

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, February 14, 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, Heather Nelson and Rebecca Sly, Mary Porter was absent. Also, present was Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating, Superintendent Robert Liebow was absent.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the regular and executive minutes as presented from January 17, 2018.
Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

John Parisi has been appointed to the position of .6 AD Director/.4 HS PE Teacher beginning 8/28/2018.
Karen Harvey has an increase in Middle School Spanish Teacher from .2 to .35 FTE for the second semester.
Peggy Lyman has been appointed to the position of Out of School Tutor beginning January 17, 2018 at the hourly rate of \$45, up to 10 hours per week.
Gayle Johnson has been appointed to the position of Long-Term Substitute Nures beginning approximately March 2nd to the end of the school year.

II. Community Participation

- A. Student Advisory Representative N/A
- B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Student Services Presentation

Director of Student Services Martha Wright gave an update on the Corrective Action Plan. The next progress report is due 3/5/2018 and the final submission is on 5/26/2018. Ms. Wright reviewed the enrollment figures and the student population that are eligible for support. Including the out-of-district placements (OOD). She also explained the financial obligations for the OOD, how circuit breaker reimbursement works and that if a student is school choice the city/town of residence pays 100% of the tuition and transportation but Rockport is responsible for administrative costs. Ms. Wright explained the Effective Teaching Practices starting with provisions of general education and exhausting all District Curriculum Accommodations Plans (DCAP) before a student enters Response to Intervention (RtI) and Instructional Support Team (IST) support. Staff employment dicissions are building based, ie. Principals evaluations are assigned. Ms. Wright currently evaluates professional staff of school psychologists, team chairs, and SLP. Principals are also in charge of Individual Educational Plans (IEP). Nicole Altieri has heard that some teachers find their own strategies for behavior in the classroom works for them. Ms. Wright will ask staff about their own strategies vs. PBIS. She continued to review Department Statistics/Eligibility, Continuum of Services, and Social Emotional Supports. Rockport contracts with Triumph, a case consultant firm, who also provide support to district caregivers. The assignment of paraprofessionals is in compliance with the DESE guidance, including foreign language students. When a paraprofessional is assigned to a student a plan is developed to review the continued need for services and that the goal is to meet the student's needs so that they will come off the IEP. The department is working on streamlining the risk assessment process on March 1, 2018. The staff is very committed and the process is very systematic. K-12 Psychologists, counselors, nurses, and guidance will come up with more structured procedures and protocols

district wide. Staffing needs include a district based BCBA and an Out of District/Pre-School Coordinator. The committee discussed ways to communicate with parents how to obtain information on services. Suggestions were flow charts, publish points of contact and rights, attending parent nights, “chain of communication” for parents on website, produce a user guide and possible “open hours” with Martha Wright.

B. Superintendent’s Goals Review

Postponed to March, 7, 2018

C. School Committee Goals Review

Postponed to March 7, 2018

D. Policy revise/review

First readings for the following policies: File IHBAA Observation of Special Education Programs, File AC: Non-Discrimination and Harassment, File ADC: Tobacco and Drug Free Schools, File JICFB: Bullying Prevention.

E. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Nicole Altieri reported that the elementary school council discussed a vision statement and long and short term strategies. No mention of enrichment in these plans. There was discussion regarding promoting the STEM program to girls and offering social/emotional professional development to staff along with developing screening tools for students. Ms. Altieri also reported there was a lot of discussion around communicating with staff.

B. Donations

Michael Nocella of Nocella Paving donated \$5,000 to support the Rockport Public Schools music program. These funds will support enriched services and resources that are beyond what would normally be available through public funding
Essex County Ecology Center AKA Toad Hall Bookstore in honor of founder Nelson (Buck) Robinson donated a \$2,000 grant to foster environmental education which will support enriched services and resources that are beyond what would normally be available through public funding.

C. Updates

Sub-committees: N/A

D. Other Business

Spanish teacher Lil Duffy submitted a field trip request for a trip to Spain in April 2019.

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the field trip to Spain, April 11- 20, 2019

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

V. Correspondence

Letter to Jonathan Pope, Chairperson, Gloucester School Committee
Letter to RTA regarding committee formation.
Email from Senator Tarr re: Circuit Breaker

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow
- B. K-12 Math Presentations (3/7)
- C. Emergency Protocol Review (3/21)
- D. K-12 English Language Arts/Reading (3/21)
- E. Bruce Perkins Essex Technical School Committee Representative report (6/6)
- F. Goals Superintendent & SC (??)

VII. Calendar

- A. March 7, 2018, regular meeting
- B. March 21, 2018, regular meeting
- C. Town meeting April 7, 2018
- D. TBD, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools