

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Chairperson Colleen Coogan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Middle/High School Library. Present were Nicole Altieri, Colleen Coogan, Richard Drost, Michael Kelley, and Mary Porter arrived at 7:06pm. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes N/A

B. Personnel Actions

Sarah Hoague has been appointed to the position of MS/HS Psychologist (pending waiver approval) at the M5-1 rate of \$55,413.

Current Paraprofessional Amy Rich has been appointed to the position of .3FTE's as MS Reading Teacher at the B-1 rate or \$12,980.40 (pro-rated) for the year and will continue at .7 FTE Paraprofessional.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Newspaper Advisor Amy Huber and students Nathaniel Kirby and Amanda Verga presented the "Twin Lights Tribune" A Rockport Newspaper. They hope for it to be a "community" paper that will publish "goings on", student activities, and provide links from other town organizations and departments. Rockport Rotary funded the start-up cost of \$650 which included the website platform; the following years will be \$400. They will explore the Community Newspaper Plan or consider creating an app to make the paper more easily accessible. The paper will allow the community to see how much students bring to Rockport life. Student reporters will supply stories and they hope to recruit students participating in specific events/sports/clubs to contribute articles.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. NHS Bylaws & Faculty Council

NHS Adviser Amy Huber and NHS Student Officers Molly Twombly and Eliza Nugent presented a "Rockport NHS Tutoring Proposal" and Bylaws. All NHS members would be required to participate in tutoring. They would support students in test prep, note taking, writing, specific subject area help and organization. They will launch the program to this years Freshmen class, each member meeting 3-4 students during U-block. Freshmen would be required to attend 4 consecutive sessions in September. All other students can sign up by receiving a "pass" to see an NHS student during U-block. They are working on NHS student schedules that have conflicts with music during U-block. The NHS students feel the freshmen will like having an upper classman as a "friendly face" and want them to understand the importance of cumulative grades. The tutors will receive training from Gary Simon, a retired math teacher from Lexington. NHS membership requirements are changing starting with the class of 2021, they will need a 3.7 GPA (up from 3.5). Mrs. Huber discussed the selection and induction calendar, funding, and bylaws (which were taken from the standard set developed by the NHS). Amanda Osier, Scott Larsen, Stephanie Walker, Lil Duffy, and Barbara Swanson will be the Faculty Council members. Discussion included promoting rigor, warnings, and dismissal from the society.

B. Website Review

Director of I S and Technologies Monty Hitschler reported that he did not get funding from the town to contract website support with Studio 1623 and it would cost approximately \$3,600 to fund a modified scaled down version. The committee discussed, with IT Specialist Mike Montgomery, updating the look of the website, adding a banner, and reinstallation of the search option. The Twin Light Tribune would be a feature

and Mr. Liebow will add discussing school council involvement to an Administrative Team meeting agenda. *The school committee states the update to the website is a priority. The website must be more user friendly. They also want a more professional appearance and function since it is the first impression of the school community. The committee would also like to express their appreciation of IT Specialist Michael Montgomery for his efforts to work with the committee to improve the website while ensuring the student data processes within Midas were functioning well and waiting for an opportunity for a comprehensive overhaul.*

C. School Committee Proposed Goals

It was suggested that the committee focus more on outreach, budget and long term planning with the town. Chairperson Colleen Coogan would like more input from the committee members and will put a final draft together for a meeting in November.

D. Opening Day Report

The committee discussed declining enrollment, school choice numbers, and study group. Mrs. Coogan has a meeting on Friday with a group from MIT to discuss regional student enrollment issues.

E. Policy Review/Proposals

The following policies were adopted at this second reading.

Motion: Michael Kelley motioned to adopt File JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children and File JFABF: Education Opportunities for Children of Foster Care as presented.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

The school committee will have a final reading of the following policies at the next meeting:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| File AC: | Non-Discrimination and Harassment |
| File GBA: | Equal Employment Opportunity |
| File GCF: | Professional Staff Hiring |
| File JB: | Equal Educational Opportunities |
| File JFBB: | School Choice |
| File JJF: | Student Activity Accounts |
| File JJF: | Graduating Class Funds |

F. Warrants and Payroll

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

D. Other Business

Superintendent Liebow updated the committee on ALICE training. The entire staff participated in an online training this summer, attended classroom scenarios, and evacuating training to rally points, and viewed quikclot and tourniquet video last Tuesday. The parent forum on September 12th will explain ALICE, the student drills and allow time for questions and answers. Parents will be required to fill out a permission slip and contract form to have their child participate or opt-out of the drills on September 17th and 19th. The middle and high schools will have assemblies prior to the drills to describe the ALICE approach. The elementary school will have information to students delivered at the classroom level by the teachers. It was

suggested that parents receive “common language” to use at home to align with what is being said at the school forums/trainings. Mr. Liebow feels the district will learn a lot from the drills and will have debriefing meetings with the Safety Drill Review Committee. He also stated that the police are very comfortable and supportive of the schools ALICE approach.

Superintendent Liebow attended a meeting with the Rockport Board of Health. They would like to survey the high school and maybe the middle school student body. The survey is designed by the CDC asking about dangerous behaviors, exercise, drug use, sexual activity.... Currently there is language in the student handbook regarding student surveys but no policy. Mr. Liebow would like to gather information from neighboring communities to see how it has worked for them. He does have concerns that some of the information that is asked could identify the student.

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. State Representatives (9/19)
- B. Strategic Plan Proposal (9/19)
- C. Superintendent Final Goas (9/19)
- D. School Committee Goals Proposal (9/19)
- E. MASC/AYP (10/3)
- F. K-12 Music/Art Presentations (10/17)
- G. Superintendent’s Report/FundFlow
- H. MASC Workshop

VII. Calendar

- A. September 19, 2018, regular meeting
- B. October 3, 2018, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy, where in open meeting it may have a detrimental effect with respect to collective bargaining litigation. The committee will not return to the regular meeting.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Roll call: Nicole Altieri yes
Colleen Coogan yes
Richard Drost yes
Michael Kelley yes
Mary Porter yes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned in executive session to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Seconded: Richard Drost seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools