

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Vice-Chairperson Martha Morgan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:04 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Members present were Susan Brisson, Colleen Coogan, Martha Morgan, and Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe. Michael Kelley arrived at 7:07 pm. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Martha Morgan motioned to approve the regular and executive minutes from December 7, 2014.

Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0. Susan Brisson and Colleen Coogan abstained.

B. Personnel Actions

Elementary School Monitor Barbara Kelley resigned from her position effective November 26, 2014.

II. Community Participation

A. Superintendents Report/FundFlow

Superintendent Liebow reported on the winter sports, DECA Regional at Endicott College on 1/8/2015, Nathaniel Kirby was the Geography Bee Winner, middle school ski club starts today, the school committee will meet with the selectmen regarding the budget on January 20th, Mr. Liebow met with Pathways director Susan Todd regarding the availability of the Pathways building this Spring, the Police Department held their turkey dinner for the elementary students, and RES community reader day is January 21st. Mr. Liebow reviewed the January 1st enrollment numbers and the November FundFlow report. The FundFlow does not have grant receipts applied but will as they are received.

B. RHS Student Advisory Council Representative N/A

C. Public Participation

RMHS Principal Phil Conrad reported on state mandates regarding transgender students. The school is having discussions on gender neutrality, for example prom king and queen and graduation gown colors. This year the senior superlatives asked for two classmates of any gender instead of one boy and one girl. He has received calls from parents upset that changes have been decided regarding prom and graduation. Mr. Conrad informed them that nothing has changed yet and that he will be meeting with staff and students for their input before any decisions are made. He will also report to the school committee prior to any changes.

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. 2015-2016 School Calendar

Motion: Martha Morgan motioned to approve the 2015-2016 school calendar as presented.

Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. 2015-2016 School Committee meeting Calendar

Motion: Martha Morgan motioned to approve the 2015-2016 school committee calendar as presented.

Seconded: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Clerk Job Description

Motion: Martha Morgan motioned to approve the teacher clerk job description as presented.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

D. Communications Sub-committee Goals

Motion: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe motioned to approve the Communication Sub-Committee Goals as presented.
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Budget Update

Superintendent Liebow presented the current FY16 budget proposal with true numbers that reflect potential teacher contract ratification agreement. The teachers union is OK with him figuring in the proposed increases into the budget model before they ratify the agreement. He reported that if the town increases the budget by 2.3% and the district holds to less than 3% increase, factor in Circuit Breaker, which has been reduced slightly, then the reserve at the end of the year could be around \$854,165. Circuit Breaker for the next fiscal year should be up since it is based on the previous year's data and the district had an increase in outplaced SPED expenses. Mr. Liebow feels that an override can be avoided until FY18, possibly FY19. Since the creation of the SPED stabilization fund, it has helped give a clearer picture of a "true" budget. Unexpected SPED expenses will be paid from the Stabilization fund and will not affect the budget. This budget still has the Math Specialist, In-school suspension monitor (who will have a math background), and the guidance secretary positions. Mr. Liebow would like to present this current budget to the selectmen on January 20th.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the total operating budget of \$12,858,605 as presented.
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Financial Committee Member Wally Hess stated that the Superintendent did an outstanding presentation in an organized format.

Chairperson Michael Kelley commented that the town should be proud of the process that has been put in to place to develop this budget. He mentioned that Mr. Hess's presentation, to the teacher's negotiations committee; with the town's view of the budget help them to understand the reality of the budget.

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update N/A

B. Donations

Cell Signaling Technology, Inc. donated \$5,308 for equipment and supplies for the high school science department.

C. Updates

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. RTA Contract Ratification (1/21)
- B. Superintendents Report/FundFlow (2/4)
- C. Superintendents Mid-year Goals Review (2/4)
- D. K-12 Music and Art Presentation (2/4)

VII. Calendar

January 21, 2015, Regular Meeting
February 4, 2015, Regular Meeting
March 4, 2015, Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:34 p.m., a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss the Rockport Teachers Association contract negotiations with the intent to return to open session. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Susan Brisson	yes
Colleen Coogan	yes
Michael Kelley	yes
Martha Morgan	yes
Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe	yes

Motion: Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m.
Seconded: Martha Morgan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools