

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Chairperson Colleen Coogan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Nicole Altieri, Colleen Coogan, Heather Nelson, and Mary Porter, Rebecca Sly was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating and Assistant Town Administrator Mitch Vieira.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the regular minutes as presented from November 15, 2017.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the executive minutes as presented from November 15, 2017.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Allison Chalmers	Before School Paraprofessional	Step 6	10/25/2017
Anne Brady	Long-term HS SPED Liaison Sub	B-2	12/7/2017
Jennifer Giuffrida	EL Paraprofessional	Step 1	11/21/2017
Jaclyn MacDowell	SPED Clerk/Substitute	Step 1	11/20/2017

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. District Budget Workshop with Public Participation

Superintendent Liebow presented the proposed FY19 Budget. He highlighted on areas mentioned in the 2018-2019 Budget message. There are comparison columns from this year's budget with a percentage increase of 2.9% for the FY19 proposed budget. Some increases in line items are a new clerk/substitute position for the SPED office, additional ELL students, out of district tuition and transportation increases, more mentors assuming more funding of VHS courses currently partially funded by the Educational Foundation, and additional mentors. Some unknowns are fuel costs, bus replacement, a new town/school registrar data position, and other capital outlay request that might not be funded by the town. The difference between the school budget and the town funding is filled with grants, fees, and reserve funds. Selectperson Denise Donnelly and FINCOM members Wally Hess and William Wagner joined in discussion of school choice, enrollment numbers, the uniqueness of real estate in Rockport and affordable housing for young families. All agreed that a good school system attracts families to move in to Rockport. The FINCOM members talked about the creation of task forces to investigate town department budgets. The school committee had them clarify what the mission of the task force would be and that the school committee hopes there is equal representation of departments on each task force. Director of Student Services Martha Wright reported the state is seeing patterns of parents who are using school choice for an option when their special services are not being met in their current home town. She is focused on keeping students with needs in district and is committing professional development funds to train staff skills to support these students. Across the state mental health issues, for school age students, is skyrocketing. She will be looking at our

offerings, wants to be well informed, and create a program that will be sustainable overtime with skilled staff and resources in place.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to adopt the FY19 School Budget as presented.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committees: N/A

D Other Business

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Future Agenda Items

A. 2018-2019 calendars (12/6)

B. Sabbatical requests (1/17)

C. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (12/6)

VII. Calendar

A. December 6, 2017, regular meeting

B. January 3, 2018, regular meeting

C. TBD, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools