

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
October 14, 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 minutes, with a change of “along with fellow student Emily Farrell” to the student representative report, of September 9, 2009.  
Seconded: Brian Sullivan seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 3-0

B. Personnel Actions

MaryKay Meredith Part-time Elementary School Nurse, grant funded.  
Julie Young Part-time MS/HS Nurse, grant funded.

II. Community Participation

A. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative

High School Boys Soccer will qualify for states if they win tonight. Dodge ball continues. SALADD will sponsor a Karaoke night at the Teen Center. The National Honor Society raised \$1200 from the sale of candles. The walk for Hospice is Sunday. Student Council is planning a pizza party with hypnotist after. The Environmental Club is participating in a beach clean-up and may publish a cookbook to be ready for the holidays. Superlatives for seniors have been posted.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. Fieldtrip Forms

The Parental Consent and Release Form will be discussed at the next meeting on October 28, 2009.

B. London Trip

Motion: Nancy Mears motioned to approve the high school sponsored fieldtrip to London in April 2010.  
Seconded: Melissa Tingley seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

C. Hallmarks of Success

School committee member Melissa Tingley reported that the Hallmarks of Success Sub-Committee has been looking at the district mission statement for guidance and they are working to include social expectations and students. The committee feels that the document can be published in handbooks and on the district website. It was suggested that the draft document be distributed to and discussed with the school councils and PTO for comments and suggestions before the school committee decides on a final document.

D. Updates

Elementary Principal Shawn Maguire reported that there have been some changes to the lunch times to allow more time for the students to eat. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and multi-age 1/2 have been combined for their lunch/recess. There are 140 students. Two teacher assistants have been added to help monitor this larger group. Principal Maguire will be looking into combining the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades for their lunch/recess time next year and will be exploring alternatives to supervise the larger groups.

Nine roof designer companies came to view the high school roof. Seven complete applications were received. The Designer Selection Sub-Committee met tonight and the School Building Committee will meet tomorrow night. Financial Assistant June Sanfilippo completed the seminars for MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official) certification.

The elementary roof Statement of Interest (SOI) needs to be “refreshed.” Dr. King will review and edit the SOI submitted last year and resubmit it before the November 13, 2009 deadline.

Dr. King reviewed the updated Rockport Public School District Program Development Plan (dated September 29, 2009) that will help develop a budget. A major goal is to replace positions that have been cut in the past years. Brian Sullivan suggested using this Development Plan budget along with a level funded budget. The committee will also have to set priorities and figure out the cost of funding the replacement positions.

Former School Committee Member Michael Caffi has been awarded the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Lifetime Achievement 2009 award. The MASC will attend a future school committee meeting to present this award to Michael Caffi.

E. MCAS/AYP

Middle/High School Principal Dr. Charles Symonds reported that there continue to be improvements in the proficient area. Science and engineering had its second year of testing with growth in both proficient and advanced. Middle school teacher Carolyn McWilliams has worked on thinking skills which have improved middle school scores. There was a drop in 6<sup>th</sup> grade English scores which can happen when an experienced teacher retires and is replaced with a newly certified teacher.

Elementary Principal Shawn Maguire reported that the MCAS tests are first given in grade 3 and that year is a good baseline for intervention if needed. Most scores are consistent with other years, with some decrease in the advanced levels. Many of the Needs Improvement scores were within just one or two incorrect responses that would have put them into the proficient level.

IV. Information and Proposals

A. School Council Update

Nancy Mears reported that the Middle and High Schools practiced emergency drills, inside and outside the building. There was discussion of the need for restraint training. High School Teacher Denise Ferazzi discussed the appreciation of literature and the democratic process was discussed. Prom-related activities are being considered.

The middle school had discussion about the balance of electives available for students. The art department has volunteers from the North Shore Art Association. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade hike was a great success.

The elementary school council needs additional representatives; they are looking for more parent participation. The council is reviewing the handbook and may have parents check off that they have read certain sections for next year. Homework continues to be an issue for some parents. The principal wants parents to discuss this with the teacher if there are any concerns or problems.

B. Donations

Cheryl Sullivan donated a 27" TV to be used in the Elementary School Library.

V. Correspondence

Dr. King handed out Policy News from the MASC on Observations of Special Education Programs and application packets for nominations for the MASC Community Awards.

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Long-Range Plan Update (Hallmarks of Success (early Dec)/Facilities Committee)
- B. Technology Plan (10/28/09)
- C. E-mail policy review
- D. Budget
- E. MASC Award (Michael Caffi)

At 9:07 p.m., a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss a contract negotiation with support staff with the intent to return to open session. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Carl Engel	yes
Nancy Mears	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes
Melissa Tingley	yes

The committee returned to open session at 9:20 p.m.

Motion: Brian Sullivan motioned to approve the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport School Committee and the Rockport Support Staff.  
Second: Nancy Mears seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried, 3-1.

Motion: Melissa Tingley motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:22 p.m.  
Seconded: Nancy Mears seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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