

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday December 5, 2018

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, Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating, Selectperson Sarah Wilkinson, Selectperson Denise Donnelly and Interim Town Administrator Mitch Vieira.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the November 6, 2018 regular and executive minutes as presented.

Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Jessica Muise has been appointed to the position of Long-term Substitute Teacher at the Middle School, beginning approximately March 18, 2019 to the end of the school year, to cover a maternity leave. She will be paid at the B-1 Rate of \$236.44 per day.

Amy D'Antonio has been appointed to the position of .2 FTE Long-term Substitute Spanish Teacher in the Middle School, beginning November 28, 2018 to the end of the school year. She will be paid a total of \$5,769.38.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student Representatives Nathaniel Kirby and Amanda Verga reported on the student comments from the last ALICE training: some still felt unprepared, would like an actual "surprise" drill, not comfortable going to a designated "rally point" (intruder may know location), would like more student first aid training and education on barricading doors, and don't know how emergency responders would respond and act during an actual event.

B. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Field Trip - France

Superintendent Liebow explained that the field trip to France that was previously approved has changes and needs to be resubmitted. Lynnfield Schools did not have an approved partnering with Rockport Schools, there is now a private source offering their trip and High School Foreign Language Teacher Gillian Twombly is no longer the chaperone. There are 6 to 8 students participating and High School Math Teacher Chris Lawnsby and his wife will be the chaperones.

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to approve the field trip to France in April of 2019.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. District Budget Workshop with Public Participation

Mr. Liebow explained how the budget is developed; first he reviews the Strategic Plan to determine the next school years needs. The proposed FY20 school budget has an overall increase of 2.99%, which meets

the “Town-School Model” where the school department makes all attempts to hold the yearly operational increase to no more than 3%. A health insurance costs increase of more than 5% would affect this proposed budget. An additional town funded “Bridge Gap” amount of \$225,000 or less would avoid requesting an override this year at town meeting, due to critically low school ending reserve balances. Mr. Liebow reviewed each department and highlighted projected increases in electricity, fuel, water, 2 new buses, higher tuition and transportation for out of district students, increase hour for out of district special education coordinator, school safety initiatives, and mentoring of new teaching staff. The school committee and audience discussed what the health insurance committee is looking into to help reduce health insurance costs, Mr. Liebow’s realistic and fully transparent budget, reserve amounts and how they affect the need for an override and slow but steady improvements in the school system.

C. Cape Ann Schools Study

Chairperson Colleen Coogan reported that the Rockport and Gloucester Schools have created a Cape Ann Study for Education group. The Donahue Group will be hired to conduct a study; a meeting with them is planned for January. The group discussed offering exchanges and sources for funding the study.

D. Calendars FY20

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the FY20 school calendar and school committee calendar as presented.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Policy revise/review

The Policy Sub-Committee presented the following policies for a first reading:

File ILD: Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research

File JICH: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited

File KCD: Public Gifts to the Schools no changes and the following motion was made.

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve File KCD: Public Gifts to the Schools as reviewed with no changes.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Student Representative Nathaniel Kirby reported that High School Newspaper advisor Amy Huber showed the high school staff how to access the Twin Lights Tribune, since then there has been a flood of activity to contribute from the staff. There will be a student assembly in January to “roll out” the publication.

Middle School Council Representative Richard Drost reported that Principal LaMantia has sent out a survey to staff for their input regarding the school improvement plan. The council discussed reaching out to retired teachers and posting weekly announcements to help get parents and the community more involved in the middle school.

B. Donations

Braces Cove Foundation donated \$8,000 to provide one-on-one instruction to students in the Rockport Public Schools.

The Rockport School District received an anonymous donation of \$3,000 to help fund a “Security Enhancement Gift”

Elizabeth Malcomson donated 19 reams of 8.5 X 14 inch coping paper to be used where ever needed in the Rockport Schools.

Nanette Edwards donated a Yamaha Clavivova Digital Piano to be used by the Music Department.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to accept the \$8,000 gift from Braces Cove Foundation which will enrich music services beyond what would normally be available through public funding.

Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Nicole Altieri reported that the Wellness Committee discussed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) student survey and applying for grants to confront vaping. There are an alarming number of students that are vaping, looking at "Catch a Breath" curriculum. Currently if a student is caught vaping they have the option for a Saturday detention at the police station where they will receive education, from Health Teacher Amanda King, regarding the hazards of vaping or they can accept a suspension. Middle School physical education teacher Rob O'Hanley is moving his curriculum toward a wellness model offering classes like yoga. Amanda King is offering wellness and stress relief instruction during high school U block, and elementary health teacher Darlene Trumbour spoke of the wellness block in the elementary school. The committee discussed the closing of bathrooms due to vaping and vandalism. Mr. Liebow assured them that some are closed but there are restrooms available at all times.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Liebow explained the two versions of the Fund Flow, one is his, and one is Business Manager June Sanfilippo's. The committee discussed the possible budget presentation to the selectmen and the Essex Tech School Committee representative position and their message regarding being college prep.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. K-12 PE/Health (1/2/2019)
- B. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (1/16)
- C. K-12 Guidance/Deans (1/16)

VII. Calendar

- A. January 2, 2019, regular meeting
- B. January 16, 2019, regular meeting1`

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:55pm.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow

