

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday April 3, 2019

Chairperson Colleen Coogan 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: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the March 20, 2019 regular minutes as presented.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Beth Kiely has been appointed to the position of Long-term Kindergarten Teacher Substitute beginning April 22, 2019 to the end of the school year, at the B-1 Rate of \$236.44/day according to the RTA agreement.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Middle/High school technology teacher David Young introduced Ivo Allen, Jacob Knowlton, and Andrew Guilli. The students brought a standard robot with a fork lift that they built in class using CAD programming to developed parts. They compete against other teams in an “arena” style area, scoring 3 point for a small football or 1 point for a small ball when moved and dropped into a receptacle. They hope to join area competitions in the next few years. The school committee was impressed with the innovative ways that Mr. Young has implemented Robotics classes with little to no funding. It was suggested that the students participate in the “Rockport Gives Back” event.

Student Representative Nathaniel Kirby reported that the DramaFest students performed at the state competition , receiving the following awards: Hattie Rich – Acting Award, Chloe Beaulieu & Zach Fuller – Costume Award, Clara Mazo – Music Award, Preston Mattson – Stage Manager, and Clara Mazo – Best Technical Element. The high school national honor society will hold a talent show this Friday. Nathaniel met with high school Principal Amy Rose to discuss moving forward with a student council that is centrally aware of what is going on in the high school and how to guide and organize the council.

B. Public Participation

Mr. Zenas Seppala Granite St. Rockport provided a copy of a Letter to the Editor that he wrote to the Gloucester Daily Times on April 20, 2011 titled “Write-in campaign doesn’t Ring True” and “Losing the Democratic Habit” by Yoni Appelbaum. Mr. Seppala stated that students have a more rigorous voting process than town government.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Professional Development & Tower Grant Update

High School Principal Amy Rose and Director of Student Services Martha Wright reported that a Professional Development Committee (PDC) was formed consisting of equal membership from faculty and administration. The committee review and make recommends regarding the professional development (PD) plan, review procedures and make recommendations for the next year offerings. In developing a PD proposal they referenced the strategic plan and considered feedback from the DESE recent Coordinated Program

Review. They identified SEL and the lack of RtI as needs in the district. Next year the PD proposal will include guest speakers Charlie Applestein (There's no such thing as a bad child) and Carol Gregory (CASEL, embedding SEL into the curriculum). The Essex County Learning Community Grant (ECLC) will focus on articulating RtI systems and protocols, embedding SEL into curriculum, and create informed practices of cultural competencies. A new emWave technology pilot is being used by counselors to assist students who experience anxiety; this technology monitors heart rates and breathing. The ECLC grant supports embedding SEL in to curriculum, coaching opportunities for teachers, building based consultation, and develop action steps from current practices survey. They reviewed how the grant funds are distributed which provide services and supports such as a district specific coach, RtI Team Training, site visits to other schools, and UDL on-site coaching. Plans for the second grant of \$25,000 will be opening day PD on SEL, RtI and cultural competency, CASEL competencies, discrete learning, curriculum audit and review district wide, and ELL curriculum 6-12.

B. Technology Update (security/equipment refreshment schedule)

Director of I S & Technologies Monty Hitschler reported that last year the elementary, middle and high schools had the external WiFi expanded, approximately 100 chromebooks were added to the inventory, Robotics was added at the high school, and the internet speeds were increased. Currently the department is working on the camera project, cyber security – phishing, and working STEAM in K-12. The Educational Foundation supported the VexIQVR robotics pilot in the middle school. In the recent past the Technology budget had been flat, in FY19 the Capital Improvement funds were reduced by \$40,000 and his budget was frozen. In FY20 he anticipates \$120,000 in capital improvement and his requested budgeted amount to support expansion of WiFi, consider more white boards or interactive display panels, increase internet speed, revamp website, continue STEAM, and installation of more security cameras. Mr. Hitschler's goal is to have 10 chromebooks in each grade 3 & 4 classroom, 15 in each 5th grade, 15 carts in MS/HS adding 4 to 5 carts per year. In addition to the schools his department is working on wrapping up the town wide emergency communications project, a new town library network, and installing a new phone system and electronic arrest records system for the police. ERate funds offset 50% of the wireless costs. The school committee discussed the options for funding/supplying a chromebook for every student.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation

Chairperson Colleen Coogan presented the Superintendent's Evaluation. The committee expresses frustration that the evaluation tool does not lend itself toward accurately quantifying Mr. Liebow's consistent exemplary performance and leadership. Mr. Liebow sets high goals which continue to improve staff performance and support student achievement, is fiscally responsible and transparent, is an advocate 24/7 for our schools and student through his outreach and collaboration across Town Boards and Committees, and has established trusting relationships with a wide range of community members, including parents/guardians and employee bargaining unit. Mr. Liebow reviews state testing data and supports curriculum review to energize and improve teaching performance. Mr. Liebow stated that he appreciates the support that he receives from the school board and the students.

D. School Choice Vote

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to continue to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Interdistrict School Choice Law.
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Disposal of Bus

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the disposal of the 2008 Ford Eldorado Aero 14 passenger bus (VIN# 1FD4E45S28DB38224, which has zero (0) value, to be held at J & L Auto for the sole purpose of using for spare parts, for the newly acquired Ford F350 14 passenger bus.
Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Field Trips

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the Middle School Chorus out of state field trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH on May 24, 2019.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

G. Policy Revise/review N/A.

H. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Mary Porter reported that the High School Council discussed “Rockport Gives Back”, posters have been produced, postcards and emails will be sent out to promote the event. The council is working on the first draft of the school improvement plan.

Nicole Altieri reported that the Elementary School Council discussed the Professional Development Wheel, cultural competencies and how it works with curriculum, and lengthening the school day and how it would impact the budget and they should know by May if the Teachers Association is willing to discuss and consider.

B. Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Geoffry Juviler donated \$500 toward the Bootstrap Fund to support students in need who would not be able to cover costs while attending the DramaFest final competition in Boston.

The Educational Foundation of Rockport donated \$3,300 to help fund the RHS DramaFest participate in the State Final Competition.

Amy Rose and Martha Wright applied for and received an Essex County Learning Community Grant, funded through the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation, in the amount of \$25,000 to focus on Response to Intervention system and identify instructional supports in Social Emotional Learning. Thank you’s were sent to both Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tower and the Center for Collaborative Education.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Superintendent

Mr. Liebow reported that he received the results from the Midas Student Information System survey and will be making plans to invite other providers to present their systems for consideration switching to another company in the coming years.

Mr. Liebow will be attending an Affordable Housing meeting on April 9, 2019.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

Contractual Reduction in Force notice to Rockport Teachers Association

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. School Improvement Plans (5/1)
- B. School Handbooks (5/1)
- C. RYBS Survey (5/1)
- D. SC Self Evaluation (5/1)
- E. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (??)

VII. Calendar

- A. May 1, 2019, regular meeting
- B. April 27, 2019, town meeting
- C. May 15, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: At 9:58 pm Michael Kelley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and will return to open session.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Roll call:

Nicole Altieri	yes
Colleen Coogan	yes
Richard Drost	yes
Michael Kelley	yes
Mary Porter	yes

At 10:28pm the committee returned to open session.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve a salary increase of 1.45% to the superintendents 2019-2020 contract.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:30 pm.

Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools