

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
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**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 6:30 PM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
The David Cable-Murphy Studio**

APPROVED BY

OCT 14 2025

ROCKLAND SCHOOL
COMMITTEE

In attendance: Mrs. Maroney, Chair, Vice Chair Mrs. Hennessy and members Dr. Mauro-Small, Mrs. Bissonnette and Mrs. Davidson. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Cron, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Hackett, Student Representative Erin Maroney, Mr. MacAllister and Mrs. Novio.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of the minutes for the August 18, 2025, meeting; a motion was made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small. Approved.

Nothing under Audience.

School Newsletters. Phelps, Esten Early Childhood Center, Rogers Middle School and Rockland High School. Always well written and very informative.

Monthly Reports June. Administrators; Ms. Schipper, Ms Holbrook, Guidance; Ms. Black, Nurse; Ms. Davis and Pupil Personnel Services; Dr. Maniglia. Five motions to approve the monthly reports by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved.

Financial Reports June. Rockland High School Student Activities and the Rogers Middle School Student Activities. Two motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved. Mrs. Hennessy commented that Student Activity reports are the fundraising that happens and where all the money goes. These reports show all balances.

Monthly Reports July. Administrators; Ms. Sheehan. One motion to approve from Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved.

Financial Reports July. Rockland High School Student Activities and Rogers Middle School Student Activities. Two motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved.

Monthly Reports August. Administrators Ms. Sheehan and Mr. MacAllister. Two motions to approve by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved.

New Business. Mr. MacAllister presented the new Rogers Middle School Schedule. There was a lengthy process of analyzing the current schedule and taking a look at what neighboring districts were doing. It was an opportunity for us to identify areas of weakness, areas of concern that maybe we could alleviate with adjustments made to our schedule and create significant internal changes designed to maximize learning opportunities and better prepare students for High School. A lengthy process and a lot of research was done. We visited other schools, talked with other administrators to see what was working really well for them. (Powerpoint presentation). There is still a six day period rotating schedule and the same times of our doors opening at 7:55 and the school day ending at 2:40. We tried to be as minimally disruptive as possible. The synchronization allows seventh and eighth graders to have 87-minute periods during the long block, while fifth and sixth graders receive a 52-55 minute period following a 30-minute lunch and newly instituted recess. Recess movement breaks for Grades 5 and 6 improves peer interaction, social management, physical activity, conflict resolution and a shout out to Justin Bodio of the Parks Department for their amazing support. So just all that pent-up angst and that build-up of anxiety, it's a chance for them to get it out of their system. The extended periods enable science teachers to conduct more in-depth laboratory work and allow for project-based learning that better mirrors high school expectations. Schedules were synchronized through all grade levels which supports sub-separate programs comprised of students from multiple grades, supports EL staff who work between multiple grades, alleviates scheduling complications between students, staff and programs; allows "upper middle" time for project based learning, diagnostics testing, group work, labs, etc.

Reallocation of Special Education: two special education staff dedicated to each grade which simplifies communication between General Education Staff and Special Education Staff and increases the student/staff relationship.

The synchronization of our schedule gave us an opportunity to better utilize staff. World Language instruction received a major overhaul, moving from a half-year French/half-year Spanish model to full-year commitments in either language. Under the previous system, students might only see their world language teacher for 11 days over the course of a year. The new structure ensures students receive a complete year of instruction, positioning them to enter high school at level two proficiency and potentially qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy Assessment by their sophomore year.

The schedule changes enable significant improvements to the school's music program. Band and chorus now meet daily during the "Bulldog Block," allowing students to fully commit to music education without missing academic classes. This year, 45 fifth graders enrolled in band and 32 in chorus, representing a substantial increase attributed directly to the scheduling changes. Students who previously couldn't participate due to conflicts with special education services can now split their time between music and required support services.

Thank you to Mr. MacAllister and the Middle School staff and their flexibility and commitment to the kids. Members would like Mr. MacAllister to come back at the end of the year to provide more feedback.

Fundraisers. Rockland High School girls soccer SNAP raise for team gear and equipment, Rockland High School golf program SNAP raise for Rockland High School golf program, Rockland High School golf program selling pretzels to raise money for the Rockland High School golf program, Rockland boys soccer SNAP raise online to generate funds for gear and summer league fees, Rockland High School Student Government breast cancer shirts where proceeds will go to Making Strides, Class of 2028 raffling yard lines to raise funds for the class, Class of 2028 selling staff t-shirts to make money for the class, Rockland High School student government homecoming dance to benefit Student Government activities, Rockland High School Student Government Project Pumpkin trick-or-treating in the high school to benefit student government activities, Rockland High School Class of 2027 cookie dough and pies will be done through MCM fundraising and arriving in time for Thanksgiving, Rockland High School Student Government Mr. Rockland talent show funds will benefit the student government account, Rockland High School Student Government elf on the shelf tickets to be sold during lunches where a teacher is voted to raise money for student government, Rockland High School Student Government candygrams where students can buy lollipops to send to friends to benefit the High School student government and Rockland High School Cross Country and Track teams third annual Bulldog Dash 5K and raffle table funding will go towards indoor track and outdoor track students and equipment. 14 motions to approve the fundraisers by Mrs. Hennessy, 14 seconds by Dr. Mauro-Small, approved.

Superintendent's Report. Thank you to the Boosters, the athletic boosters, and all the parents groups for the work that you do. Well beyond the money that is raised, the involvement is beneficial to the students. Parent involvement is beneficial to the school community. We usually thank them at the end of the year, but I think it's nice to thank them at the beginning of the year. We service 300 students for after and before school so families can get to work and stay at work. It's a great program. We are running Esten and Phelps programs at Phelps and are busing students over. We think it's an increase to our safety. A reminder to all parents who pick up and drop off at the Middle and High School. We seal off MacKinlay Way so that it's only one way during those hours so that buses can come in and out. I'm asking parents who are used to picking up and dropping off at the end of the day to please consider another way to do that. Too many cars parked in the administrative lot for example, gets in the way of the buses leaving. It leads to school safety. We take our safety and security seriously and we have systems in place. We practice active shooter drills, evacuation drills, bus drills. The rise of electric bikes is a concern before and after school. I'm concerned that they are dangerous and something is going to

happen with cars backing out. Parents please have a safety conversation with your students who have these bikes.

Public Service Announcements. We have Erin Maroney, who is this year's student representative. Erin, "I'm the Vice President of Student Government. One of the duties is to come to the School Committee with some school news. High School girls soccer, boys golf and boys soccer are all doing SNAP raises for families and parents and whoever wants to donate and support. Money is greatly appreciated and goes towards team equipment, gear and all the fun stuff. RHS golf is selling pretzels to raise money for the program. RHS Student Government is selling breast cancer t-shirts with the proceeds going to Making Strides, Class of 2028 will be raffling yard lines to raise money for the class, and the Class of 2027 will be selling cookie dough and pies to arrive in time for Thanksgiving. Senior sunrise is tomorrow, and will be at the stadium at 6:00 am. Homecoming is October 18th and Project Pumpkin is October 25th for all families." Dr. Mauro-Small welcomed everyone back to school. Mrs. Hennessy would like to encourage all parents to go to the back to school nights to meet teachers and open up communication. Good luck to sports teams, band, chorus. Mrs. Bissonnette would like to give kudos to Emily Creedon, a former third grade colleague. She started the family engagement and empowerment course at Phelps. They have their first session tonight of nine sessions. They are 5:30-6:30 and they are on Monday Nights. It's a great way to go in and find out what's happening at the school. It's a wonderful opportunity. Mrs. Maroney- Phelps PAC first meeting is Tuesday, September 9th from 6:00-7:00. Esten's first meeting will be Friday, September 12th at 9:00 am and the Middle School's first PAC meeting will be September 17th at 5:30. Phelps PAC is doing Flamingoes to have your yard flocked.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Dr. Mauro-Small, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Davidson
Secretary

Rogers Middle School Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Homeroom Grades 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6	HR 7:55-8:07 5 and 6
Period 1 8:10 - 9:02	A	B	C	D	E	F
Period 2 9:05 - 9:57	B	C	D	E	F	A
Period 3 10:00 - 10:52	C	D	E	F	A	B
Period 4 2HR 10:55 - 12:52	D (LUNCH 1)	E 27 MIN (LUNCH 2)	F 57 MIN (LUNCH 3)	A 87 MIN (LUNCH 4)	B (LUNCH 1) 87 MIN	C 27 MIN (LUNCH 2)
LONG BLOCK	87 MIN	57 MIN	27 MIN	87 MIN	87 MIN	57 MIN
Period 5 12:55 - 1:47	E	F	A	B	C	D
Period 6 1:50 - 2:40	F	A	B	C	D	E

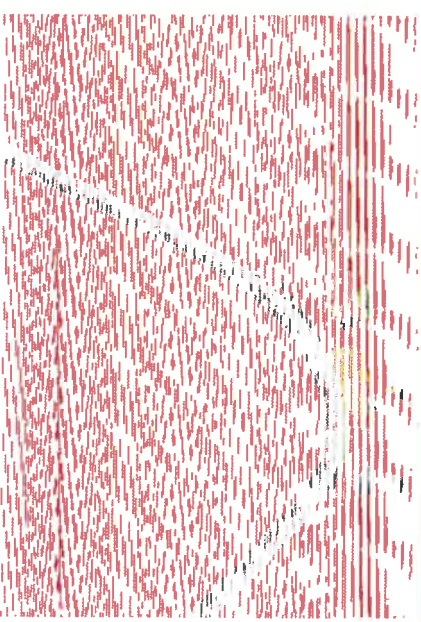
1. Schedule synchronized through all grade levels:
 - a. Supports sub-separate programs comprised of students from multiple grades
 - b. Supports EL staff who work between multiple grades
 - c. Alleviates scheduling complications between students, staff, and programs
 - d. Allow "Upper Middle" time for project based learning, diagnostics testing, group work, labs, etc
2. Reallocate Special Education: Two special education staff dedicated to each grade
 - a. Simplifies communication between Gen Ed staff and Sped staff
 - b. Increased student staff relationships
3. Recess Movement Break for grades 5 and 6
 - a. Peer Interaction
 - b. Social Management
 - c. Physical Activity
 - d. Conflict Resolution
 - e. Justin Bodio - Amazing Support

Reallocating Courses

- Students had as little as 11 days of a UA
 - Limited Curriculum
 - Loss of student-teacher relationship
 - Grading difficulties
- Students pulled for services lost access to Band and Chorus
- Student had half year of Spanish and half year of French - loss of curriculum
- MCAS and IXL Data exposed a need for Manufacturing and Engineering

STEAM Program

- MCAS Data Driven
- Supports Manufacturing and Engineering Curriculum
- Connects STEAM at Phelps and Physics/Robotics at RHS
- Hands On - Project Based
- Transferable Skills to Innovation Career Pathways



World Language

- Year Long
- Completion of Level 1
- Access to Seal of Biliteracy Test
- Development of an AP World Language



Band and Chorus

- Meets Every Day During Bulldog Block
- Students commit to programs, concerts, plays
- Added exposure increases proficiency
- 45 Band
- 32 Chorus
- Correlation between music and academic success
- Allows students to participate and receive other services

