

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday June 11, 2019

Chairperson Michael Kelley called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle/High School Library. Present were Nicole Altieri, Colleen Coogan, Richard Drost, and Michael Kelley, Mary Porter was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes N/A

B. Personnel Actions

RESIGN: Director of Food Services Abbey Pelletier will be resigning at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Elementary Pre-K Teacher Jamie Orlando has resigned at the end of her leave of absence from the 2019-2020 school year.

LEAVE: MS/HS Physical Education Teacher Robert O’Hanley will be taking 10 parental leave days beginning September 9, 2019.

Elementary School Teacher Danielle Jylkka will be taking a leave of absence from approximately August 26, 2019 to October 28, 2019.

APPOINTED: Tara Vavruska – RHS Guidance Counselor – M15-7 = \$60,728

Nicole Montana – 6-12 School Psychologist – M15-2 = \$49,920

OTHER: MS/HS School Psychologist Sarah Hoague’s contract will end at the end of this school year.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Nathanial Kirby was elected Student Council President, Amanda Silva was elected Student Council Secretary, and they introduced new members: Noah Cook grade 11, Austin Matus grade 11 and Patrick Morin grade 10. Graduation ceremonies were last Friday, eighth grade recognition night is Thursday night, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade had great devices, slides and white board exhibits for the State Fair presentation, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade went to New York City, 7<sup>th</sup> grade attended Adventure Pursuits and 6<sup>th</sup> grade visited historical locations around downtown Rockport. High School MCAS tests went really well and the students felt prepared, elementary and middle school MCAS tests were all done on computers.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Student Information System search review

Superintendent Liebow wanted to acknowledge all the support Mike Montgomery has given the staff navigating and using the Midas Student Information System. Mr. Liebow presented the results from the straw poll, Aspen was the first choice. Aspen is more reasonably priced and cost can be spread across future years. Mid-year implementation would allow running new program and Midas at the same time. Mike Montgomery reported that the confidence in Midas from staff is broken and it’s time to move on.

B. Essex Tech/Voc Representative

Rockport’s Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District School Committee Representative Bruce Perkins reported that graduation was last Friday, 3 graduates are from Rockport; Governor Charlie Baker was the speaker, they receive \$1.2 million in grants, the budget is up 4.2%, additional staff and upgrading technology has been added. The Vet/Tech program has partnered with Angel Memorial Veterinary Hospital. The committee asked about the schools mission and are they serving the students who

are not thriving in a traditional program that would benefit from a more hands on approach. Mr. Perkins explained that the state mandates the acceptance criteria and the interview is an important part of the process. The school committee has received concern from staff that only academically advanced students are being accepted and that they are not getting the courses they need to be on track for college. Student Patrick Morin agreed that the Voc/Tech presentation makes them feel like they need to be an academic student to get in. Mr. Perkins disagreed with that perception. Some suggestions were: have a RHS information night to get the parents involved so that they understand the different offerings each school has and how it will affect preparing for college, school committee should attend the Voc/Tech presentation, have guidance help voc/tech students with preparing for interview, form a sub-committee, find out if we have to allow the Voke to present at our school, and have middle school students who are considering the Vock shadow a high school student here at RHS. Mr. Perkins explained that the biotech and engineering are academic programs and the blend of programs do demand different skill sets.

C. Superintendent Goals

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve Superintendent Liebow's FY20 goals as presented.  
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

D. RTA MOAs

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the Rockport Teachers Association Memorandum of Agreements regarding MarySue Nienstedt-Santos, Tanya Brousseau and History Day Club Advisor as presented.  
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

E. Field Trip

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to approve the out of state, overnight ski trip to Bretton Woods and Loon Mountains.  
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

F. Student Activity Fund Transfer (MS & HS)

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the transfer of \$294.02 from the HS Auditorium Sound system Activity Account to the Principal's account and move \$12,513.01 from MS Student Activities Fund to the Elementary Student Activities Fund.  
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

G. Policy Revise/review N/A

H. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations

- Diana McCloy donated 4 sets of AP study guides with flashcards for Calculus, Biology, Statistics and US History.
- Donald Rittenburg donated catchers' equipment: glove, face protection, chest guard, shin guards and a bat to be used by the MS and HS Softball teams.
- Mary Porter donated sets of youth snow shoes to be used by Ms. Caniffs elementary physical education classes.

- Allison Vanderpol donated 2 books: “Bonnie and Clyde” by Karen Blumenthal and “A Winter’s Promise” by Christelle Dabos for the MS/HS Library collection.
- Lil Duffy donated 2 books: “A Winter’s Promise” and Hey, Kiddo” by Jarrett J. Krosoczka for the MS/HS Library collection.
- Catherine McNiff donated a book: “Hey, Kiddo” by Jarrett J. Krosoczka for the MS/HS Library collection.
- Mercy Duffill donated 2 books: “Auggie & Me” by R. L. Palacio and “A Winter’s Promise” by Christelle Dabos for the MS/HS Library collection.
- Jodi Goodhue donated 3 books: “Bonnie and Clyde” by Karen Blumenthal, “Hey Kiddo” by Jarrett J. Krosoczka and “A Winter’s Promise” by Christelle Dabos for the MS/HS Library collection.
- Yvonne Story donated 3 books: “Bonnie and Clyde” by Karen Blumenthal, “Hey Kiddo” by Jarrett J. Krosoczka and “A Winter’s Promise” by Christelle Dabos for the MS/HS Library collection

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports: N/A

Superintendent Report:

Mr. Liebow reported that graduation was great. He reported that school and school committee members from Rockport and Gloucester met to gather basic data to begin a study, provided by UMass Donahue Institute’s Applied Research and Program Evaluation group, to explore educational opportunities for Gloucester and Rockport students and strategies for sharing resources across the two districts. The committee will make a recommendation from the Donahue report and will work on how to get the message out to the community post study.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. 3 Year Strategic Plan Review (8/21)
- B. EL Science Curriculum Review (9/??)
- D. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow (TBA)

VII. Calendar

- A. August 21, 2019, regular meeting
- B. September 4, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: At 9:09 pm Nicole Altieri motioned to adjourn the regular meeting  
 Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.  
 Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
 Superintendent of Schools