

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday May 1, 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, Michael Kelley, and Mary Porter. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to approve the April 3, 2019 regular minutes as presented.
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Gini Nangle will resign from the position of Community Schools Manager effective June 30, 2019. High School Guidance Counselor Heather Murphy will resign from her position effective June 13, 2019.

Elementary Paraprofessional Joan Lee and High School Science Teacher David Tower have resind their intent to retire at the end of this school year and intend to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative (See other business)

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. YRBS Survey

Rockport Board of Health Member MaryBeth Murphy and Gloucester Health Department Regional Substance Misuse Prevention Director Amy Epstein reported on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that they would like the Rockport High School (RHS) to administer. The survey focuses on the major risk behaviors that threaten the health and safety of young people. Ms. Epstein has found that most of the other local communities are finding that vaping and bullying are the two major issues facing high school students. They have been able to receive grant money to fund staff training and materials/kits to distribute to students and RHS would be entitled to receive these benefits if they choose to participate. The surveys are anonymous and can be customized so that it does not link to anyone specifically. The school would own the data and could distribute the results to both the town and school communities and if agreed share with the other surrounding communities. Currently there are funds to cover the cost of a one year implementation costing \$1,800. Generally the survey is administered in a health class, either manually on paper or electronically with a Chromebook. A representative from Rockport would be required to attend meetings, and grant writing would be done by the collaborative effort of the regional group. The school committee would like Mr. Liebow to bring this information to the A-Team for their input and to determine if the commitment can be supported by staff.

B. School Improvement Plans

Elementary Principal Todd Simendinger presented the Elementary School Improvement Plan. Goal 1 will expand the implementation and expansion of social-emotional instruction and behavioral supports in the classroom. He will continue professional development with CASEL competencies to provide common language, procedures, and responses building wide. They will continue to develop grade level expectations, review and adjust school wide policies and procedures, expand protocols and processes of the IST Support

Team and identify student enrichment in math, science, and ELA. In goal 2 RES educators will be proficient or exemplary on Standard II – Teaching for All to promote the learning and growth of all students. He will implement student assessment software in math and ELA, utilize data to deliver timely student interventions/enrichment opportunities, establish instructional accountability and increase data points in support of standards based report. He will review and expand A.L.I.C.E training protocols and expand tools, resources and trading to identify at risk students.

Middle School Principal Amanda LaMantia is changing the format of the middle school improvement plan by focusing on one main goal and incorporating a checklist. The goal is to research and implement research based social emotional learning strategies in everyday practice. Based on her evaluation and parent/staff surveys she will focus on building a SEL team, consider how the school looks – is it welcoming?, continue SEL training, increase the student voice, and create a clear communication plan with parents.

High School Principal Amy Rose has 5 strategic action initiatives. Goal 1 provides action steps that will lead to a consistent implementation of a fully articulated RtI system, focusing on building Tier 1 supports and fully utilizing Multi-tiered Systems of Support for all students. Goal 2 will build a sound knowledge and increase capacity for all faculty and support staff to contribute to improving school culture utilizing the CASEL framework. Goal 3 creating a student-centered school through Student Motivation and Pride in Achievement, Student Empowerment and Student-Centered Instruction. Goal 4 will focus on creating and implementing an aligned curriculum across disciplines and grade levels. Goal 5 will identify and implement assessments that collect data from multiple measures for routine assessment and analysis focusing on growth for all students.

Committee members Kelley and Coogan stated how helpful it is to see the flow of plans throughout the school system and seeing the connections between the schools.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the Rockport Elementary, Middle School and High School Improvement Plans as presented.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. School Handbooks

Elementary Principal Todd Simendinger report that there are just minor edits: staff positions, The Buzz goes out electronically now and eliminate or change language about use of cellphones.

Middle School Principal Amanda LaMantia will be looking at changes in the effort grade and the attendance policy and it was suggested to clarify that students are not supervised outside of the school hours, unless in an authorized before or afterschool activity,

High School Principal Amy Rose reported that areas were updated to line up with any policy related changes, some language changes to threats and consequences, and the “N” grade numerical average of 59 will change to 64 per quarter if a student has 5 unexcused absences.

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to approve the Rockport Elementary, Middle School and High School Handbooks with suggested edits.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Vice-Chairperson Michael Kelley presented the 2018-2019 School Committee Self Evaluation. They identified weak areas being training of new members, communications outreach, and length of meetings. The committee has made significant progress on planning for gap-year funding, data gathering through CASE and socializing the need for a likely Prop 2.5 override next year, and discussed the Technical Director’s relationship and responsibilities with the school department. Many goals have been met but focus will continue on curriculum review, focus group creation for website, and the need to be proactive in promoting attendance at next years budget meetings.

E. RTA MOU's

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve two Rockport Teacher Association Memorandum of Agreements, as presented, regarding Mary Sue Santos and Nathan Cohen.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Field Trips

N/A

G. Policy Revise/review

First reading for the following policies:

File IC/ICA: School Year/School Calendar
File JKAA: Physical Restraint of Students
File LBC: Relations with Non-Public Schools
File LBC-R: Relations with Non-Public Schools – Regulations for Non-Public Schools

H. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Nicole Altieri was the only attendee at the Elementary School Council Meeting, she took the Elementary School Improvement Plan home to review and return with any comments.

Mary Porter reported that the High School Council reviewed this years "Rockport Gives Back", community participation was good except the Shalin Liu was not well attended as the day went on, they discussed scheduling the Senior Showcase the same night as the Gives Back, after those events have ended.

B. Donations

The Open Door donated a photograph: "Rockport High School Party at Washington, D.C. April 30, 1928"

Mr. Paul Ragnio donated a graphing calculator, notebooks, weekly planners and a class record to be available to staff and students.

Rockport Rotary donated three books: "Understanding and Teaching the Cold War", "The Age of Revolutions", and "Emmanuel's Dream" for the Middle/High School Library.

Mr. Steve Lindo donated a Korg N364 Keyboard and M-Audio Studio Pro 3 speaker.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports: N/A

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Liebow showed the views from the new camera system. The intent for the cameras is for critical incidents.

D. Other Business

Nathaniel Kirby reported that he is developing a survey for the 5th grade students. The survey will ask what their concerns are and what are they looking forward to in 6th grade. He will seek approval, to administer, from Principal Simendinger.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to support the 5th grade survey presented by Nathaniel Kirby.
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. LaMantia also reported that a letter will go home this week regarding a new schedule. She also received language survey results with 60% of families and 99% of students support going to one language. She did state that it has been a difficult year for French classes with staffing turnover and that may have influenced this year's student responses. If reduced to just Spanish the classes could be rolled into the 8 grade rotation and could be offered for the full year in grade 7. MS/HS French Teacher Gillian Twombly suggested that if the staff turnover could be stopped then hold off on reducing for a year. She also feels that students lean toward Spanish because they think it is easier than French. The school committee discussed budget and scheduling options and asked Mrs. LaMantia if she could quantify what it would take to support two languages and bring back to the committee to consider options.

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. RHS Science Self-Study report (5/22)
- B. School Committee Handbook Review (5/22)
- C. YRBS Participation Vote (5/22)
- D. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (5/22)

VII. Calendar

- A. May 22, 2019, regular meeting
- B. June 12, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: At 9:58 pm Michael Kelley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools