

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
August 19, 2009

Chairman Carl Engel called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS library. Members present were Melissa Tingley, Brian Sullivan, and Nancy Mears. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Susan M. King and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

- I. A. Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to accept the Regular and Executive minutes of June 17, 2009 with a change to the first paragraph, from Vice-Chairperman Melissa Tingley to School Committee Member Melissa Tingley.
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

- B. Personnel Actions

Christopher Fauci has been appointed to the position of Middle School SPED Teacher at the rate of M-8, which is \$54,456. Whitney Swanberg has been appointed to the position of .7 High School Social Studies Teacher at the rate of B-2, which is \$26,394.

- II. Community Participation N/A

- A. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative N/A

- B. Public Participation N/A

- III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

- A. Health Policy Review

Brian Sullivan read the second reading of the health policies JLCA and JCLA. There will be a third reading on August 26, 2009.

- B. Essex Agricultural School and North Shore Vocational School Merger

Carl Engel has been informed that the town will need to vote, at town meeting, agreeing to be members of the new merged schools. The 30-year bond for new construction would be between \$33,000 and \$36,000 per year. Being a member district would save the town student transportation fees. There would be a school committee member from Rockport on the board. If the town does not approve the vote we are still responsible for tuition, which is \$19,000 per student, and transportation fees.

- C. Updates

Roof update: The elementary roof Statement of Intent (SOI) needs to be “refreshed.” The high school roof is now at the “request for designer services” RES stage. Dr. King will inform the MSBA of school building committee member changes. Towns people will need to be informed at town meeting of the cost estimate and the possibility that the original vote will not be enough for both roofs.

The School-Community Connection Task Force has met. They agreed that the project should strive to “improve interaction between school, teachers, and students with the rest of the town.” They would like their first event to be a public meeting, breaking up into 2-4 working groups that would respond to a short list of issues. Once they have compiled their data they would like to run focus groups.

Facilities Committee: Carl Engel reported that the committee’s purpose was to build a list of anticipated projects that were needed both long and short term. The survey that the School-Community Connection Task Force is creating may provide information on how the committee should move forward. Dr. Engel will talk with Cameron Smith on how to develop questions.

Grants: The schools have received a 4-year \$270,000 Tower grant for teacher professional development. The school will contribute 10% toward that amount. There are 8 project leaders, 4 teachers from the elementary school and 4 from the middle school. There is training in Skillful Thinking, Understanding by Design, and Galileo (Database training), and “clicker” technology. The project leaders each receive a \$1,200 stipend. Eight new teachers will be added, annually, to the training sessions, over the next three years.

Dr. King reviewed the major projects for the 2009-2010 school year. They are: the Tower Grant activities, the Middle/High School Principal Search, the roof projects, NEASC participation, school district CPR (Coordinated Program Review), and RTA negotiations.

D. Spotlight on Our Schools

The committee has agreed to planning one new production, but would like to aim for three. There was discussion of incorporating the production into a class, having the new Task Force help, and the need for an editor.

E. Lincoln Investment 403B provider acceptance

Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to accept the Lincoln Investment Company as a 403B provider to the schools.
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

IV. Information and Proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations

Mr. Richard Lorigan, of 28 Granite St., Rockport, donated 29 full sheet and 30 half sheets of matt board.

V. Correspondence

Dr. King provided the committee with the High School supplement to the yearbook with an article written by high school student Margo Balboni. The article spoke about the Environmental Club and it's recent Environthon competition. Dr. King also provided a copy of the staff welcome back letter, with the school calendar.

VI. Future Agenda Items

Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:00 p.m.
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. King, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools