

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, October, 17 2018

Chairperson Colleen Coogan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary 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 October 3, 2018 regular and executive minutes as presented.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Elementary Music Teacher Kaitlin Shaw has been approved an extended family (adoption) leave of absence from October 15 to November 13, 2018.

Middle School English Teacher Samantha McAuliffe has been approved a maternity leave from approximately March, 18, 2018 to the end of the 2018-2019 school year, returning August 26<sup>th</sup>, for the 2019-2020 school year.

II. Community Participation

A. MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence Award

Superintendent Liebow presented the MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence Award to Richard Morrell. Richard is at the top of his class, is humble, has ethics, and has a moral compass. He plans to pursue mechanical engineering in college.

B. Student Advisory Representative

Student Representatives Nathaniel Kirby and Amanda Verga reported that there is a field trip going to Merrimack College this week, where they will tour the campus and have an college essay workshop. The guidance department will offer a pre and post survey for students. Students are selling stickers to raise funds for Hurricane Florence victims. NHS is in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of tutoring which went very well. Freshmen are no longer obligated to attend and the tutoring services will be opened up to all high school students.

C. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 Music And Art Presentation

High School Art Teacher Zachary O'Brien reviewed the offerings at the high school level. Curriculum highlights are a discipline-based Arts Education, curriculum integration with other subject areas, and self-expression and creative development. The high school art students participate in the Rockport Art Association (RAA) show, ongoing exhibits in the Ron Kelleher Memorial Gallery, NHS art society, Art All States, and a regional portfolio night. Middle School Art Teacher Pam Jones reported that middle school art offers Art History once every 4 days and Studio Art twice every 4 days. The middle school also participated in the RAA exhibit, Empty Bowl, Art Club, Motif #1 Day and Rockport Gives Back. Elementary Art Teacher Sarah Tetrault is a new employee this year and reported that she collaborates with elementary physical education and health teachers to facilitate community health and wellness through a variety of modes. This is expressed through "Wings of Art", a Popsicle quilt, and outside sketching. The elementary art students exhibit their work at the RAA exhibit and in hallways; soon she will have classroom blogs and Artsonia for student portfolios.

High School Music Teacher Nathan Cohen explained “Why the Arts” which help students understand their own process for learning and growth, social skills, and learning across disciplines. The trip to Europe, District competitions, performances at the State House and Symphony Hall are some of the success stories. The department offers students summit clinics with professional performers. Middle school chorus teacher Patti Pike reported on the chorus enrichment trip, the middle and high school choral program, and a new middle school boy’s chorus. The Pre-K and Kindergarten students attend an outreach/introduction to music, “Carnival of the Animals, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades attend opera study at the Shalin Liu while the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades attend a composition study and Cape Anne Symphony field trip. The elementary program received \$1,500 to purchase ukuleles, there is an increased emphasis on playing by ear and understanding/awareness of harmony in all grades and elect a musician of the month. Elementary music teacher Kaitlin Shaw-Resse has been selected as the General Music Coordinator of the MMEA Northeastern Districts. Current issues for the department are staffing for electives and general music, need for a coordinator position and the need for more space. Nathan Cohen explained that the program is suffering directly from the recruitment of middle schoolers by Essex Tech HS. The committee discussed how to retain students, the “glossy” presentation Essex Tech brings to recruit middle school students, how should RPS market the high school, should we develop our own presentation?, and is Essex Tech really “college prep”. The school committee will contact the town moderator regarding the Rockport School Committee Representative position at the Technical School and will reach out to other districts to see how this affects their high schools.

B. Strategic Plan Proposal

The school committee and administrative team have reviewed the proposed strategic plan and it is ready for Superintendent Liebow to send out to staff and community for comment.

C. School Committee Proposed Goals

Committee member Michael Kelley presented the proposed school committee goals that he believes are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Result-focused and Time-bound (SMART). The school committee will review it’s current Self-Evaluation tool to align with their goals.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the School Committee Goals as presented.  
 Second: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion  
 Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. RTA MOA’s

Motion: Richard Drost motioned to approve the updated Middle School Math and ELA Interventionist MOA’s, with the addition of “Middle School” to the title of each and specific time requirements.  
 Second: Michael Kelley seconded the motion  
 Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Field Trips N/A

F. Policy revise/review N/A

G. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

The school committee discussed the need for more parent and community participants at the Elementary and Middle School levels. Mr. Liebow will send out another Blackboard Connect message requesting parents to contact the PTO if they are interested in becoming a council member.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Communications committee will meet with IT Specialist Mike Montgomery to review the status of the website. School Committee members will consider contributing to the "Twin Light Tribune", suggested topics were: Chain of Command (who do you go to.....), what is school council, and college application process.

Superintendent Report and FundFlow

Mr. Liebow presented and estimated end of fiscal 2018 FundFlow and reported on activities and events at the schools.

D. Other Business

At the request of Selectmen Chairperson Sara Wilkinson the school committee made the following motion:

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to support a request from the Selectmen to the FinCom for up to \$44,135 from the FinCom Reserve to support security cameras and improve intercom functions in the three schools, as detailed in the quotes provided by Monty Hirschler. The quotes total \$39,135 to furnish and install security camera and upgraded intercom systems. An additional \$5k is needed to support the network adjustments needed to accommodate the new system, for a grant total of 44,135.

Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

V. Correspondence

Essex North Shore to Robert Visnick Town Moderator cc Robert Liebow. Re: Essex North Shore School Committee Representative appointment.

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Budget (11/6)
- B. Math Scores and Instruction/Learning update (11/6)
- C. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (12/5)

VII. Calendar

- A. November 6, 2018, regular meeting
- B. December 5, 2018, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools