

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday January 2, 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 December 5, 2018 regular minutes with the correction that Policy File KCD: Public Gifts to the Schools was approved as reviewed with no changes.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Julia Gross has been appointed to the position of 1.0 FTE (.8 HS/.2 MS) Temporary French Substitute Teacher beginning December 17, 2018 to January 18, 2019 at the B1 rate of the RTA contract which is \$236.44/day.

Holly O'Connor has been appointed to the position of .3 FTE Long-term French Substitute at the Rockport Middle School beginning January 2, 2019 to the end of the school year, at the B1 pro-rated rate of \$70.93/day.

Abigail Hood has been appointed to the position of Temporary Pre-K Elementary School Paraprofessional beginning January 2, 2019 to the end of this school year, at the Step 1 rate, of the Support Contract, of \$114.73/day.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student Advisory Representatives Nathaniel Kirby and Amanda Verga reported that the first National History Day was very successful. The students created exhibits, documentaries, papers, performances, and websites on the theme: Triumph and Tragedy in History. Parents and guardians were invited to attend. Tomorrow, High School Principal Amy Rose will be "rolling out" information, to the students, on the Twin light Tribune, national honor society students will teach the students how to navigate the site.

B. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 PE/Health

Elementary Health Teacher Darlene Trumbour and Physical Education Teacher Erin Caniff discussed the "Wings" installation, each elementary student decorated a large leaf, when put together, by elementary Art teacher Sarah Tetrault, on a wall they become large wings for the students to have a picture taken of them. They reported that the Wellness Block gets better and better each year. It supports school community, healthy habits, physical fitness, and good citizenship. Each grade level meets once a week from 9:30am to 10:45am rotating through the three teachers with a mixed cohort that changes every six weeks. Darlene Trumbour reported that the elementary school is using "Toolbox" curriculum for social and emotional learning. They have started a 5th grade leaders program. Students who were interested in becoming a leader applied by writing an essay, this year all were accepted and they met with underclassmen every Thursday and pretty much run the school community meetings. Erin Caniff reported that running club is still

going strong. Juggling Club is offered weekly with 30+ participants. The “Seed to Fork” program is planting and harvesting crops from seed and offering the harvest in the cafeterias. The Motif #1 Road Race is very successful and supports funding for a lot of health and wellness programs. The committee discussed the need to continue running/cross country to the middle school. AD John Parisi said he would investigate adding cross country if there is interest.

High School Health Teacher Amanda King and Middle/High School Physical Education Teacher Rob O’Hanley discussed the Wellness Wheel Model which includes Social, Physical, and Mental & Emotional, spiritual, financial, environmental, intellectual and occupational health. They have been able to add two more PE classes but enrollment is low due to scheduling. The middle and high school PE programs promote creating community, establishing full value norms, problem solving, building trust, be here, be safe, set goals, be honest, let go and move on. Mr. O’Hanley challenges the students by choice, helping the student to see that they have the right and ability to choose their level of challenge. He also surveys the students to find out what types of physical activity they are interested in. Mrs. King and Mr. O’Hanley explained the class offerings, rotations and times that they meet. Instructors have been brought in to offer yoga and guided meditation. Mrs. King may ask to change the course name from health to wellness and focus more on the interests of the students. She explained high school health I & II curriculum which covers active living, personal values, cooking skills, peer pressure, addictive behaviors including vaping, and good citizenship. Both teachers hope that they create students who continue to live productive, successful and independent lives after high school. The committee discussed how to add more activity clubs, such as Frisbee, mountain biking, and cross country, to help continue active students at the middle school level. Committee member Nicole Altieri reported that she will be attending a meeting with the Board of Health regarding the application process for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey funding. She is hoping that the opportunity is still there to receive funds for the \$7,000 or more costs.

B. Field Trips

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the student service trip to Dominican Republic, February 13 – 24, 2020.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the High School Jazz Ensembles to attend the Herricks Jazz Festival in Woodbury, New York from March 15 – 17, 2019 and to the University of Delaware Jazz Festival from April 11 – 13, 2019.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Minimum Wage Increase

As of January 2, 2019 the Massachusetts minimum wage increased to \$12/hour.

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the increase of the crossing guard wages to reflect the current minimum wage and adjust again, next January 1st any increases and increase the daily substitute rate to \$85/day immediately and increase to \$92/day on the date of the next increase next year.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. Policy revise/review

Second readings for the following policy motions:

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to adopt File ILD: Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research and approve the revision of File JICH: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Mary Porter reported that the high school council discussed the launch of the Twin Light Tribune to the student body. They hope this will increase traffic and contributions from the students. Suggestions from the committee were to highlight a link on the school website and send out blast emails when there is a new addition. The council discussed RPS Gives Back, there is a new online system for staff to sign up for offering events. There will be established events that staff and students can sign up for or they can submit their own ideas for approval. They discussed how to improve the site map and how to better promote the event. It was suggested to approach DECA for marketing suggestions.

B. Donations

Cell Signaling donated \$2,395 to purchase an online subscription to BrainPop and BrainPop Jr for students Pre-K through grade 5.

MS/HS Counselor Samantha Merrill donated two books, to the RMHS Library, “Miss Ellicott’s School for the Magically Minded” and “13 Minutes”.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

D. Other Business

Superintendent Liebow reported that he has been trying to finalize a Power Purchase Agreement with Solectenergy, who was selected by the Power Options Program, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Internal Revenue Code that assists its members with procuring energy products and energy-related services for facilities they own and/or operate. The agreement has been stuck in legal review. Both the school committee and Mr. Liebow feel the agreement is worth signing for both the savings and educational benefits. Chairperson Coogan will draft a letter to the “town fathers” for their support in signing and entering the agreement.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned that based on review of the projected reduction in carbon emissions, cost savings, and educational opportunities that would be afforded by entering the Solectenergy power purchase agreement, allowing solar panel installation on school roofs (approved at April 2018 Town Meeting), that a letter be drafted, by Colleen Coogan from the school committee to selectmen and town manager encouraging them to finalize review of the proposal and find legal resolution as swiftly as possible so that we can take advantage of the environmental and cost savings associated with the project.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Liebow reported that high school music teacher would like to propose a pilot elective, beginning next year, to co-teach, with Mr. Liebow, a course for senior exhibits. The exhibits would be worked off a central question and presented to the school community at the end of the school year.

V. Correspondence

North Shore Educational Consortium Annual Report- Mr. Liebow explained that Rockport Public Schools are members of the consortium; the consortium meets the needs of students who require specialized educational services. Even though Rockport is a member it does not guarantee that a student will be enrolled

if space is limited. He also explained that the consortium can add capital improvements to their increases unlike public schools that have to submit, to the town, requests for improvements that can be denied.

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. HS Science Dept Self Study & Course Catalog Review (1/16)
- B. The Future of MS Foreign Language (1/16)
- C. Changes to MS Schedule (1/16)
- D. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (1/16)
- E. K-12 Guidance/Deans (3/6)

VII. Calendar

- A. January 16, 2019, regular meeting
- B. February 6, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:12 pm.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools