

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
September 9, 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 Brian Sullivan, Nancy Mears, and Michael Kelley. Melissa Tingley arrived at 7:38 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Susan M. King and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

- I. A. Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to accept the Regular minutes of August 19, 2009.
Seconded: Brian Sullivan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

The following appointments have been made:

Katrina Benson	.766 K-12 Music Teacher
Emily Sinagra	.5 Middle School Drama Teacher
Peter Frangules	.6 High School Math Teacher
Heather Silverstein	1.0 High School Math Teacher
Benjamin Kilham	Elementary Teacher Assistant
Shannon Ryan	Elementary Teacher Assistant
Lauren Wheeler	Intergrated Pre-school Teacher Assistant

II. Community Participation

A. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative N/A

Student Council Representative Samantha Steer reported that she attended a three day leadership institute at Endicott College. She, along with fellow student Emily Farell came up with an action plan for "SALADD," Students and Leaders Against Destructive Decisions and will have information available for students to learn about the group. SALADD will assist the peer mentors and health teacher Amanda Mattson. National Honor Society will be selling Yankee Candles for it's first fund raiser. The student council representatives have been visiting homerooms to encourage students to join. Margo Balboni is the Viking Voice editor and will be holding their first meeting tomorrow. The Junior class needs to elect a new treasurer and the Freshmen will conduct their speeches next week for their class officer elections. Picture Day is Monday. The first School Management Council meeting was held last last night. The council will be offering a karaoke night at the teen center. The high school drama will be producing "The Spelling Bee."

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. Outdoor Basketball Court Update

Tim St. Laurent reported that the basketball courts are nearly complete. The Rockport DPW cleared the area, Mike Clay Crane Service, along with the school custodial staff, trimmed surrounding trees, the soccer storage container was relocated, hoops were delivered and will be installed this week, and Hagstrom Paving has paved the asphalt. The group has raised over \$15,000 and will raise at least another \$3,500 to complete the finished surface in the spring. The courts are able to be used by the school and community.

Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to accept the outdoor basketball courts.
Seconded: Brian Sullivan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

B. Rockport Schools Community Connection

Cameron Smith reported that the objective of the group is to improve interaction between the schools, teachers, and students with the rest of the town, for greater support, appreciation, and collaboration. Their strategy is to learn from various groups, such as school committee, selectmen, and representative residents who have personal ties to the schools on how interaction with the schools might further their interests. They have a budget of approximately \$300 for postage and postcards. The first meeting will be September 24, 2009 attendees will be asked for their thoughts on issues such as: What would you like to know about the Schools? What should be the most important parts of school curriculum? What are the Rockport Schools known for?

What contributions and burdens do the schools provide and place on the town? And, what could the schools do differently that would enhance education and not increase costs? There will be a survey, offered on Monkey Survey, where the group hopes to capture more involvement and input. The committee feels that this will be a great tool to gather information that will be helpful in creating goals and shaping the Hallmarks of Success. Mr. Smith would like to get the committees thoughts and ideas after compiling the data from the survey. The survey could be done every year. The group hopes the results will both measure and generate support for the schools.

C. Essex Agricultural School and NSVTHS Merger

Mr. Mark Small reported that Superintendent of the North Shore Vocational Technical High School (NSVTHS) Amy O'Maley presented information to the Rockport Selectmen on the proposed merger between the Essex Agricultural School and the NSVTHS. The town will have to vote to agree to a 30 year bond of about \$30,000 to \$32,000 each year to join the newly created school. This agreement would save the town transportation costs. There will need to be 75% participation among the towns that are current members of the NSVTHS to move forward with the merger. Mrs. O'Maley will supply information to be available at town meeting, listing the pro's and con's. Mr. Small will be appointed as our school committee representative to the NSVTHS and will present, along with Carl Engel, at town meeting. Mr. Small explained that the new school will increase from 12 to 22 shops, offering new programs, such as pre-engineering, graphic design, and plumbing.

Motion: Brian Sullivan motioned to continue membership to the current Technical High School, and support the merger between Essex Aggie and NSVTHS, and the bond to be voted at town meeting.
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

D. School District Development Plan

Dr. King presented a District Program Development Plan, which is a working document outlining the program components that should be provided for our students. This plan is consistent with the Five Year Strategic Plan. She would like to develop support services for all students. This would involve adding a Special Education Substantially Separate/Life Skills program at both the middle and high schools. Dr. King would also like to increase FTE's staffing for middle school reading, elementary math, elementary adjustment counselor, district psychologist, behavioral specialist, and elementary speech pathologist to create to full-time positions. These increases would help to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. She would also like to reinforce academic/curriculum/instructional programming by continuing the teacher assistant positions in the kindergarten, strengthen mathematics instruction, make a firm commitment to the cultural arts, provide global awareness with increased world language, revitalize technology, add support to library program, provide resources for supplies and textbooks, increase supervision/evaluation of teachers at secondary level, add a .8 FTE position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction to coordinate the curriculum K-12, and maintain and upgrade facilities. The committee was very pleased with the document and think it will be very helpful to provide it to the community, selectmen, and the finance committee. It will also help in developing the budget for the coming year.

E. Update

Dr. King reported that she is amazed at all that happens at the schools, including donations to the Peace Garden, basketball court, and parents planting flowers.

The high school roof rRequest for Designer Services (RFS) has a number of immediate deadlines. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) requires that a position of MCPPO (Massachusetts Public Purchasing Official) be a member of the local School Building Committee. Financial Assistant June Sanfilippo will take the required courses to become certified. Dr. King will "refresh" the elementary school roof "Statement of Interest" to re-submit to the MSBA.

IV. Information and Proposals

A. School Council Update

Nancy Mears reported she had a tour of the newly configured high school cafeteria, and would be taking pictures of students using the Virtual High School program in the guidance office. An emergency evacuation drill will be conducted at the Middle/High School on Tuesday and at the elementary school on Wednesday.

B. Donations

Parents Donna Lamond and Mary Porter donated and planted flowers around the elementary trees at the front entrance. Ace Hardware donated 4 chrome, 2 handle faucets to be used in the elementary bathrooms. Rockport National Bank provided coffee and goodies to the summer staff.

C. Field trip

Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to approve the out-of-state overnight 8th grade field trip to New Hampshire.
Seconded: Brian Sullivan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Long-Range Plan Update (Hallmarks of Success/Facilities Committee)
- B. Fieldtrip forms (10/14/09)
- C. Spotlight On Our Schools (9/23/09)

Motion: Melissa Tingley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m.
Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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