

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday October 16, 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, Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes N/A

B. Personnel Actions

Danielle Osier has been appointed to the position of One-Year Elementary School Monitor beginning October 16, 2019 to the end of the 2019-2020 school year, for 18 hours per week, at the Step 1 rate of \$14.42.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student Representative Nathaniel Kirby reported that PSAT testing took place at RHS today. Juniors are FREE thanks to the generous support of the Rockport Education Foundation. "Seniors helping Seniors" program was held today, students worked at 28 homes doing mostly yardwork. The high school seniors would like to offer the program more during the school year.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. MS Mountain Bike Club

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve, as presented, the offering of an after school Mountain Bike Club at the middle school.

Seconded: Cathy Reilly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Observatory update and proposed site approval

Rockport Educational Foundation member Jamy Medeja reported the status of donations received for the installation of the Rockport Community Observatory. She also stated: the Educational Foundation is proud to support Rockport children and their right to a free and public education, ours being a well-supported community-based school located within the community and will continue that support the schools so that it continues to remain that way.

High School Physics teacher Dr. Waller reported that the donated observatory would best be located behind the tennis courts near the Gaga Pit where there is good southern exposure and no lights. He has received the "go ahead" from the Building Inspector and designer Craig Herrmann presented drawings for the structure to hold the telescope and a control room. The structures will be handicap accessible, will have air flow through vents, space heaters where needed, and will be built to manufacturer suggested dimensions.

Dr. Waller will be starting the bid process for contractors and hopes to have the project started in the spring, the estimated total cost is \$50,000.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the general site location of the observatory as presented with general construction and maintenance plans, along with consulting with Superintendent Liebow regarding a construction schedule.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. RTI

Director of Student Services Martha Wright reported on Response to Intervention (RtI). This year administrators will be ensuring that processes and protocols are fully implemented and function. She explained the background and history behind the legal requirements of RtI. RtI has been identified as one of the needs for professional development. Administration will identify an RtI working group consisting of administrators and teachers from each building. Focus will be on shifting from Response to Intervention to Instructional Support Team. An Instructional Support Team focuses on supporting school practitioners to identify and adjust instructional practices, adapt the educational environment to learning and success, instructional methodologies, and follow a strength-based approach. The district will use common forms and reference documents, support the implementation of informed instruction practices, assure resources and opportunity for all students, and review the process and functionality of documentation process. Jodi Goodhue provided the administrative team a webinar with the Galileo data collection system to expand more throughout the district to provide data that will help assess student needs. The committee discussed the monitoring of students failing. Ms. Wright feels in her experience that a teacher will recognize concerns and can reach out to the parent, guidance and counselors. Superintendent Liebow feels that RtI is the bridge before failure becomes an issue and a teacher would go to the RtI team who would then review and advise.

D. Strategic Plan Proposal

Superintendent Liebow presented the Strategic Plan with highlighted changes or updates, explaining the Core Values and Beliefs, Theory of Action, and the Strategic Objectives which are the “marching orders”. The first year has a new focus on the review of the K-8 Science curriculum. The plan is a working document and new first year items are: the district will ensure that educators are successful by providing support and coaching, school libraries will partner town library to increase student access, expand methods of communicating with families, organized and clutter-free classroom environments, participate in CASE Study, provide the needed financial and educational background for the override, RES morning meetings, research school start times, consider expansion of foreign language, focus on STEAM curriculum and work with Technology Director to provide the School Committee with a well-articulated Technology Plan.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the Strategic Plan as presented.
Seconded: Cathy Reilly seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Capital Improvement Proposals

Superintendent Liebow presented the Capital Outlay Request for FY21. It includes replacement of one bus, replacement of handicap lift to cafeteria, entry door replacements, auditorium lighting system, 2 floor finishing machines and finish resurfacing sidewalks/courtyard areas.

D. Field Trip

Motion: Cathy Reilly motioned to approve the out of state overnight 8th grade field trip to New York City.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Policy revise/review N/A

F. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Cathy Reilly reported that the last high school council meeting was communications based.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Mr. Liebow reported that the CASE study group met last night. A timeline was set and the final report will be presented in March 2020. Mr. Liebow reported that there are opportunities for positive outcomes, will watch for cost savings but it's about what is best for the students,

The communications sub-committee is developing avenues to promote the Rockport Schools during this budget override year. They are working on communicating to the public through Facebook, a brochure and a video.

Superintendent Report:

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Budget (11/6)
- B. SIS Proposal (11/6)
- C. ALICE drill update (11/6)
- D. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow EOY FY19 (11/6)
- E. Fund/Flow Oct 2019 (11/20)

VII. Calendar

- A. November 6, 2019, regular meeting
- B. November 20, 2019, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session N/A

Motion: At 9:54 pm Cathy Reilly motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.
Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools