

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Chairperson Colleen Coogan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Nicole Altieri, Colleen Coogan, Heather Nelson, Mary Porter, and Rebecca Sly. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the regular minutes from October 18, 2017.  
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the executive minutes from October 18, 2017.  
Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions N/A

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation

Parent Scott Borgerson attended the meeting to see what school committee was all about and asked questions regarding MCAS testing and scores. He mentioned that he asked his fourth grade son's teacher how she prepares curriculum and she produced the state requirements and explained how she develops her curriculum from those guidelines. He asked about individual teacher results, Mr. Liebow explained that the administrators look at student growth rather than individual teachers since there are many factors that could affect scores in a particular classroom, such as new curriculum, substitute teachers covering for an extended time and the student cohort.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Initiation of Website Re-Design

User Support Specialist Mike Montgomery and the Communications Sub-Committee meet and discussed what they like and don't like about the look and function of the school website. From that discussion Mr. Montgomery presented a picture of what the site will look like: minimal color, use of full page, re-organization of tabs, and consolidate information when it is in two or more places. They will be looking into links or folders to connect to Facebook and Twitter. Director of I.S. & Technologies Monty Hirschler will be working with Cape Ann TV to help with social media and "pushing out" event information. The school committee feels that the website will have a more professional look with more functionality. They would like Mr. Liebow to discuss with the administrators how to develop procedures that will get information about the schools and events on the school pages and google calendar. Mr. Montgomery will find a week when staff is not using the website to make the suggested changes to the website.

B. Policy Review/Proposals

Colleen Coogan reported that administration had requested that the school committee consider revising the school choice policy to deny acceptance if there are disciplinary or attendance issues. Data was supplied regarding current school choice vs resident student discipline and attendance issues and they are very similar in amount of incidents. After discussion with Mr. Liebow they decided not change the current policy and consider this a first reading for review. The sub-committee will be reviewing several policies that refer to

instructional materials and controversial issues/controversial speakers and the use of technology (cell phones) in the classroom at each school level.

C. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Nicole Altieri reported that the Elementary School Council discussed the MCAS results, the Elementary Improvement Plan, the playground inspection, and how to develop a maintenance plan and ways to fund it with the help of other community resources.

Mary Porter reported that the Middle School Council discussed parent involvement and will need to get the PTO email out to recruit volunteer parents for the school council. They also discussed MCAS and ways to reach out to parents, when they need to approach the school for information regarding their child's results if they have questions. They will be working on updating an individual middle school improvement plan now that the middle and high school are separated.

Colleen Coogan reported that the High School Council is discussing the high school improvement plan and will remove middle school information. The students would like to start an electronic newspaper with hard copies available. Principal Rose said she will start a google folder to accept contributions. There was discussion on better communication with parents and how to "market" the high school. Mrs. Rose will be looking to find a retired editor/writer to help with the paper. They are also looking into bringing back the high school app.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committees:

D Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Strategic Plan (11/15)
- B. Rockport Teachers Association contract (11/15)
- C. Budget (11/15)
- D. Administration Budget Presentation w/Public Participation (11/29)
- E. Budget Review (12/6)
- F. Sabbatical requests (12/6)
- G. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (12/6)

VII. Calendar

- A. November 15, 2017, regular meeting
- B. November 29, 2017, regular meeting
- C. December 6, 2017, regular meeting
- D. TBD, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:52 p.m. Mary Porter motioned to go into executive session to discuss the collective bargaining with the teachers union. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session and will not return to open session.

Nicole Altieri seconded the motion a roll call was taken.

Colleen Coogan	yes
Nicole Altieri	yes
Heather Nelson	yes
Mary Porter	yes
Rebecca Sly	yes

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools