

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

Chairperson Michael Kelley 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 Cathy Reilly. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the regular minutes from October 2 and 16, and the executive minutes from October 2, 2019
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

RESIGN: Karen-Jean Kennedy will resign from her position of Bus Driver effective December 1, 2019.
Taylor Greel will resign from her position of Bus Driver effective December 1, 2019.
RETIRE: Linda Finlay filed her intend to retire from her position of cook for the Food Services Department at the end of the 2020 school year.
APPOINTED: Anita Scatterday has been appointed to the position of Academic Tutor in the Elementary School from November 4, to December 19, 2019, for a maximum of 4 hours/week with 2 hours of prep time, at the rate of \$45.00/hour.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student Representative Nathaniel Kirby reported that National Honor Society Inductions were last week at the Shalin Liu, 23 students were inducted. Ed Becker and Glen Mcleod were the guest speakers. NPH Dance Troupe from Mexico performed for the students today. Amanda Silva reported that the High School Drama Club performed "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown".

B. Public Participation

Wally Hess would like the school committee to consider opting out of the school choice program. He stated that if we take school choice out there would be 29% fewer kids in the middle school, given that SPED teachers are not with individualized expertise but more general SPED expertise, so with a reduction in kids you could have 20% reduction in SPED teachers, so that would be 5 to 4. Another example is there are 22 SPED Teacher Assistance for the whole system and if you took all the choice kids out then if reorganized there could probably be 27% fewer TA's in general, maybe 25% or 35% fewer depending on exactly what it is, that could be going from 22 to 16 TA's. That is the methodology that he used going through all the different areas and trying to figure out how those types of specific jobs would be effected, add that all up and that is how I came up with the numbers that I gave you. There's a lot I didn't give you such as you could reduce lots of other things like buses. Five years ago we had 141 more kids than we have now, take out the 218 SPED (School Choice?) kids and we would have empty space with 359 less kids than five years ago. Five years ago we could fit in this building, if we had 359 fewer kids I believe there's a lot of space in this building that could be closed or restructured somewhat. I put zero benefit in my analysis for that type of thing and there's dozen of things like that that could also be a savings by reducing SPED (School Choice?). He offered that if anyone would like to spend an hour and a half with him he'd be happy to go through the whole thing.

Chairperson Mike Kelley stated that the district has distributed information at other meetings and is on the server for review, and will certainly will share with the CASE study group. There were no follow-up questions regarding any of the content or methodology.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. FY21 Budget

Town Administrator Mitch Vieira, FINCOM Members Carl Engel and Laurene Wessel, and Selectperson Sarah Wilkinson participated in the discussion of the proposed budget models. Superintendent Liebow reported that the proposed budget is status quo, remaining at level services, with no additions. He explained the construction of the annual budget, how it is guided by the Strategic Plan, receives public input and meets the “Town-School Model”. The following are 5 models for the school committee to consider: Model 1 – no override, Model 2 – full predicted override, Model 3 2-year CASE study interim override, Model 4 1-year CASE interim +\$275K from free cash not added to base and Model 5 – 1-year CASE study interim +\$250K added to base. After discussion the school committee will bring back Model 2 and 3 to the next school committee meeting to determine which model to support and to propose to the town.

B. SIS Proposal

Superintendent Liebow reported that the Student Information System (SIS) committee gathered information by visiting Peabody Schools to view Aspen and Stoneham Schools to view PowerSchool, he also spoke with the superintendent at Masco, who has used both . The committee met and recommends going with Aspen.

C. Nominate Negotiations Team Members.

The school committee appointed Michael Kelley and Nicole Altieri to the negotiations committee. Mr. Liebow has sent a letter to the Rockport Teachers Association requesting to open the Agreement to discuss an adjustment to the “Teaching Hours and Teaching Level” with specific reference to the elementary school.

D. Field Trip

N/A

E. Policy revise/review

The Policy Sub-committee continues to review policies and will bring forward any that need revision or review.

D. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

An email went out to recruit middle school parents/guardians to serve on the school council.

B. Donations

Mr. Geoffry Juuiler donated a full size violin with case to be used by the music department. Becky Vicksell of Essex donated a $\frac{3}{4}$ Doetsch Cello and Pernambuco Bow to be used by the music students.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Muzio donated 4 cushioned stackable office chairs to be use by the Rockport Schools.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

The CASE study committee will meet with the Donahue Institute next month.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Liebow presented the FY19 End of Year FundFlow report. He also reported that the ALICE drill went okay, but students, mostly at middle school level, were less serious and some classes had to stop the drill, he will address this issue at the assembly prior to the next drill. Mr. Liebow chose a location to watch and found that after the initial announcement some students came out to a venerable hall. Feedback suggested that the announcement get right to the point, lead with “has a gun” not with the description of the individual and students and it was suggested to have more open conversations before and after the drill. There is still concern amongst the students that the “rally points” are venerable target locations if there is a second shooter. Nicole Alteri commented that the rally points generally seem to be for gathering and attendance, more for after the event has happened.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. District Budget/Workshop w/Public Participation (11/20)
- B. Sustainable Workforce Housing Update (12/5)
- C. K-12 Social Studies Presentation (12/5)
- D. CASE Update
- E. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow

VII. Calendar

- A. November 20, 2019, regular meeting
- B. December 5, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

N/A

- Motion: At 10:07 pm Nicole Altieri motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.
- Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
- Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools