

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, February 4, 2015

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. Colleen Coogan was also present, Susan Brisson arrived at 7:10pm, Michael Kelley at 7:20pm, and Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the regular minutes from January 21, 2015.
Seconded: Martha Morgan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Kaitlyn Welch has been appointed to the position of Long-Term Elementary Teacher Assistant Substitute at the Step 1 rate of the Support Staff Contract of \$105.90/day effective January 21, 2015.

II. Community Participation

A. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow

Superintendent Liebow reported that the district will be participating in a Public School Coordinated Program Review System during the 2015-2016 school year. World War II veteran Russell Gustafson received the French Legion of Honor Medal at an assembly for the middle and high school students. Athletic Director Mary Ryan is the MSSADA Athletic Director of the year and will receive the MIAA Distinguished Service Award for Women and Girls Sports. The senior class will be going to Camp Takoday in New Hampshire for their senior trip. A Gender-Equity Committee will be formed to review policies and practices related to gender equity. The RHS Jazz Ensembles competed in the 47th Annual Berklee College of Music HS Jazz Festival. Teachers are submitting feedback on administrators as part of the administrative evaluation process.

B. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative

Student Representative Logan Trupiano reported that students are unhappy that they are being marked tardy even though roads are closed and snow has not been removed from sidewalks. Mr. Liebow thought that there was "forgiveness" during these severe conditions and would talk to the principal regarding this matter. Student Representative Andrew Gleckner reported that the 5 day schedule, instead of an eight day schedule, would continue. The decision was made with the input from a student survey. Both staff and students liked having the longer blocks that are incorporated in the 5 day schedule.

C. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. K-12 Music and Art Presentation

Elementary Art Teacher Simon Paddock reported that Pre-K students have art 30 minutes once a week and Kindergarten through 5 grades have 45 minutes once a week. The focus is on discipline based arts education, curriculum integration and self-expression. Annual art exhibits are held at the Rockport Art Association, the Wenham Museum, and the Cape Ann Museum. Special projects for the elementary school students are a sea glass mosaic, the earth loom and participating in the Square 1 Art Fundraiser. Middle School Art Teacher Pam Jones reported that the curriculum has a focus on elements and principles of design. She offers Art History and Studio Art in grade 6, Exploratory Studio and Art History in grades 7 and 8. The middle school art program participates in the annual RAA art show, Empty Bowls, art club, Square One Fund Raiser and artists visits. First year high school art teacher Zach O'Brien reported that his summer project, along with the custodial staff, was to clear out and reorganize the art room so that the students would have a new perspective on the art space. He would like to use the old office space as a technology lab room.

He is in a transition year offering Art I, Art II and Art Portfolio this year and would like to offer Art History, Foundation of Art, Advanced Drawing and Painting, 3-dimensional design, Introduction to and advanced graphic design, and yearbook next year. Mr. O'Brien is involved with admission counselors from local colleges and the art students participate in the annual RAA art show, Montserrat College of Art 51st Congressional District Art Show, Endicott College Art Show and Fine Arts Senior Showcase Exhibition at Shalin Liu. Currently 3 of his students have been accepted to the art school they applied to and one more is waiting to hear.

Music department teachers Nathan Cohen, Anthony Covelli, Patti Pike, and Kaitlin Shaw-Reese explained the benefits of arts including how it aids in student learning across disciplines. The high school students participate in Junior and Senior District Festivals, All-State performance at Symphony Hall, Jazz Ensemble Competition at Berklee and Salem State, and Collaboration with professional ensembles. They reported on the trip to Ireland and will be considering a domestic trip next year and an international trip the next. At the high school level they have resolved the following issues: bell schedule, imbalance of chorus vs instrumental, weighted grades/honors music, concert schedule, curriculum, fine arts coordinator, and the department website is up and running. They still need to resolve individualized instruction/mentor program/private lesson program, staffing by specialty, staffing for electives and general music, interdisciplinary coordinator, and the leak in the band room. The music department has a lack of space and Mr. Liebow feels this is where the strategic plan should be headed and that he could add it to his next years goals to work with a building study group to research a resolution to the problem.

B. Superintendent's Mid-year Goal

Superintendent Liebow reviewed the status of his current goals. He feels he is on track with communications, implementation of the new K-5 math "Envision" program, promoting the implementation of the Co-teaching model, implementation of a 5 year curriculum review cycle, expansion of the new teacher evaluation program, which included student feedback, expansion of the scope and functionality of the school website, continues to visit classrooms on Wednesdays, Co-teaches a science class, and taught a 1/1 nautical chart course. Completed goals included final approval of the 3-year "rolling" Strategic Plan, "Superintendent's Lottery" for 10 teachers, and negotiated and ratified a new teacher contract. He placed the formation of a Sustainability Committee on hold until after town meeting to see how well the proposed financial model plays out during this first year of implementation.

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Prentiss donated a full size violin to be used by the RHS Music department.

by Gloucester and Ipswich Shaw's Supermarkets have partnered with the Boston Bruins and Kraft Hockeyville making a \$500 donation each to the ice hockey program.

C. Updates

Committee member Susan Brisson will suggest, to the Wellness Committee, April 29th as a date for the Wellness Forum.

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (3/4)
- B. PE/Health Presentation (3/4)
- C. Attorney Review/appointment (3/4)

VII. Calendar

March 4, 2015, Regular Meeting
March 18, 2015, Regular Meeting
April 4, 2015, Town Meeting

VIII. Executive Session

N/A

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:22 p.m.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools