

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes N/A

B. Personnel Actions

Robert O’Hanley has been granted a permanent transfer into the position of RMHS School Physical Education Teacher, from his current position of HS SPED Liaison effective at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Solar Presentation

Superintendent Liebow presented the Rockport Schools Solar Projects from SolectEnergy. The company would install, own, operate, and maintain the system. There would be a 20 year power purchase agreement (PPA) with a fixed per-kWh price for 20 years. A savings for the School District is estimated at \$1,149,137 over 20 years. SolectEnergy representative Matt Shortsleeve answered questions from the audience. He explained that this is a blast system- is not anchored into the roof, the school buildings have good sun orientation, and at the end of the PPA the schools can re-contract or buy-out.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to move forward with the project pending approval at town meeting on April 7, 2018.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Emergency/Safety Protocol Review

Chairperson Colleen Coogan read a prepared statement for the purpose of tonight’s meeting and introduced members of the police department and town officials. Mrs. Coogan noted that the safety of the children is paramount, that we already have a suite of elements in place to support a safe and inclusive school community. As one part of the effort, the schools and police departments are working together on a school safety plan, currently at the information gathering stage rather than decision making, modification may be needed to policies and handbooks, and moving forward making sure that any changes fit into the school’s specific needs and culture and particularly that we consider our responsibility to provide our students with learning environment that is safe for the whole, physical, emotional and intellectual child.

Mr. Liebow introduced Lt. Mark Schmink, who has had a long-time working history with the schools and also introduced Chief Horvath. Lt. Schmink presented safety updates, upgrades, recommendations and a history timeline of various trainings, drills, and assessments with the school department. The most recent walk-through assessment reviewed both internal and external security. Some future recommendations are Red Box door alarms, protocol packets on all interior doors,

access control video upgrade at MS/HS building and eliminating entry at SPED wing at elementary building, exterior motion sensor lights in key areas, and upgrade to a keyless card entry system. Currently the schools are in compliance with today's standard of care. Chief Horvath introduced the schools School Resource Officer (SRO) Officer Phillip Wesley, whose role will be to be as an informal educator, informal counselor, law enforcement officer and emergency responder. The SRO program mission is to promote a positive working partnership in order to increase physical and psychological safety in the school complex, while assisting in student development. Both Mr. Liebow and Chief Horvath expressed that Officer Wesley is an excellent fit for the schools.

Discussion of the Alice program: alert, lockdown, inform, counter strategy and evacuate. Mr. Liebow explained that in the end it maybe a hybrid version that will best suit the needs of our school and it is most important to prevent an incident before it happens by getting the students to say something if they see or hear something. Rockport schools have many counselors, psychologists and guidance staff to assist students in need. Rockport has seen an increase in social/emotional issues, which is a trend nationwide, and sees that the SRO will be a continuum of what helps to develop a safety plan by blending the best practices allowing the police and teachers to do what they have to do. The National Association of School Psychologists does not recommend students take part in active shooter drills and recommends plans in place for students with anxiety issues. Currently the schools have had shelter in place actions due to medical emergencies so the students are familiar with that direction. Audience member Ken Knowles has formed a group, Cape Ann Citizens for Safe Children. The mission of the group is to raise funds to offset security costs. They will be meeting at 1 Blackburn Drive on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Discussion continued about communicating with parents/guardians, parents/guardians discussions with students, formalization of SRO Memorandum of Agreement, more interaction between police and students (not just SRO), anxiety coping amongst staff and students, dedication of staff, and attending town meeting to support funding of safety as a zwhole in town.

C. Policy review/revise

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approved the revised policy File JFBB School Choice as presented.  
Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

M. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Mary Porter reported that the Middle School Council discussed school safety.

B. Donations

Gretchen VonGrossmann donated a week at her vacation home in Provicetown to be raffled off to raise funds for the Music Departments trip to Prague in April.

C. Updates

Sub-committees: N/A

D Other Business N/A

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow
- B. K-12 Math Presentations (5/16)
- C. CATV Proposal (4/4)
- D. Review the Phases of Implementation of Security Monitoring Systems (4/4)
- E. School Choice Vote (4/4)

VII. Calendar

- A. April 4, 2018, regular meeting
- B. Town meeting April 7, 2018
- C. TBD, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall
- D. May 2, 2018, Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:38 p.m.  
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools