will be participating in SCDC this year, with high hopes for competitive success. Overall, ORR DECA has seen membership growth, competitive achievement, and networking opportunities in 2023 and the start of 2024.

### **National Honor Society**

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Old Rochester Regional chapter of the National Honor Society worked to promote the tenets of leadership, scholarship, service, and character both on and off campus. Our tutors have worked with students throughout the district through our virtual tutoring program while our education initiative worked with elementary school students on various creative projects throughout the year. Our members also came together to collect and deliver much-needed supplies for the New Bedford Women's Center and the Boys and Girls Club.

Through positivity and mental health initiatives, our NHS members also worked to create a positive and supportive atmosphere on campus and within our organization. After competing in the Honor Bowl with other SCC schools, two of our members founded Trivia Thursdays. These popular NHS-sponsored Bulldog Block sessions were open to all students. Our members also took part in the New Bedford United Way Youth Day of Caring during which they worked in Mattapoisett to prepare the Y for summer camps.

### **Class of 2025**

The Class of 2025 continuously pursued fundraising throughout the 2022–2023 academic year in preparation for future senior activities. To begin the year, the class sold Bulldog umbrellas and insulated bags throughout the fall. In November, the class held a Chipotle dine-out night in addition to a cookie dough fundraiser. Moving into the holiday season, the class organized a Parents' Night Out for kids K–6, where the children did winter crafts, played games, ate snacks, and watched *The Grinch*. In the spring, the class organized a student-versus-teacher basketball game. In May, the calendar raffle became an annual event, and the council and class searched for donations from local businesses and families. Overall, the class worked hard to make 2022–2023 a successful year of fundraising.

### **Environmental Club**

Environmental Club meets every Tuesday after school and consists of about 8 students regularly. This year we have done some campus garden maintenance, cleaned up trash around campus, recycled paper, cans, and bottles from classrooms, and cold stratified pollinator seeds for campus gardens and community gardens. A group of Club members also volunteered for the Salty Soiree, helping the Mattapoisett Land Trust offer families a beautiful way to gather. Our BIG project this year has been learning about, and beginning the control/eradication of the invasive Phragmites on campus. We were visited by Colleen Andrews of the Mattapoisett Land Trust and Brandon Faneuf from the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection. Students wrote a plan of eradication and submitted it to the MLT and State. We have begun to understand aspects of the Wetlands Protection Act, and are removing invasive weeds from a retention pond from campus.

### **Student Newspaper: Paw Prints**

Our Paw Prints student newspaper has experienced excellent growth over the course of the last year. We currently have two excellent sophomore editors and a crop of younger writers eager to step up. Our current leadership has found a cost-effective solution to use Canva for the newspaper layout. Not only does it spare extra expense, but the paper has produced some of the most beautiful layouts in recent years. Additionally, we have been able to use some Sophomore project-based writing to supplement the work produced by the regular staff.

### **Sci Fi and Strategy Club**

This year marked additional growth for the Science Fiction Club and a responsible group of student leaders who have worked to make the club open and welcoming to all new members. There are both group and individual activities to meet the needs of each member; we also offer bi-monthly game nights for longer-form Sci-Fi gaming that we are unable to complete during weekly after school meetings.

### **AFS Club**

The AFS Club empowers students to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skills needed to help create a more just and peaceful world. AFS is open to all students who enjoy traveling and meeting new people. We were able to kick things off in October with our Annual Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest. In November, we hosted our Annual International Dinner where we invited the Southeastern Mass International student delegation. The students on the scholarship committee presented slideshows of their countries and educated our club students about their cultures and daily life. The AFS club was able to travel in December to New York City for a visit to The Museum of Natural History, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square. We were able to bring back our domestic Cultural exchange with Rio Vista HS in California. Our club students were able to travel to the San Francisco Bay Area to school and visit local cultural attractions. The ORR AFS students in return hosted 21 students from Rio Vista here at ORR, showing them how our school functions daily, the architecture of the Newport Mansions, our World Champion Patriots/Revolution's Hall of Fame at Gillette Stadium, and several attractions and eateries in Boston.

### **GSA Club**

The ORRHS GSA had a very successful year advocating for education in our district to create a more inclusive community. Over the course of four presentations, our GSA leadership, Alia Cusolito and Nathan Correia, provided JHS staff training on LGBTQ+ issues, including basic education on terms and identities, trans students support, and inclusive curriculum. Throughout the year, the GSA fostered conversations about community care by prioritizing mental health discussions and welcomed school community members to meetings to continue conversations about what is affecting our students. In March, our GSA president, Alia Cusolito, organized and spoke at the March For Queer & Trans Youth Autonomy in Washington DC, and our students also attended workshops hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **Community Service Learning**

The 2023-24 school year began with the excitement of seeing returning members as well as

welcoming MANY new member's energy and commitment to give back to our Tri-Town community. CSL offers yearly volunteer opportunities and always enjoys adding new ones so students can participate on their own. The club meets once a week after school. The CSL co-advisors, Karen Browning and Andrea Moniz, help to advise students as they take on student leadership roles on various community service projects that are new and ongoing. For the 6th year, under the leadership of our students, the CSL Club collected 384 new pairs of socks for their "SOCKTOBER" event in October. It was another huge success and the socks were donated to The Women's Center in New Bedford. As October came to a close, the CSL Club turned its focus to our December group event in collaboration with Toys for Tots and the Tri-Town police departments, for our "Stuff a Cruiser" event. We were pleased this year as all three town police departments were represented and Santa stopped by to greet everyone! The CSL club was able to collect 124 toys for local children. We appreciate the generosity of our Tri-Town residents.

Among these group volunteer activities, CSL has had several individual volunteer opportunities brought to the group by students and led by students, such as volunteering on weekends at Damien's Pantry and the Mattapoisett Museum.

We are very excited about new events that our members have initiated on their own for this school year: Assisting at the East Over Farm for the Buzzards Bay Bike Ride in October; Veteran's Collection Drive for the Veterans Transition Home in New Bedford; "One Warm Coat Project" to be donated to Gifts to Give; and we have collaborated with the Junior High School as well as Sippican School for the first time. Other new programs are visits to Gifts to Give once a month, Kindness Week, and "Women United Wash and Read Program", where we collect children's books to be donated to laundromats.

The CSL Club has also been informed of opportunities brought from the community, such as the Mattapoisett Land Trust (story walks), The Friends of the Mattapoisett Bike Path (tour de Creme bike ride and "Bikes for All" program - and we now have a student representative on the board), and at the Mattapoisett Library (crafts and used book sales). For our third year, the CSL Club has continued a wonderful connection with VASE from Sippican School in Marion volunteering in the After Class Enrichment (ACE) Homework Help.

The club will plan a "beach clean up" in the spring, as well as a school-wide clean up outside (trash as well as pruning branches and mulching in the memorial gardens). We will cap off our successful year in May of 2024, where the club will honor students who have submitted their community service hours that have earned them the "President's Volunteer Service Award", an award where students earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medallion medal depending on their age and the number of their volunteer hours, along with a signed letter and certificate from the President of the United States, thanking them for their community service.

### **Class of 2024**

As the first "mask-free" year in their high school history, the class of 2024 started the year off by working closely with the Student Council to coordinate the annual Homecoming dance, class skit, and pep rally. As part of the tradition, the junior class decorated their hallway with SpongeBob-themed props and accessories and created a fun skit complete with choreographed dances and music. Throughout the year, the class of 2024 ran several fundraisers including a Spike Ball tournament, a restaurant night at Nicks, making homemade cookies, and selling chocolates from Dorothy Cox. In the spring, The Class

of 2024 was the first class to ever host a mattress fundraiser which brought in community members from many local towns and cities. Their efforts raised over \$4000 for the class. In addition, the class participated in the Neediest Family fundraiser and organized the annual Junior semi-formal dance. In June, the class elected new officers and senators and began to plan for senior year.

### **Student Council**

During the 2022-2023 school year, Student Council (STUCO) continued in its mission to promote positive school spirit and support students and activities within the school community. STUCO started the school year by organizing and running elections for the class of 2026. After hosting another very successful Club Hub in the media center for the whole school in October, STUCO E-Board and senators attended the fall SEMASC Leadership Conference at Duxbury High School. Without missing a beat, STUCO once again collaborated with the Community Service Learning Club and their Socktober sock drive while organizing and hosting a well-attended Homecoming Dance.

From the proceeds raised through the Homecoming ticket sales, STUCO was once again able to help various clubs and organizations fund activities and initiatives throughout the school year. Clubs that received funding from STUCO in the 2022-2023 school year included Cultural Club, BIPOC, DECA, Music Appreciation Club, Tea Club, and AFS.

STUCO remained busy throughout the year, including raising over \$1200 for the annual fundraiser for the neediest families and hosting the end-of-year ice cream social for the entire school in December. In February, STUCO members performed random acts of kindness throughout the school community during kindness week and brought back the traditional Class Olympics before February break.

The year culminated with STUCO supporting the Class of 2023 and their Safe Prom initiative and awarding the annual STUCO “Unsung Hero” Scholarships to three deserving seniors from the Class of 2023, who each received a one-time scholarship of \$500 for going above and beyond.

All in all, it was another successful year of student leadership development, community service and giving back to the school community.

Once again, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school’s history of excellence. Students and staff congratulated the following staff members for their work at ORRHS as they moved on at the close of the school year: Becky Okolita and Caroline Cervera

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Devoll, Principal

## ***Report of the***

# **ROCHESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The first Rochester School Committee Meeting in 2023 was held on Monday, January 23, 2023. This first meeting was held full in-person at Memorial School with a Zoom link available. Committee members noted hopefully that this meeting signified the end of COVID restrictions and a return to normalcy.

School Committee Members included Sharon Hartley, Chairperson, Robin Rounseville, Vice Chairperson, Jason Chisholm, Kate Duggan, and Anne Fernandes.

In September, when the School Committee reorganized, Kate Duggan was elected to serve in the role of Vice Chairperson.

School Committee members took the following actions during the year:

- Approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget in the total amount of \$7,025,493 for the Rochester Public Schools,
- Reviewed and approved a Memorandum of Agreement between the Rochester School Committee and the Rochester Memorial Support Personnel Association,
- Approved changes to the Student Handbook,
- Approve the School Health Unit Application,
- Decided to opt out of school choice for the 2023-2024 school year,
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rochester School Committee and Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative for the rental of classroom space,
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rochester School Committee and Bonnie A. Morrison, Countryside Child Care Center, Inc. for the rental of classroom space, and
- Accepted the Literacy Program Curriculum, Into Reading.

The School Committee approved and accepted the following grants totaling \$201,176:

- The Safe and Supportive Schools Grant for \$10,000 to create safe and supportive school environments,
- The USDA Equipment Grant for \$20,000 to invest in our service lines equipment,
- The FC586 Early Literacy Universal Screening Grant for \$5,076,
- The FC730 Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials Grant for the amount of \$162,000 to support Rochester Memorial School with assistance in purchasing a new core literacy program for grades K-6, and
- The OpenSciEd Grant in the amount of \$4,100.

During the year the School Committee gratefully accepted the following important donations to our school:

- The “All the Time” series of books,
- A donation of sanitizer from Joshua Rivera,

- Bongos for the Music Department from Nancy Sparklin,
- A steel drum for the Music Department from Damien McCann,
- A saxophone stand from Erin Bednarczyk for the music department,
- A Free Little Library from an RMS student, Austin Sims, and Austin's father, Mr. Sims, and his students at Old Colony High School,
- Two special books, *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Alberto Hernandez and *Squished* by Lloyd by Megan Wagner, from the Duggan family,
- Many collections of books for the RMS Library from the RMS Parent Teacher Organization,
- A collection of books for the RMS Library from the Plumb Memorial Library, and
- Sixty-five toothbrush kits from All Hands dentistry and Sullivan Family Dental.

During the year School Committee Members received the following demonstrations and reports:

- Mr. Cote, classroom teacher, demonstrated the use of a new piece of technology, a Promethean Board, which is being used to support student learning in every learning area of our school.
- Mr. Davidson, Director of Student Services, reported on the roll-out of the Math Acceleration Academy during February and April vacations. Students participate in engaging and dynamic Math lessons that focus on accelerating students' learning in data driven targeted areas. The Academy is free of charge for all students who participate.
- Several presentations were made during the year by Dr. Darci Burns, representing the HILL for Literacy, to explain the major tenets of the HILL for Literacy's multi-year process to support RMS staff during their transition to adopting a new core literacy program.

At the end of the school year, the School Committee recognized and honored the following esteemed educators as they retired from Memorial School after many years of dedication to our school, our students and their families. Thank you to Diane Alexander, Deb Lucas, Dana Stupalski, Jim DellaCioppa, Deb Bacchiocchi, and Lorraine Taylor and Director of Student Services, Craig Davidson.

The School Committee also recognized the dedicated leadership of Principal Derek Medieros as he resigned from his position as Principal of Rochester Elementary School.

In September, as the new school year began, the School Committee welcomed the following new staff members: Heidi Letendre, Interim Principal; Kristine Lincoln, Interim Director of Student Services; Teah Keog, ELL Specialist; Jackie St. Thomas, School Psychologist; Caitlyn Coelho, Special Education Teacher; Alexia Pacheco, Classroom Teacher; Lauren Harper, Classroom Teacher, Catherine Staier, Classroom Teacher; Leigh Beson, Classroom Teacher; Bridget Houlihan, Classroom Teacher; and Erin Sharp, Instructional Assistant.

The School Committee also welcomed Gilbert Leonardo as the Building and Grounds Supervisor and Kelly Freitas and Marvin Bern as Lunch Aides at Rochester Memorial School.

In December, Superintendent Nelson introduced the presentation of the School Improvement

Plan by explaining that the new District Strategic Plan, Vision 2028, serves as a guide for the school improvement initiatives and informs the processes and goals for leaders and faculty. Dr. Fedorowicz, Principal Letendre and members of the School Council presented the School Improvement Plan and School Committee members unanimously approved the plan.

We conclude this report with appreciation for the vibrant school community of Rochester Memorial School - students and their families, members of the PTO, leaders, teachers, support staff, food service staff, custodial staff, ORR District staff, Town Hall staff and Rochester citizens – all of whom contribute to this joyful learning community and the many celebrations, field trips and learning experiences that take place throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Hartley, Chairperson,  
Kate Duggan, Vice Chairperson  
Jason Chisholm  
Anne Fernandes  
Robin Rounseville

*Town of Rochester*  
**Municipal Telephone Directory**

**Emergency Only 911**

Town Hall	508-763-3871
Town Hall Annex	508-763-5421
Police Department	781-934-1111
Fire Department	508-763-2611
Highway Department	508-763-1991
Council on Aging	508-763-8723
Plumb Library	508-763-8600

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# Notes





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