

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

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, and Rebecca Sly, Heather Nelson was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the regular minutes as presented from November 29, 2017.
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions

N/A

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Savannah Cook and Megean Smith reported that early action college applications are done and the new schedule is working well. The committee discussed, with them, the pros and cons of the new schedule. The students reported that some blocks are too short for lab work and if they back up to a U-block it would allow more time. They feel they are more efficient and there is less wandering this year. The students heard a lot of positive feedback from the teachers who visited Manchester/Essex High School on the last professional development day. High School Principal Amy Rose said the teachers observed classrooms and found it to be a very positive experience, giving them new ideas and reinforcing their teaching practices that are working.

B. Public Participation

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Policy revise/review

Principal Amy Rose reported that the high school is going to start applying the AP Policy from the course catalog. It states "... All students are expected to complete the nationally approved AP curriculum in the subject area and take the AP exam in May." She feels that this will elevate the curriculum rigor to where it should be for a student to pass the AP test. They will adjust the schedule to offer College Prep and Honors classes so that all students are enrolled in classes at their ability. Parents will be informed at the course selection night that there will be different levels offered with more expectations at each higher level. If a student wants to challenge themselves and enter a higher level they will be informed that their grades may not be what they expect. If parents feel strongly about placement in a higher level there will be a conversation and the opportunity to appeal.

B. 2018-2019 Calendars

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented, Administration will determine the dates for professional development half and full days.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

C. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Colleen Coogan reported that the High School Council met with Principal Amy Rose and one teacher, Amy Huber. Mrs. Huber reported that the Viking Newspaper club researched other school papers and is going to work on a one or two page paper to be published via a website program twice this school year. The “paper” will have feeds to twitter and facebook.

The PTO will be holding elections for the parent participants on the Elementary council.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committees: N/A

D Other Business

Chairperson Colleen Coogan is looking into having a representative from MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) to hold a budget workshop in January or February.

Mrs. Coogan and Superintendent Liebow reviewed the FINCOM Task Force proposal and made suggested edits and returned to Selectperson Sara Wilkinson. The School Committee will be requesting bids to find an outside consultant to review the school budget.

V. Correspondence

Chairperson Colleen Coogan received a letter from Gloucester School Committee Chairperson Jonathan Pope regarding the opportunity to explore closer relationship and collaboration that might benefit both communities. Mrs. Coogan will draft a response letter on behalf of the whole committee.

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Foreign Language Presentation (1/3)
- B. School Committee Goals (1/3)
- C. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow (1/3)
- D. Sabbatical requests (1/17)
- E. Student Services Presentation (1/17)

VII. Calendar

- A. January 3, 2018, regular meeting
- B. January 17, 2018, regular meeting
- C. TBD, IT Review/“Vision of RPS” at Selectmen’s Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m.
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools