

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the regular minutes as presented from January 3, 2018.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions N/A

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Foreign Language Presentation

Spanish teachers Lil Duffy, Paula Schram and Martha Cox-Stavros reported on enhancements to the World Language curriculum. They are currently piloting conversational Spanish classes, offering advance classes, members of Speaking Latino community, attending NPEN professional development and has increased the use of technology. There will be 18 students traveling to Dominican Republic to build global citizenship, offer community service, and improve communications skills in Spanish. Two years of foreign language is now a graduation requirement, the department would like paraprofessionals to support students with IEP's and discussed ways to offer a variety of classes so that all students can meet the two year requirement. The department has developed a World Language Survey that evaluates retention in their classes. They would like the exploratory year to start in 6th grade and then offer the full year of world language of choice in 7th and collaborate with another school district that have Spanish speaking students, in a conversational program where the students speak Spanish half the time and English the other half. They would like to upgrade the beginner level MS French textbooks and add workbooks to the AP French course if approved through the budget request process.

B. Sabbatical request

Superintendent Liebow explained that he received 4 requests for sabbatical leave and after reviewing each one he is recommending Chris Amuzzini to receive the sabbatical leave for the 2018-2019 school year. The school committee was very impressed with the four candidates and their strong proposals.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve Chris Amuzzini's request for a sabbatical leave during the 2018-2019 school year.
Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Policy revise/review N/A

D. Warrants and Payroll

Chairperson Colleen Coogan asked the superintendent if he receives information regarding department requests for supplies and textbooks while creating the budget. He explained that the amounts are set

during the budget development and that the actual approval of how the supply/textbooks funds are spent is at a principal level.

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Colleen Coogan reported that the high school council is discussing producing a school newspaper that will be online and distributed throughout the community to encourage community involvement. Students are applying for a grant with “Awesome Rockport” to get a newspaper template program. Course selection night is February 8th; students will be available to help answer questions. There will be a presentation regarding online safety offered to students during the day and parents at night. HS Principal Amy Rose will be attending Rotary to report on “Rockport Schools Gives Back”.

B. Donations

Johanna Huntsman - \$100 to support the “Lunch Box Fund”

James & Mary Hayes - \$100 to support the “Lunch Box Fund”

Salvatore & Maria Distefano - \$500 to support the “Lunch Box Fund”

C. Updates

Sub-committees:

Nicole Altieri and Rebecca Sly reported that they reviewed the communication action plan and confirmed that documents are posted on the website. They plan to post, three times per week’ achievements, awards, and events on the school committee Facebook page. They will meet with IT technician Mike Montgomery to discuss the survey and the status of the work being done on the school website.

D. Other Business

Superintendent Liebow reported that the Administrative Team met with Lieutenant Schmink to discuss a review of the Emergency Protocol Plan. Lieutenant Schmink stated that since the last full review many recommendations have been put in place, such as phones in classrooms, installation of shades, slide locks, and plans placed on the inside of doors. They have decided to walk through each school to assess the current procedures and will review with the school committee on March 21st. Lieutenant Schmink will explain the Alice program to the school committee and administrators for them to consider adopting or produce a hybrid of the Alice program and what the district currently has currently in place, or continue with what is in place.

Colleen Cogan and Nicole Altieri attended the Rockport Selectmen’s Budget Meeting and found it to be a huge learning experience. Superintendent Liebow’s presentation of the school budget was very impressive, well explained and that people clearly appreciated the transparency.

V. Correspondence

N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

A. Student Services Presentation (2/7)

B. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow (2/7)

C. K-12 Math Presentations (3/7)

D. Emergency Protocol Review (3/21)

E. K-12 English Language Arts/Reading (3/21)

F. Bruce Perkins Essex Technical School Committee Representative report (3/21)

G. Goals Superintendent & SC (??)

VII. Calendar

- A. February 7, 2018, regular meeting
- B. March 7, 2018, regular meeting
- C. TBD, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:47 p.m. Heather Nelson motioned to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to possible collective bargaining. Rebecca Sly seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session and will not return to open session. A rollcall was taken:

Colleen Coogan	yes
Nicole Altieri	yes
Heather Nelson	yes
Mary Porter	yes
Rebecca Sly	yes

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools