

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday December 5, 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, Michael Kelley, and Cathy Reilly, Richard Drost was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Amanda Osier.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes N/A

B. Personnel Actions

Sandra Brown has been appointed to the position of bus driver effective December 2, 2019 at the rate of \$22.50/hour 5.5 hour/day.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Amanda Verga reported the combined orchestra concert was held last night at the Shalin Liu, last week there was an orchestra summit, for grades 4-12, to connect cooperatively, the student council is organizing a “giving tree” to collect donated gifts for students in need and also holding a food drive competition.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 Social Studies Presentation

Elementary Social Studies Curriculum Liaison’s Julie Raftelis and Stacey Twombly reported that the elementary school has implemented the newly adopted History and Social Studies Curriculum, biggest change is civics and government. Changes they have seen are mainly in explorers that are generally studied in 5th grade are now introduced in 3rd and 4th. There is a strong ELA thematic approach in teaching, working on a workshop model through genre studies and looking at history through different literature. Each grade level has been given the new curriculum standards. They would like to figure out a way to offer professional development next summer to imbed social studies throughout the grades. They are investigating how to blend literacy and social studies so there are other ways for students to express their interest and understandings.

Middle School Social Studies Curriculum Liaison Joanne Hildreth explained the changes in areas of curriculum being offered at each grade level under the new standards. All three levels wrote new curriculum last summer to align with the state. The new curricula highlights an inquiry approach, primary source analysis and civic projects. These tools help with perspective, bias and viewpoint of any of the materials that they would be using. Current and future goals, for the department, are grouping in action, explaining thinking and access to the curriculum.

High School Social Studies Curriculum Liaison Scott Larsen reported that the department continues to work with outside consultant Kevin O’Reilly on curriculum development along the lines of problem solving lessons. One of their goals is to assign a document based essay for 2nd and 4th quarter, using a holistic grading assessment and created a rubric for the assignment. The department does not have standardized test scores data which would help measure student growth. The English department is working with them to review MCAS data and see how we can help support ELA. History Day was implemented last year for 10th and 11th graders. Grade 10 and 11 teachers are working on a collaborative thematic US course approach for continuity amongst the grades. Mr. Larsen is working with Manchester/Essex and Gloucester department coordinators to discuss what each school is doing, how they are adopting the new frameworks and how to network going forward. AP scores were at an average of 3 out of 5, which is above the national average.

Currently there are 80+ students participating in DECA and students have participated in National History Day, Career Day and juniors attend the Credit for Life Fair.

B. Gift Acceptance

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to accept the gift of \$8,000 from Brace Cove Foundation to be used by the department to enrich services, resources, and facilities beyond what would normally be available through public funding.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

C. Field Trip N/A

D. Policy revise/review N/A

E. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

B. Donations

Brace Cove Foundation donated \$8,000 funding another year of private lesson scholarship for the music students.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Communications Sub-committee reported the school will need a new website that can be supported by the new student informatio. Monty Hitschler found one company that is geared toward schools, has good customer service, can put up videos and works well with student information systems. In their second meeting they discussed budget outreach, they would like to add a couple of slides to Mr. Liebow's presentation giving information to the public as to where to find budget information on our website.

Sustainable Workforce Housing Update: Mr. Liebow reported that there is some talk regarding the Rockport Golf Club but

Superintendent Report:

Mr. Liebow presented and explained the fundflow from the end of October 2019.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

A. Foreign Language (1/8/2020)

B. K-12 Math (1/22/2020)

C. CASE Update

D. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow

VII. Calendar

A. December 11, 2019, Budget Forum at Town Library

B. January 8, 2020, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

N/A

Motion: At 9:35 pm Nicole Altieri motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools