

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Chairperson Colleen Coogan 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 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 regular minutes from August 22, 2018, the minutes from September 5, 2018 with additions to the Website Review (in italic) and the executive minutes from September 5, 2018.

Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Margaret Hale resigned from her position of Bus Driver effective September 26, 2018.

Merri Foote resigned from her position of Cafeteria Worker effective October 3, 2018.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Students Nathaniel Kirby and Amanda Verga feel that the ALICE program is a good avenue for safety in schools but there is a need to address the initial recognition of social/emotional issues in student before an incident happens. Some students may fear approaching staff about another student and suggested an anonymous way to report their concerns. They suggest professional development recognizing traits in social/emotional students. They reported that some classrooms did not hear the announcements during the safety drills and recommend possibly a strobe light indicating an announcement is being made. They also recommend that the classroom numbers be placed on the inside of the rooms. The students excellent feedback on ALICE training was appreciated and although they didn't have time to review all of their comments they were encouraged to submit their feedback to Mr. Liebow in writing for his future efforts and to share with the committee as appropriate.

B. Public Participation

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. RHS Donating Funds to Charitable Organizations request

The committee discussed distribution of funds, previously raised by a class, to a charitable group without the person donating knowing where the funds will be going at the time of the donation. The students would like a majority vote to direct funds. The committee discussed concerns: what if a student was not in school that day to vote, the student doesn't agree with the group the funds are going to, should any excess in money go to reduce other class expenses, and donate the funds within the school. The committee decided to add this request to the policy sub-committee list to review and research to be brought back to the full committee with recommendations. Since this request was initiated by the Junior class's class officers, the committee suggested that they still had nearly two years to select and raise funds for specific causes so that all donors know the purpose of the fundraising. The students were also commended for their generosity.

B. State Representatives

Senator Bruce Tarr and State Representative AnnMargaret Ferrante reported that revenue in Massachusetts is up and they, along with other Senators and Representatives, formally requested that the Ways and Means prioritizes spending for the basic commitments for K-12 education. They feel the formula for the Chapter 70

funds needs to be reviewed since enrollment is decreasing and fixed costs are rising. They would like to see the minimum per pupil aid increase from \$20 to \$30. Senator Tarr explained the Senate bill: an act modernizing the Foundation Budget for the 21<sup>st</sup>, the house version an act relative to findings of the foundation budget review commission (both ran out of time before a vote could be taken) and An Act to Promote Housing Choices, which is currently before the House Ways and Means Committee. Representative Ferrante reported that the bill got tangled up with too many layers and hopes that the new bill will come up with a list of items that everyone can agree to and bring it forward. The Baker-Polito Administration filed legislation providing \$150 million across K-12 programs. The bill would provide resources to improve security measures in school buildings and boost mental health resources for educators. Chairperson Colleen Coogan noted that she is working with neighboring communities to form a committee to research enrollments and what options are available for communities to combine resources. Both the senator and representative offered to attend meetings and help the group find funds to support a study once a plan is in place.

C. Opening Day Report

Mr. Liebow presented the enrollment numbers for the opening of the school year. All staff participated in an ALICE workshop and drill and faculty had an additional workshop on social/emotional issues.

D. ALICE Parent Forum and Student Drills

The parent ALICE forum was not well attended. The student drill went very well; he did not receive any negative feedback. The Administration did find that attendance at the rally points needs to be done by grade and not class. If a whole class doesn't show up to the rally point it wouldn't be known. Students were very thoughtful and asked really good questions at the assembly after the drill. Mr. Liebow also had a follow-up meeting with Administrators and police to determine strengths and weaknesses. Chairperson Coogan will email the selectmen chairperson to find out status of town purchasing entry way cameras at the schools.

E. Superintendent Goals Final

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve Superintendent Liebow's goals as presented.  
Seconded: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Strategic Plan Review

Mr. Liebow will add links, staff assigned to various objectives and dates when the deliverables will be met. He reported on the student and staff feedback, and co-teaching. The committee will have one week to have their edits and suggestions back to the superintendent.

G. School Committee Proposed Goals

Postpone to next meeting.

H. Policy Review/Proposals

The following policies were adopted at this second reading.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the following revised policies:

File AC: Non-Discrimination and Harassment (with the deletion of the word "respond" in the second paragraph, first sentence.  
File GBA: Equal Employment Opportunity  
File GCF: Professional Staff Hiring  
File JB: Equal Educational Opportunities  
File JFABF: Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (with the addition of the word "law" in the second paragraph, third sentence.  
File JFBB: School Choice  
File JJF: Student Activity Accounts

File JJF: Graduating Class Funds  
Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

I. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations  
Heath Ritchie donated assorted sheet music – several dozen scores and volumes of instrumental pieces, to the RHS music department.  
William Trafton donated a clarinet – Model: Student Make – Helmke to the RHS music department.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Policy sub-committee member Richard Drost has created a database to easily identify and tract policies that need review.

D. Other Business

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. School Committee Goals Proposal (10/3)
- B. MASC/AYP (10/3)
- C. K-12 Music/Art Presentations (10/17)
- D. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow
- E. MASC Workshop

VII. Calendar

- A. October 3, 2018, regular meeting
- B. October 17, 2018, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned in adjourn from regular meeting at 10:06pm.  
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools