

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday February 6, 2019

Chairperson Colleen Coogan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary 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 January 2, 2019 regular minutes incorporating the following additions: III A. principal and coordinator presentation with results and curriculum from the science department self-study. III C for the principal to consider outreach to parents and students prior to final decision regarding foreign language offerings in the middle school. III D school committee's appreciation of proposed middle school schedule and offering. .

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Molly Clark has been appointed to the position of Elementary Special Education Tutor for 2 hours per week at the rate of \$45/hour beginning January 18, 2019.

Karen Harvey has been appointed to the position of Long-term Spanish Substitute Teacher at the High School. She will be paid at the B-1 rate of the RTA contract which is \$236.44/day, beginning February 4, 2019 to a date that will be determined.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Nathaniel Kirby presented draft copies of the "Constitution of the Rockport Public Schools Student Advisory Committee to the Rockport Public Schools School Committee" and the "Constitution of the Rockport High School Student Council". A Student Council Constitution was developed in 2013 but has not been used in recent years. `

B. Public Participation

Zenas Seppala, 92 Granite St., Rockport, would like to discuss Chapter 29 of the Massachusetts General Laws to promote and enhance civic engagement. He would like to know how the schools will teach this required subject. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting on March 6, 2019 during public participation.

Carl Engel, 35 Pleasant St., Rockport introduced himself to the committee as the new School Committee Liaison for the FinCom Committee.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 Library/Technology

Middle/High School Librarian Christine Burke reported that the staff YA book group is in its 4th year, she is working on ADA compliance, the 2017 proceeds from the book fair went to Rockport TX Fulton Middle School to help rebuild their library that was destroyed in the hurricane, and she is removing old books through a library non-sale. Ms. Burke is looking ahead to flex time in the middle school and creating a student help desk. She is requesting that the school committee adopt a copyright policy. Middle School

teacher Karen Wright is offering Computer Apps (website creation) and Computer Science (coding), and Robotics courses at the middle school level. Technology teacher Jeff Richards reported that he and Karen Wright and cover the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Strands through computing and society, digital tools and collaboration, computing systems, and computational thinking classes. Mr. Richards teaches Information and Media Technology by teaching production processes for podcasts, screencasts and videos. He also teaches them how to research “Fake News” by evaluating for currency, relevance, authority and purpose. Middle/High School teacher Dave Young teaches technology/engineering standards, 3D printing, and hands on project based learning in the middle school and is adhering with the MASS Science and Technology/Engineering and MASS DLCS (DTC strand) in the high school. Offering dedicated computer science, media literacy, hands on oriented curriculum, and more frequent and more expert use of technology in all areas are some of the positive things happening in the Technology and Library departments.. They feel there is a lack of computer systems strand curriculum and media oriented curriculum is limited to freshmen. The school committee is very impressed with what has been done with the programs and feel the students will use these skills throughout life.

Elementary school Librarian Katherine Schwinden reported that the library space in the elementary library has been thoroughly transformed due to a generous grant from the Rockport PTO. The former library office is now a makerspace with green screen, there’s a new collaboration zone for 4th and 5th graders, the library office desk has been removed for a self-check out station for the students, and new carpet. The main goal was to create a research/reading and collaboration zone that fosters the development of 21st Century skills. The new library is much more comfortable, books are easier to find and all grades are using the space outside of their scheduled times. Mrs. Schwinden, principal Simendinger, and Technology teacher Mrs. DeBenedette-Reily represented the district at the Massachusetts Computer User Educators Group at Gillette Stadium this past fall. Mrs. DeBenedette-Reily has increased tech usage in the classrooms, developed a coding and robotics program and increased integration of MA DESE DLCS standards. The Rockport EdFoundation donated 10 Osmo kits for coding on iPads. Students have learned internet safety through game board design. Both teachers along with music teacher Kaitlyn Shaw-Reese plan and teach the STEAM block each week with all 3 kindergarten classes. The school committee reflected that the work being done by all with across the discipline throughout the grades and how technology is used throughout the day in the lab, library and the classrooms is amazing. The teachers reported that there is a very collaborative staff in the elementary working to incorporate the standards by researching in the library and intertwining technology in their classroom work.

- B. Field Trips N/A
- C. Policy Revise/review N/A
- D. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Mary Porter reported that edits have been made to the “Rockport Gives Back” form that will go out to students and staff on Friday. Participants can make their own proposal or take from suggested events/projects. Principal Amy Rose is working to develop ways to get the word out to the community. The middle school council still needs parent/community representation.

B. Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Gallagher donated \$200 toward the “Lunch Box Fund” to assist families that may have financial difficulties due to the Federal Government Furlough.

The Rockport PTO donated books to the Elementary Library from the “Empathy” list provided by the Multicultural Children’s Book organization.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Nicole Altieri and Michael Kelley met with Mike Montgomery and decided that bids would be collected to consider hiring an outside group to redesign the website. They suggest that a committee should be formed to steer the vendor and gather information for a consensus of what is needed and how to use the site. A survey was done a couple of years ago and that data should be reviewed. Also, procedures need to be in place as to who is feeding the content and provide consistent information from clubs, teams, and classes.

Superintendent

Superintendent Liebow presented the newly updated Strategic Plan for review. He had sent it out to staff for comment and received very little back. The document is now able to link to the deliverables.

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to adopt the strategic plan as presented.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Liebow is waiting for a statement of work, from the Donahue Group, outlining the process for an assessment of what type of collaboration would work for the Gloucester and Rockport School districts. The first Affordable Housing Committee meeting will be this week, they will be applying for funds from the Community Preservation Committee to support affordable housing for young families in Rockport.

FundFlow

Superintendent Liebow presented the December 2018 FundFlow. He is proposing a \$150,000 bridge gap amount request instead of the initial \$225,000 due to the towns FY20 budget is balanced and includes a small excess unappropriated amount. The committee discussed with Mr. Liebow the different base amount scenarios and how long an override could be delayed, Medicare reimbursements, how to educate the public on the school budget, and the presentation to the FinCom tomorrow night.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the modification to the FY School Budget.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. K-12 Guidance/Deans (3/6)
- B. Sabbatical Request (3/6)
- C. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (3/20)
- D. Social Emotional/Counselors (3/20)

VII. Calendar

- A. March 6, 2019, regular meeting
- B. March 20, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:58 pm.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools