

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday February 15, 2017

Chairperson Martha Morgan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Colleen Coogan, Martha Morgan, and Heather Nelson, Rebecca Sly and Mary Porter were absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the regular and executive minutes from February 1, 2017.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions

LEAVE: Elementary Paraprofessional Sarah Brown has been approved a maternity leave of absence, beginning April 30, 2017 to the end of the school year.

APPOINTED: Dana Weaver has been appointed to the position of Elementary (Gr 1) Paraprofessional beginning January 30, 2017 to the end of the school year, at the Step 1 rate of \$110.17 per day.

Brett Hall has been appointed to the position of LIPS Tutor beginning February 6, 2017 for 5 hours per week at \$80/hour.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 Music/Art

Nathan Cohen, Anthony Covelli, Patti Pike, Kaitlin Shaw-Reese, and Stephanie Woolf presented an overview of the K-12 Music program. The students have competed in competitions at Berklee (placed 3rd), UNH, Plymouth State, and districts. Rockport Music has been very much a part of the program meeting goals through collaborations with professional ensembles and offering a jazz camp in the summer. The department discussed their limited classroom space, extensive concert schedule, class offerings, and trip next year to Austria and Czech Republic. Issues that they feel have been resolved are: Retention Rates within parameters of professional practice goals, concert schedule, private lesson program and scholarship program and implementation. Current issues are: staffing, coordinator, districts, interdisciplinary opportunities, space, ceiling leaks and bell schedule. Nathan Cohen explained the complexities of the MMEA Districts and All-State Festivals regarding communications with parents/students, transportation logistics, such as parent drivers and their insurance certifications, CORI's, fingerprints, and medical forms. They would like school committee guidance on policy: are they field trips vs. individual participation. Mr. Cohen will send the committee information on what the district festival requires from the school district.

Simon Paddock, Pam Jones and Zach O'Brien presented K-12 Art. Elementary art promotes flexible, imaginative, and critical thinking through the exploration of materials. All elementary grades attend art once a week. Mr. Paddock explained the National Core Arts Standards and the use of the "Artsonia" program which is a virtual art gallery. The Middle School continues to focus on elements and principles of design with a curriculum of Art History and Studio Art. At the high school level Mr. O'Brien has expanded from 3 to 9 class offerings. Mr. O'Brien promotes showcasing student art work in the community at Montserrat College, The Hive gallery in Gloucester, Endicott College, and Shalin Liu. He has also established a

National Art Honor Society this December. The honor society is in the process of writing a proposal for Awesome Rockport in hopes to receive funds to convert the out of date dark room with a digital photography studio. The public schools will hold the annual at the Rockport Art Association on March 2 to the 15th.

B. District-Wide Special Education Program Evaluation

Director of Student Services Lindsey McGovern presented an overview of the District Wide Special Education Program Evaluation conducted by Dr. James Earley and Sally Smith on behalf of the Northshore Education Consortium. Some of the noted commendations are: current student services administration's commitment to programmatic and legal compliance and inclusive practice, programmatic improvements of the past two years, transition to ESPED, small caseloads, good record keeping, push-in related services, in-house professional development, RMS writing program, and strong co-teaching at all levels. Recommendations are: build student supports within general education, continue to grow and improve social/emotional SPED programs at RMHS, conduct needs assessment of additional programming, develop written criteria for accessing existing services and programs, review structure, organization and operation of the PK program, provide additional professional development for general education, increase the use of evidence-informed specialized instruction and review administrative roles and responsibilities related to SPED.

C. Policy Review/Proposals

File IKF: Graduation Requirement

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the revised policy File IKF: Graduation Requirements as presented.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

File ADF: Wellness Policy - First reading

File IIB: Class Size

A group of parents attended the meeting to discuss the policy on class size. The committee and Superintendent Liebow presented results and comments from the survey sent to elementary classroom teachers. The "range" class size was developed by taking each teachers ideal class size and taking the lowest and highest number as the "range". The parents' concern was the range which was developed by using the results from the teacher survey, using the lowest number and highest number given as the "range". The parents would prefer an optimum number used. There was also discussion that the teachers were asked for their input and then when the range was proposed that they were not being heard. They also felt that there are inherent distrust issues and that they are hearing one thing at a school committee meeting and hearing differently from other parents and teachers. Chairperson Martha Morgan explained the process of policy revision or development. They policy sub-committee looked at other school districts, surveyed the teachers and got advice from Administration. The proposed policy will be put on the website and will come back to have a second reading at a school committee meeting. Mrs. Morgan also noted that the policy can be reviewed again if it is felt that it is not working.

D. Warrants

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

B. Donations

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

V. Correspondence

Letter to Finance Committee from Toby Arsenian cc'd to School Committee regarding Emergency Communications System.

Receipt of School Committee letter from Senator Tarr.

Thank you email from Jamy B. Jadeja for Stowe Ski Trip.

VI. Other Business

VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Middle School tracking (3/1)
- B. K-12 PE/Health (3/1)
- C. Growing Good Kids: Informing Student's Social/Emotional Knowledge & Behavior in grades K -12(3/13)
- D. K-12 Guidance/Counseling & PBIS/Lighthouse/SEPAC (3/15)
- E. Superintendent's Evaluation (3/15)

VIII. Calendar

- A. March 1, 2017, regular meeting
- B. March 13, 2017, Forum
- B. March 15, 2017, regular meeting

VIV. Executive Session

At 9:54 p.m. a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session and will return to open session.

Colleen Coogan	yes
Martha Morgan	yes
Heather Nelson	yes

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools