

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Vice-Chairperson Martha Morgan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:04 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Members present were Susan Brisson, Colleen Coogan, Martha Morgan, and Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe. Michael Kelley was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to approve the amended regular minutes from October 1, 2014.  
Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Allison Chalmers - EL SPED Before School Running Club 1:1 Teacher Assistant  
Manny DeCruz ó Interim Director of Student Services from September 4, 2014 to a date TBD

II. Community Participation

A. Appreciation

The Committee recognized and presented gifts to former school committee members Carl Engel, Melissa Tingley, and Nancy Pitman for their years of service to the Rockport Public Schools.

B. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative N/A

C. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. Field Trip Requests

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to approve the Jazz Ensemble I class fieldtrip to attend an out of state and overnight high school jazz competition at the University of Delaware with the addition of one female chaperone.  
Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0

B. Policy Review/Revise:

First Reading File: ADDA-R Background Checks

School Committee Member Colleen Coogan explained the new state law requiring a fingerprint-based national background check for educators. The policy that they have proposed for this first reading is adapted from materials prepared by the Massachusetts Association for School Committees. The committee is concerned that parents/guardians will not continue to volunteer since they have to pay for fingerprinting and would like to find ways to reimburse them. Mrs. Coogan also explained that fingerprints are done by a vendor and cannot be done at our local police department. Superintendent Liebow explained that he and one other, trained, employee see the background checks and that it is up to him to determine if the individual is suitable to be working or volunteering for the schools.

C. Three Year Strategic Plan Approval

Superintendent Liebow presented the "Three Year Strategic Plan." When he first came to Rockport there were several different documents, Core Values, Goals, etc, which he has compiled into one. Mr. Liebow feels that a 3 year plan is best and it should be a live evolving document. He reviewed comments from a

survey that he sent out to stake holders. Many comments were positive, most asked for specificity. The committee is very excited about this format.

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to approve the three year strategic plan with an addition of a glossary of terms.  
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Information and proposals

- A. School Council Update
- B. Donations
- C. Updates

Policy Sub-committee: will be working on the Animals in School and Communications policies. Susan Brisson attended the Wellness Committee where they discussed the function of the committee, making sure the committee is in compliance, and they will discuss vision and goals at the next meeting. The meetings are represented by teaching staff, food service director, town nurse, and parents/guardians, the committee would like to see a representative from guidance or psychologist. Martha Morgan and Colleen Coogan of the Communications Sub-Committee will write a communication plan draft for the entire school community and will create goals from the strategic plan. Michael Kelley and Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe of the Negotiations Committee reported that the group has agreed to Interest Based Bargaining. Everyone on the negotiations committee will need to be trained. A representative from the FinCom will be invited to make a presentation on behalf of the town.

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report and FundFlow (11/5)
- B. Transportation User Fee Review (12/3)
- C. Administrative Budget Presentation (11/5)
- D. Budget Presentation/Public Participation (11/19)
- E. Background File: ADDA (11/5)

VII. Calendar

November 5, 2014, Regular Meeting  
November 19, 2014, Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session N/A

Motion: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.  
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow, Superintendent of Schools