

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday March 20, 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 March 6, 2019 regular minutes as presented.  
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

RETIRE: Elementary School Paraprofessional Denise Greel has rescinded her retirement at the end of this school year and extended to the end of the 2019-2020 school year.  
LEAVE: Elementary School Teacher Nicole Pizzimenti has been approved a leave of absence from April 12, 2019 to the end of the school year.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student Advisory Representative Nathaniel Kirby reported that Chloe Beaulieu qualified to compete in the DECA ICDC International Competition in Florida, a college and career fair was held at Gloucester High School, seniors are feeling stress about the scholarship process, RHS DramaFest has moved on to the State Finals and the National Honor Society will hold a talent show April 15<sup>th</sup>.

B. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Social Emotional

Director of Student Services Martha Wright reported that social emotional learning (SEL) is a critical component of general educational practices. Ms. Wright explained the 5 competencies of the CASEL Wheel which promotes intrapersonal, interpersonal and cognitive skills. So far there has been common administrative training, purchased "SEL in the Classroom, Practical Guide for Integrating All SEL Skills into Instruction and Classroom Management" for all faculty, provided initial training in each building, and has initiated building specific work. The plan moving forward is to use grant funds to continue professional development, including paraprofessionals. The elementary school has a literacy coach to train staff on how to imbed literature in SEL curriculum. The middle and high schools are both looking at the SEL standards and how to work in to lessons.

B. Psychologists/Counselors

Elementary School Psychologist Bridget O'Connell explained the 3 Tiered Supports for SEL/Behavioral Needs pyramid. Eighty-five percent of the students fall in tier 1 where issues are handled at the classroom level. In Tier 2 and 3 students are involve in more frequent targeted interventions, counseling, and attend coping skills groups. She believes that as time goes on and Tier 1 becomes a stronger support, for students, there will be less need at tier 2 & 3. Mrs. O'Connell explained the psychologist vs. counselor roles at each tier and where their roles overlap. Elementary School Counselor Moriah Marsh reported that she works directly with teachers to manage situations in the classroom, coordinates outside treatment providers, consults on behavior plans, and counsels any student who is experiencing anxiety, ADHD, trauma, and grief.

Middle/High School Psychologist Sarah Hoague mainly does psychological evaluations during the day, but also has an IEP counseling caseload, attends IEP meetings, “Team Time” and teacher/parent meetings, and deals with unplanned student crisis interventions and support. High School Counselor Courtney Wilson reported that approximately 45 students need direct services. Her goal is to provide students with coping skills, self-advocacy and esteem, emotional regulation, anger management and ADHD skills so that the students can return to the classroom. Ms. Wilson has seen an increase in school resistance, which increases absenteeism. Currently teachers are working really well to accommodate students coming back after a lengthy absence; administration is looking to support them with a formal transition program. Martha Wright reported that the Risk Assessment Task Force meets 6 times a year and is working to develop a Risk Assessment Protocol Guide.

C. Elementary report Card update

Elementary Principal Todd Simendinger reported the parent survey results from the first distribution of the new Standard Based report card. Parents felt that it was a detailed picture of progress and growth, included academic and social skills, aligned with specialists, and provided clarity of expectations. Parents would like to see teacher comments, reduce the length, consolidate scales, and improve appearance, increase parent information and frequency of reporting. Mr. Simendinger will work on those issues this summer and long-term goals will include transitioning to an electronic report card and develop an online parent resource center. The school committee commended Mr. Simendinger for going above and beyond expected measures to get information out to parents via information nights and access to convenient online videos.

D. Student Advisory Council Constitution

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to support the Constitution of the Rockport Public Schools Student Advisory Committee as presented.  
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. School District Attorney Review and Reappointment

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to extend the services of Naomi Stonberg as School Attorney from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.  
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Bus Agreement

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the agreement with Don Brown Bus Sales, Inc. for the purchase of a Starcraft Prodigy DRW 2019 Handicapped Accessible 1-14 passenger Type a Mini Bus.  
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

G. Field Trips

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the DECA field trip to participate in the International Competition to Bueno Vista, Florida, April 26-May 3, 2019.  
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. Policy Revise/review

Second reading for the following policies:

File IHBG: Home Schooling  
File IHBG-E Relations with home schools application for home instruction  
File EFD: Meal Charge  
File KI: Visitors to the school

File LBC Relations with Home Schools (to be removed)

File LBC-E: Relations with Home School Application for Home Instruction (to be removed)

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to approve the review of File IHBG: Home Schooling and IHBG-E: Relations with home schools application for home instruction. The removal of files LBC: Relations with Home Schools (replaced by IHBG) and File: LBC-E: Relations with home schools Application for Home Instruction (replaced by IHBG-E: ) and the revised: File: KI Visitors to the Schools and File: EFD Meal Charge.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Donations

Rockport Rotary donated 3 books: “The Journey of Little Charlie”, Yours Faithfully” and “Twelve Days in May Freedom Ride 1961” for the RMHS Library.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Nicole Altieri reported that the Wellness Committee discussed the “Sticker Shock” campaign, this campaign places stickers at the entrance to establishments that sell alcohol, reminding younger of age adults to not purchase alcohol for underage teens/adults. They discussed the Tower Grant, a child trauma survey, the funding of training for mental health first aid, looking in to the “Pass Program” as positive alternative off-site program for suspensions, and the request for a water filling station in the elementary cafeteria.

The Communications Sub-committee is developing a 3-4 page budget information pamphlet for town meeting. The Twin Light Tribune will announce to 18 year olds that they are eligible to register to vote.

The superintendent is attending meetings with the School Length Day Committee. Mr. Liebow will include this research project to his goals for next year.

Superintendent

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. PD & Tower Grant Update (4/3)
- B. Tech Update (Security refreshment of equipment) 4/3
- C. School Improvement Plans (5/1)
- D. School Handbooks (5/1)
- E. RYBS Survey (5/1)
- F. SC Self Evaluation (5/1)
- G. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow (??)

VII. Calendar

- A. April 3, 2019, regular meeting
- B. May 1, 2019, regular meeting

C. April 27, 2019, town meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:50 pm.  
Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools