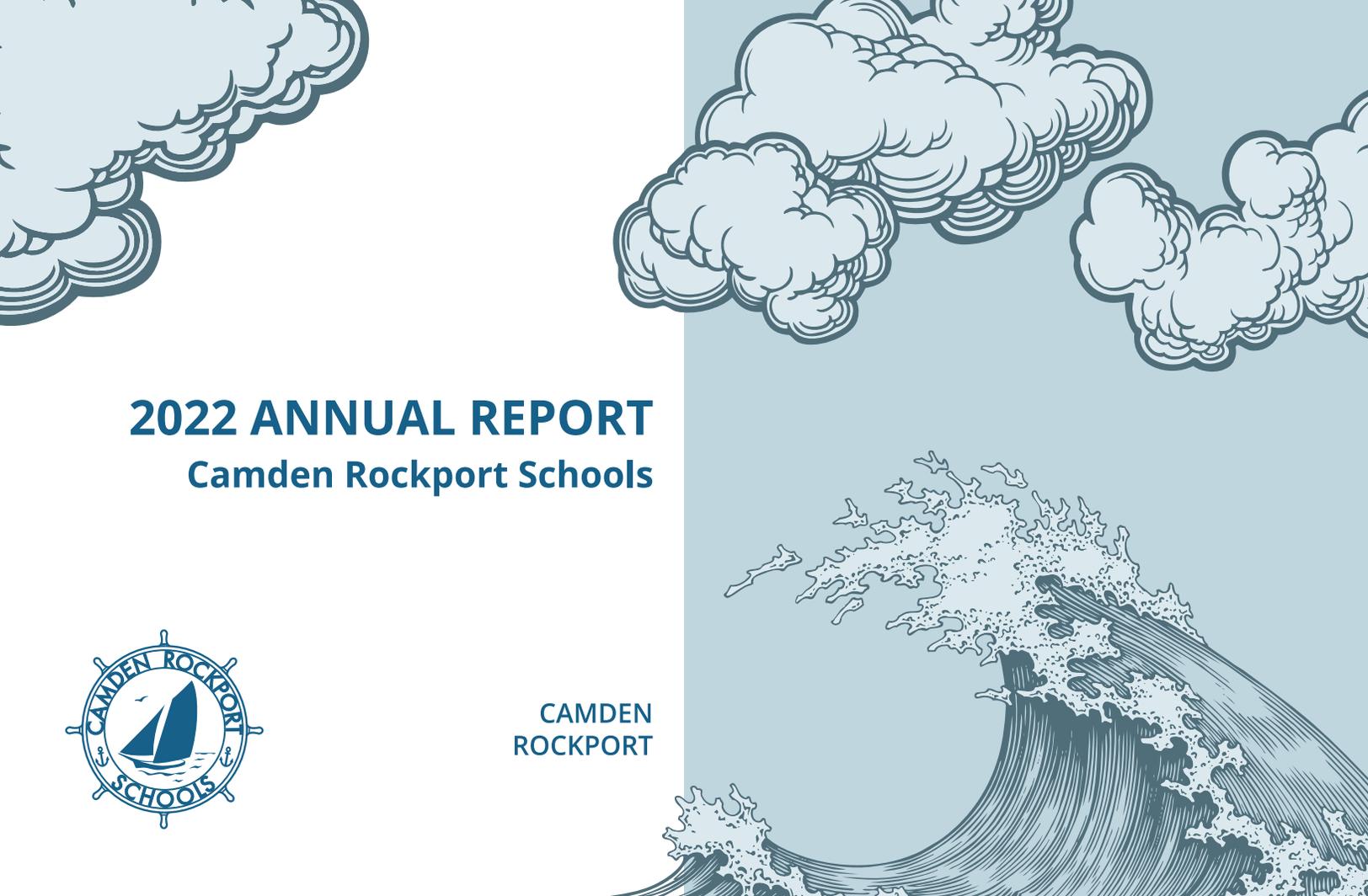


2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Camden Rockport Schools



CAMDEN
ROCKPORT



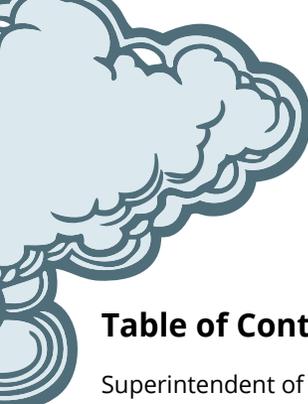


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Superintendent of Schools Letter

Maria Libby

Our schools have continued to shine, despite the challenges and constant changes brought on by the pandemic. The people who comprise our school system, from students to staff, have steadily moved forward. We have adapted, been flexible and resilient, and have carried hope in our hearts. We have not lost sight of what matters, and we have taken care of our students and staff. Using some of our federal funds, we gave every employee a bonus of \$1,000. We adjusted our schools' daily schedules. We have prioritized relationship building. We have created new positions to better support changing student needs. In the midst of everything, we implemented a major new program – a nature-based Pre-K.

Part of our success rests in the fact that our work and goals are all aligned – we are all rowing in the same direction. The 4-year Strategic Plan served as our beacon, and we are about to embark on the creation of our next 4-year plan during the 2022-23 school year. This document will end up clarifying our philosophy and outlining our focus for the next four years. If you are interested in participating in this process, please reach out to me.

I hope the pages that follow make you proud of the education this community is offering its children – our staff is at once honored and humbled to be doing such important work on behalf of our community and country. I will continue to lead our schools with love, great care, and intention.



Board Chair Letter

Patrick McCafferty

I have lived in this district all my life and went to school here, and I have never been so proud to be a part of this community.

While COVID-19 strained the resources, frayed the nerves, and battered the souls of many, we continued to persevere. I hope I am not speaking too soon when I say that it feels like hope is on the horizon. It comes not a moment too soon as some children in our schools struggle to find normalcy and live in a world where they may have never even seen their new friends' faces.

Despite these challenges, our staff has risen to the occasion and our kids are getting an incredible education. New families have flocked to the area and frequently their deciding factor is the quality of what is happening in our schools. Camden/Rockport Maine may be one of the best places to raise a young family.

For me this has been a really exciting time to be involved in our schools. There are so many great things going on that we want the community to know about. So enjoy some of the highlights in this annual report and know that there is even more we want to share, so we invite you to be involved, ask questions, and learn more.

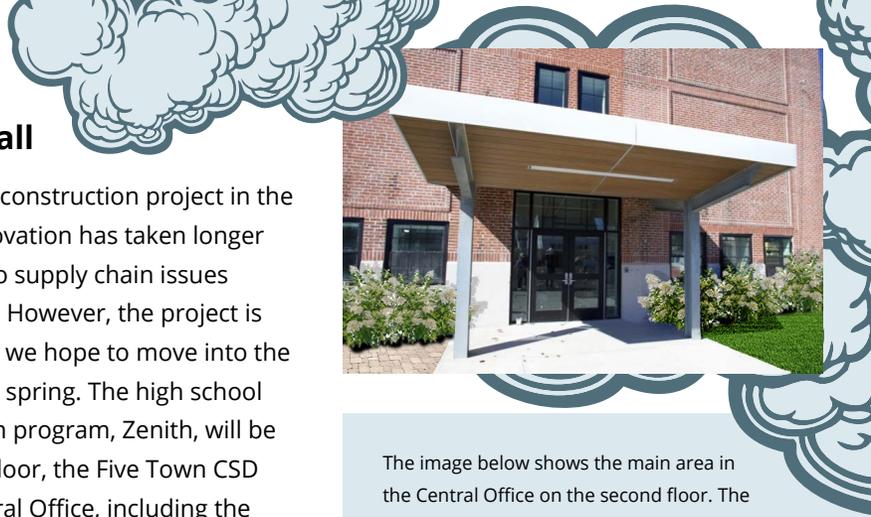




MET to Rose Hall

As with nearly every construction project in the nation, the MET renovation has taken longer than expected due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. However, the project is nearly complete and we hope to move into the space sometime this spring. The high school alternative education program, Zenith, will be housed on the first floor, the Five Town CSD and MSAD 28's Central Office, including the Superintendent's Office, the Business Office, and the Special Education Office will be on the second floor, and the basement, which had minimal renovation, will be used for storage.

The name of the newly renovated building is Rose Hall, in honor of Keith Rose, former Facilities Director, who brought an incredible amount of Yankee ingenuity and associated cost savings to the district, catapulted us forward to be a national leader in sustainability efforts, and oversaw the construction of multiple district schools. Rose Hall blends the old and new, and is steeped in tradition as well as modernized touches.



The image below shows the main area in the Central Office on the second floor. The standing height table shown was crafted from reclaimed lumber during renovation – circa 1925 floor

joists that were taken out to make way for a stair tower. Those trees were living when George Washington was President – we counted growth rings!



CRMS Principal Letter

Jaime Stone

The positive school spirit at CRMS lives on! While the roar is a bit quieter than pre-pandemic times, I remain hopeful it will build in volume as we resume more normalcy in the coming months and school year. In early March, we held our first whole school assembly in two years! During this valuable assembly time together, we celebrate strong examples of character, hard work, and personal success. We also play games, build connections, and practice healthy competition.

During this two-year roller coaster one thing has remained stable: CRMS is filled with vibrant and dedicated staff and students! Creative and engaging learning experiences continue to occur at CRMS. This year we resumed our field trips, interdisciplinary projects, arts residencies, athletics, and after school clubs.

We appreciate the stable partnership parents have given us as we've navigated these times. Together we are more!

Sail On!



CRES Principal Letter

Chris Walker-Spencer

CRES continues to move forward with our commitment to student-centered learning - from health and wellness to equity of access. Safety and wellness are our priorities and our community continually unites around our health protocols. While these measures require sacrifices from all stakeholders, we have successfully kept our students in school all year. Additionally, we are implementing a social/emotional learning curriculum, Second Step, and we added a Behavior Specialist and a School Psychologist to our staff this year. Each is instrumental in our ability to meet rising mental-health challenges.

From a diversity, equity, and inclusion standpoint, we engage in ongoing professional development for staff around trauma-informed instruction, participate in a district-wide task force, continually diversify our library collection, and increase outdoor education opportunities.

The most visible shift toward outdoor education is the addition of our state's first nature-based public Pre-K program. Our "Trailblazers" spend significant time in nature each day in one of our many outdoor learning spaces. The first year of this program has been hugely successful, and we are committed to expanding outdoor learning opportunities for every child at CRES.

I'm grateful for the continued support from our volunteers, families, and the broader community. Finally, I'm honored to lead our outstanding staff and am incredibly proud of the work we do each day.



“This year was our first year in the district, having moved from out of state. I’ve had the pleasure of volunteering weekly in the multi-age classroom where my youngest daughter is in second grade. Being able to be in the classroom regularly, I’ve been lucky enough to experience the workings of the multi-age program first hand. We have been nothing but impressed with this program. The teachers are phenomenal – they are keenly adept at meeting each child at their educational level while also providing the guidance and encouragement each individual needs to advance. I’m always amazed by the skill with which my daughter’s teacher maintains an orderly, and organized, classroom made up of eager learners of such different ages– all of whom truly adore their teacher. The multi-age program is a very special place, where my child has blossomed as a student, and comes home everyday with a smile on her face.”

— EMILY SONTAG
MOTHER OF A CRES STUDENT



“CRMS has surpassed our hopes and expectations of what a middle school experience should be! The teams of teachers create an environment that brings the material to life through a hands-on model of experimenting and role playing. Students are rigorously guided through the process of making real world connections using critical thinking and perspective-taking. The result of these experiences undoubtedly develops a strong curiosity for learning!”

— AMY TRZASKA
MOTHER OF A NEW CRMS STUDENT

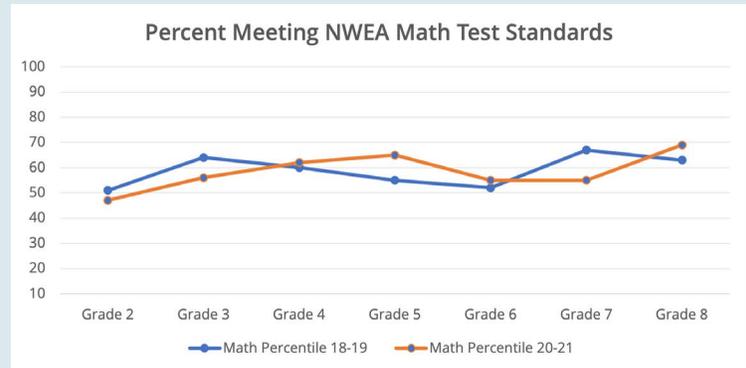
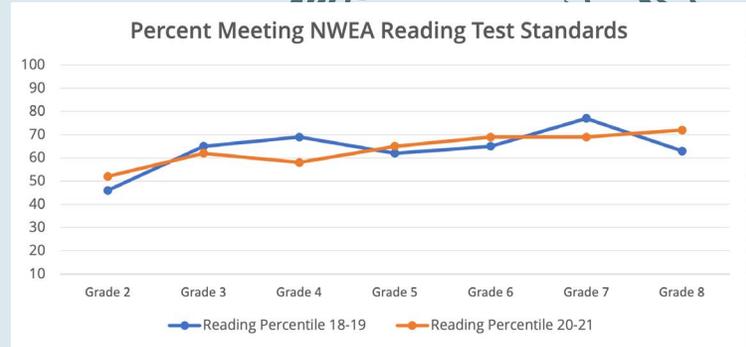




“My teaching experience in Camden has been everything I hoped for. This is a place that has the children at heart, the compassion to support, and the initiative to lead and create new pathways. I appreciate the leaders who are willing to try new things, build empathy in the programs, and encourage the faculty to be creative. In a year of COVID as a new faculty member trying to learn new routines and curriculum, exhaustion should overcome me, but I don’t feel that way at all. I am so energized by the community, colleagues, and students I am surrounded by. It is a special place to work, and I feel blessed every day that I am here. Camden Rockport is truly a special place to be.”

— HEATHER BUTLER
NEW GRADE 5 TEACHER

Academic Data



**No assessments in 2019-20.

INNOVATION IN OUR DISTRICT

We are known across the state as an innovative district. We hear that voiced by nearly every new hire in the past couple of years. Indeed, it attracts candidates to us. We often find ourselves on the leading edge of ideas that have greatly benefited our students and in many cases our taxpayers. Innovation requires courage, trust, and an open mind – all of which we are collectively fortunate to possess as a community!



Nature-based Pre-K

We launched the first nature-based public Pre-K program in the state this year. We know that young children need the opportunity to develop the social and physical skills that will ultimately enable them to thrive in school. They need to play, explore, learn, and interact, and the outdoors provides the best environment for these experiences. Research is showing that play and exploration at an early age are more effective for later academic success than early academic work. We are very proud of this program and love seeing students splashing around in the rain and mud!

Project Based Learning

The middle school has been engaged in rich project-based learning for the past five years. Projects immerse students in interdisciplinary, real-world themes that are then presented to an external audience. Students are deeply engaged in this learning that requires collaboration, student initiative, and active involvement.

Late Start

Knowing the science behind adolescent sleep cycles, we adjusted our middle school start time to better match the needs of our students. This also meant a change to an earlier start time at the elementary school which is also better aligned to most young children's natural sleep cycles.

Remote School

We pioneered remote schooling in Maine's public system as an alternative to snow days and it coincidentally served us incredibly well when the pandemic hit. We continue to refine its effectiveness at the various grade levels and feel it is an important tool in our toolbox.



The Great Outdoors

Bright red and turquoise Adirondack chairs are scattered across our grounds at both schools. These chairs were our first purchase with federal COVID money and a visible indicator of our desire to take better advantage of the outdoors. Federal money also paid for a newly configured Pre-K outdoor classroom and play space, a reworked trail and learning spaces in the nearby woods, and many outdoor picnic tables for eating and learning. Teachers at CRES also participated in a variety of professional development experiences, including one with the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership. We continue to explore ways to ensure the outdoors is an integral part of every students' day.

Sustainability

We are likely one of the only districts in the nation using sewer thermal as a heat source for a school building. It was an ingenious idea from our former Facilities Director, Keith Rose, given our location right next to Camden's wastewater treatment plant. In addition, we were an early partner for a large-scale solar farm that came online this year and will provide 90% of our electricity needs. As of this writing, we are paying 9.4¢/kWh and getting an 18.8¢/kWh credit for that very same power. This will save the district over \$40,000 in annual electricity costs. Part of the 9.4¢/kWh includes .5¢/kWh to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (known as RECs). The board's intention is to retire those RECs in order to be as green as possible. Strategically, we learned we can sell those RECs on the Massachusetts market for a sizable profit and then purchase the same number back on the Maine market at a much lower price. We plan to save the profit in that exchange (ongoing as long as it is profitable) with the hope that it will enable us to seed other sustainability projects.



Finance Chair Letter

Peter Orne

Each spring, the Camden Rockport Schools School Board presents the following year's budget to taxpayers that supports the goals of the Board as recommended by administration. We are presenting a 2022-23 requested budget of \$17,993,259.18. This represents a 3.70% increase to taxpayers over the current year's budget.

Every year the administration and staff work hard in their commitment to produce a rich academic program, fostering highly qualified and engaged teachers and creating a healthy physical and social environment for students and staff, all while respecting our commitment to fiscal responsibility. This year's proposed budget reflects our core values for school governance and our responsibility to the taxpayers in our two town community.

While the budget includes contracted and estimated increases in already strong salaries and health insurance for staff, it also accounts for changing student needs and ensures we appropriately maintain our facilities. We also continue to use federal grants to help mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Thanks to the talent and dedication of our teaching staff and administration, the Camden Rockport community should be proud that we continue to excel and grow.

Public Hearing May 17, 6:00 pm at CHRHS | Vote June 14

Budget details and Public Hearing information are available on our website:

https://sad.fivetowns.net/school_board/budget_and_financial_statements



2022-23 Expense Budget

Article	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Requested Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Regular Instruction	\$5,849,715	\$6,061,711	\$211,996	3.62%
Special Education	\$2,424,914	\$2,698,776	\$273,862	11.29%
Other Instruction	\$121,964	\$166,570	\$44,606	36.57%
Student/Staff Support	\$1,157,622	\$1,207,221	\$49,599	4.28%
System Administration	\$476,497	\$597,807	\$121,310	25.46%
School Administration	\$784,834	\$793,811	\$8,977	1.14%
Transportation	\$693,021	\$718,994	\$25,973	3.75%
Facilities/Maintenance	\$1,928,087	\$2,016,631	\$88,544	4.59%
Debt	\$3,718,485	\$3,611,339	(\$107,146)	-2.88%
Other Expenditures	\$114,000	\$120,400	\$6,400	5.61%
Total	\$17,269,139	\$17,993,259	\$724,120	4.19%

I am grateful on a daily basis for the leadership, empathy and clear communication we receive from CRMS. The administration and faculty have created an atmosphere where students are welcomed, challenged, supported and celebrated! Our community is so lucky to have a school so dedicated to both academic and emotional growth.

— KATIE UREY
CRMS PARENT



Budget Impact Over Time

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
% Change to Expense Budget	17.25%	8.04%	-0.30%	3.31%	4.19%
% Change to Taxpayer	17.09%	7.26%	-0.10%	2.93%	3.70%

↑
CRMS Bond

↑
MET Bond

Financial Picture Over Time

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Expense Budget	\$13,365,084	\$15,775,018	\$16,930,675	\$16,842,616	\$17,383,652	\$17,993,259
Taxpayer Assessment	\$11,990,461	\$12,233,192	\$15,326,001	\$15,273,367	\$15,705,516	\$16,167,563
Debt Service	\$1,229,550	\$3,310,058	\$4,141,626	\$3,827,909	\$3,718,485	\$3,611,339
Subsidy	\$470,832	\$532,497	\$869,565	\$915,341	\$1,011,814	\$1,042,544

↑
CRMS Bond

↑
MET Bond

Taxpayer Impact

2022-23 Budget	Dollars	Percent
Increase in Expenses	\$724,120	4.19%
Increase in Revenues	\$147,560	8.79%
Overall Taxpayer Increase	\$447,346	3.70%
	Increase	Percent
Camden	\$451,580	5.21%
Rockport	\$124,980	1.81%



“Our two children have both had wonderful years at CRES. They have been blessed with teachers who understand them as people and we have been offered and utilized support throughout the years to help them develop and learn. We are grateful to all district staff for their efforts, especially during the past two years of constant pandemic change.”

— SAMUEL AND CAITLIN CLARK
PARENTS OF CRES STUDENTS





Our priorities in using federal funds were health and safety, educational equity and quality learning, supporting staff and students, and investing in long term capital improvements. This is a snapshot of our spending.

CRF 1
Initial COVID Response
\$537,667

Outdoor learning
Indoor and outdoor furniture
Mitigation
Technology
Communications
PPE

CRF 2
\$553,741

New bus
Ventilation upgrades
Fuel and electricity for increased ventilation
Outdoor learning and furniture
Student supply kits
Technology
PPE
Staff PD and supports

**FEDERAL
COVID
FUNDING**



CARES/ESSER 1
\$28,200

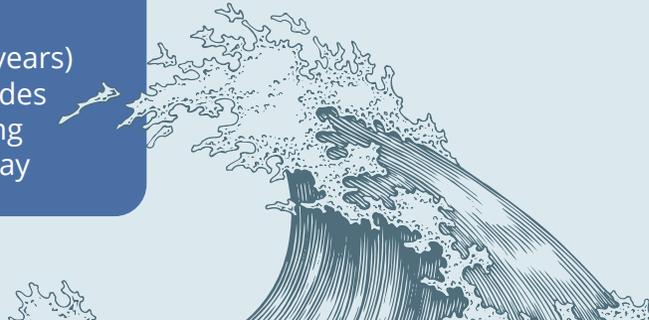
Math software
Technology for remote learning

ESSER 2
\$279,856.82

Ventilation upgrades
Behavior specialist (2 years)
Outdoor learning
Lunch monitors

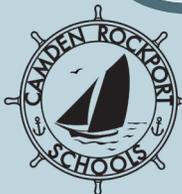
ARP/ESSER 3
\$405,150

Summer school (2 years)
Ventilation upgrades
Outdoor learning
Staff incentive pay



“While the middle school experience is often challenging for parents and students alike, the time my boys have spent at CRMS has been rewarding and truly such a delight. The faculty and staff work incredibly hard to challenge and simultaneously support our kids with compassion and care. Go Schooners!”

— JON DUKE
FATHER OF CRMS STUDENTS



NEW ADDRESS

District Office

22 Knowlton Street
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3358

Camden Rockport Elementary School

11 Children's Way
Rockport, ME 04856
207-236-7809

Camden Rockport Middle School

34 Knowlton Street
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-7805

Camden Rockport Schools Administration

Maria Libby, Superintendent
Debra McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent
Peter Nielsen, Business Manager
Jaime Stone, CRMS Principal
Ryan Watts, CRMS Assistant Principal
Chris Walker-Spencer, CRES Principal
Katie Bauer, CRES Assistant Principal
Valerie Mattes, Director of Student Special Services
Nikole Seeger, Assistant Director of Student Special Services
Chris Fanelli, Director of Facilities and Transportation
Mikael Andersson, Director of Food Services
Colin Sutch, Director of Technology

Camden Rockport Schools School Board

Patrick McCafferty, Chair, Camden
Marcus Mrowka, Vice Chair, Camden
Sarah Bradley Prindiville, Rockport
Marcia Dietrich, Rockport
Becky Flanagan, Camden
Brianna Gutierrez, Rockport
Peter Orne, Camden
Rick Thackeray, Camden