

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
September 23, 2009

Chairman Carl Engel called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. in the MS/HS library. Members present were Melissa Tingley and Michael Kelley. Brian Sullivan arrived at 7:26 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Susan M. King and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

- I. A. Motion: Melissa Tingley motioned to accept the Regular minutes of September 9, 2009.  
Seconded: Michael Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions

The following appointments have been made:

Robert "Larry" Burnham High School 1:1 Teacher Assistant

II. Community Participation

A. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative N/A

Student Council Representative Samantha Steer reported that the council had their first meeting; 20 students attended. Their topic was "depression." They also held a cookout this week and their first event will be a Karaoke Night on Halloween. The National Honor Society is conducting a Yankee Candle fundraiser. There is a senior dinner tonight, along with a college information night. Freshmen Emma Littlefield was elected to the open seat of class treasurer. The Peer Mentors had their first meeting in the elementary school. The Environmental Club continues to paint murals in the bathrooms. Students drew chalk drawings on the cement blocks in the entry courtyard, in conjunction with the dedication of the Peace Garden. Boys Varsity Soccer won, 2-1.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. Animals on School Grounds

Director of Buildings and Grounds Ed Quirk reported that dogs are being brought onto school grounds during the day. The town by-laws state that dogs are not allowed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. while school is in session. Another problem is that waste from the dogs, is being put in the school waste bins. This can be quite messy especially if mixed with rain water. At times, the bins are tipped over and the custodians have to clean up the waste by hand. After some discussion, the committee agreed to have Ed Quirk post signs reminding residents of the by-laws and to clean up after their dogs. Carl Engel will talk with the Board of Health and ask if the signs can read "as per the Board of Health."

B. Spotlight on our Schools

Alex Caffi, son of former school committee member Michael Caffi, offered to work on producing Spotlight on our Schools. He would like to see the project as more student based, with the oversight of a staff member. He will collect the tapes that have already been filmed and see what might be used in the next episode. The committee suggested redoing the superintendent's interview. Possible suggested new topics are the play, dodgeball, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacon), the Peace Garden, and academics. Louis Caputo will be contacted to see if the schools should create a U-Tube account as a way to distribute the video.

Motion: Brian Sullivan motioned to appoint Alex Caffi as Spotlight on Our Schools Producer.  
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

C. Updates

The roof ad was in the local paper today, along with a listing on the State's Central Register. The Building Committee has formulated procedures for selecting a roof designer. The procedures have been reviewed by town counsel. We have received ten requests for the roof application. Financial Assistant June Sanfilippo recently took two courses to become MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official) certified as a procurement officer.

Dr. King received an e-mail from Middle School Dean David Curley that the eight grade hike was great. They had wonderful weather and food. Students saw staff from a different perspective and were very supportive of each other.

The School-Community Connection Task Force meeting is tomorrow night. Carl Engel will have opening remarks. Dr. Symonds will work with the group to develop a survey on Survey Monkey in hopes of gathering a wider audience.

The Educational Foundation Golf Tournament had 9 to 10 groups and at least 46 participants. The Educational Foundation Walk for Education is this Saturday.

D. Release of executive minutes

Motion: Brian Sullivan motioned to release the executive minutes from 1/21/08, 3/12/08, 3/26/08, 9/10/08, 9/24/09, 10/8/08, 11/3/08, 11/17/08, 12/3/08, 1/7/09, 2/11/09, 3/25/09, 4/8/09, 4/29/09, 5/13/09, and 5/27/09.

Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

V. Information and Proposals

A. School Council Update

Donations

Gretchen Peterson, Rochelle & Robert Hutzell, Ray & April Merrill, Robert & Carlene Painter, Perer & Fran Goldthwaite, and Larry & Lorretta Herm of Venice, Florida sent a cash donation to the Athletic Department, specifically, the golf team, in memory of John Carlson.

Mrs. Susan Andersen donated six novels to the MS/HS library.

V. Correspondence N/A

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)

D. Technology Plan (10/28/09)

E. Policy Review on e-Mail Response

F. Lunch times

At 8:03 p.m., a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss the support staff contract with the intent to not return to open session. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Carl Engel yes

Michael Kelley yes

Brian Sullivan yes

Melissa Tingley yes

Respectfully submitted,

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