

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Chairperson Michael Kelley called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Colleen Coogan, Susan Brisson, Martha Morgan and Tracey McLaughlin-Volpe. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Gini Nangle.

I. A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Martha Morgan motioned to approve the regular minutes from March 18, 2015.
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe motioned to approve the regular minutes from April 1, 2015.
Seconded: Martha Morgan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions N/A

II. Community Participation

A. Superintendents Report/FundFlow

Superintendent Liebow reported that he will be attending the NEASC Flexible Learning Conference with other staff, athletic director Mary Ryan is ðAD of the Yearö and received the ðWoman in GirlsøSports Leadership Awardö, teacher assistant Michelle Elwell is the ðMTA Support Staff Person of the Yearö, Spring concert and sports season is underway, and DECA has 8 students going to nationals. Mr. Liebow presented and explained the current FundFlow report. He also reported that \$15,700 was transferred at town meeting to the SPED Reserve account from the school budget.

B. School Council Student Representative N/A

C. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. School Psychologist PBIS Presentation

K-12 School Psychologists Mysha Kuhlmann and Jamie Nichols presented a PowerPoint explaining Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a framework (not a curriculum) for establishing the social culture and individual behavioral support needed for schools to achieve both social and academic success for all students. They explained data collected from a survey given to school administrators, teaching staff, and high school students and will collect from parents and elementary and middle school students. Some PBIS goals are to improve climate, increase the effectiveness and relevance of providing behavior support systems, reduce unnecessary punishment, and increase academic instruction time. They discussed how to involve parents through informational sessions, surveys, and presenting at parent nights. PBIS is based on a Tiered approach. Tier 1 focuses on prevention, tier 2 focuses on adding instruction or support to focus on their specific problems and tier 3 is intensive intervention with the students who are not responding to tier 1 and 2 approaches. Mrs. Kuhlmann and Ms. Nichols presented an example of a behavior Matrix stating that most schools have 3 to 5 levels of expectations on behavior. They provided steps on how to implement tier 1 and reported that it would take some time to implement the entire program. A lot of teachers want to be involved and they will be including the teacher assistants. There will be an introductory session on 4/27 and a 3-day training for school based teams for staff to participate. Ms. Nichols reported that as the behavior improves teaching can happen. Committee member Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe expressed that school committee is so please to have the two psychologist in the district who are able to address the social emotional issues of our student body.

B. Director of Student Services recommendation/appointment

Superintendent Liebow introduced Lindsey McGovern and explained the hiring process, 12 person committee narrowed it down to 6 candidates, one withdrew so 5 were interviewed. Mr. Liebow read Ms. McGovern's recommendations. Ms. McGovern was the unanimous first choice to be recommended to the committee. Ms. McGovern spoke of her background and answered questions from the school committee.

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to authorize Superintendent Robert Liebow to offer Lindsey McGovern the position of Director of Student Services effective July 1, 2015.
Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0. A roll call vote was taken.

C. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Martha Morgan read portions from the school committee self-evaluation and there was discussion that some members did not know if there is a school committee mission statement and it was suggested looking at the MACS sample to develop one for the district. At the end of the review Martha Morgan gave appreciation gifts to Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe and Michael Kelley for their years of dedicated service. Superintendent Liebow's personal thoughts were that they made it very easy to work here, and that the focus of this school committee has been about the students and forming relationships with the community.

D. Policy Review/Revised/Adoption

Colleen Coogan reported that the committee has reviewed hundreds of other districts' policy on entrance age and would like to run some of the ideas by some of the staff and specialists in the K-1 grade levels to be sure that what they are proposing can be implemented. Martha Morgan read the first reading with proposed revisions to File: EGAF Telephones and Personal Communication Devices, the committee had more suggestions after discussion and will bring back for a final reading. Colleen Coogan read the first reading with changes to File JFBB School Choice. The first will take place no later than July 1st. The second will be conducted no later than the opening of the next school year.

E. Field Trip approval N/A

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Wellness Forum will be next Wednesday April 29, 2015.

Mr. Liebow asked the school committee what would like to make an offer on the "Pathways" building. It is 25 years old, in good condition, no mold issues. Possible uses might be for a science center, green house, and community class use. The committee agreed that Mr. Liebow should offer \$10,000 for the building.

Sub-committee reports:

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. New Math Review (5/6)
- B. School Committee Reorganization (5/6)
- C. School Committee appointments (5/6)
- D. School Committee Goals (5/6)
- E. Superintendents Report/FundFlow (5/20)
- F. School Committee Improvement Plan approval (5/20)
- G. Student Handbook approval (5/20)

VII. Calendar

May 20, 2015 Regular Meeting
June 10, 2015 Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session N/A

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:25p.m.
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools