

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Superintendent Robert Liebow called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 6:54 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Colleen Coogan, Susan Brisson, Martha Morgan, Heather Nelson and Rebecca Sly. Also, present was Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. A. Re-organization, nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair

Superintendent Liebow requested a nomination for the position of chairperson.

Motion: Susan Brisson nominated Martha Morgan as chairperson.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Chairperson Martha Morgan requested a nomination for the position of vice-chairperson

Motion: Colleen Coogan nominated Susan Brisson as vice-chairperson.
Seconded: Martha Morgan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Liebow explained to the new members that he works towards a "no surprises" approach, he wants members to have information regarding issues, without breaking confidentiality, that may arise out in public that they may have to answer too. He said that his door is open 90% of the time, but will get back to them right away when it is not. He explained that committee business is about all the students who attend Rockport Public Schools. If there is an issue with their child it is best to start at the source, teacher, and if not resolved then the principal, use the chain of command.

The committee placed members on the following Sub-committees

Budget:	Martha Morgan & Susan Brisson
Policy:	Martha Morgan & Heather Nelson
Website/Tech/Communications/Advocacy:	Colleen Coogan & Rebecca Sly
School Building/Facilities:	Martha Morgan & Rebecca Sly
School Wellness:	Heather Nelson
Negotiations:	Susan Brisson & Colleen Coogan
EL Council:	Rebecca Sly
RMHS Council:	Colleen Coogan

B. Approval of Minutes N/A

C. Personnel Actions

Lindsey McGovern has accepted the position of Director of Student Services effective July 1, 2015.
Elementary Principal Shawn Maguire will resign from his position effective June 30, 2015.
Elementary Teacher Assistant Joan "Buffy" Lee has indicated retiring at the end of the 2015-2016 school years.

Mr. Liebow also explained the hiring process for the Elementary Principal position. He has shared the OneDrive folder with the committee members. The candidate pool is confidential except for the finalists who will be interviewed in a public meeting. Colleen Coogan will be the school committee representative for the search committee.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Seniors Quinton Hurst and Andrew Gleckner reported that AP tests are being taken; the end of the year is winding down for seniors and winding up for the underclassmen, and the Senior Showcase is May 19th. Mrs. Morgan offered to create a template that would assist the student representatives with topics to report to the committee. Quinton and Andrew thought it would be very helpful and they will also talk with the underclassmen representatives and explain their role to the school committee. The senior trip is at Cheshire YMCA in New Hampshire on May 21 and 22. Andrew and his sister are on the sailing team that is run through Gloucester High School. Quinton will attend Williams College and has been doing an internship with NOAA. Andrew will attend UMASS Amherst. The Frisbee team will have their first meet on Monday. Mr. Liebow said that these students will be greatly missed and that they have been great role models.

B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. School Committee Goals

The committee will present their goals at a future meeting and will work on a Mission Statement this summer.

B. Job Description(s) Approval

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the job description for Elementary Principal as presented.

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Liebow explained that the Math Specialist would work mostly on professional development and coaching teachers, so that the teacher can reach more students rather than the specialist seeing students one on one.

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to approve the job description for K-8 Mathematics Specialist as presented.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the job description for Special Education Team Chairperson as presented.

Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Liebow explained that the creation of the new position "Out of District Placement Coordinator" will free up to 60 days for the Director of Student Services to stay in district, previously it had been their responsibility to fulfill required visits to students that are placed out of district.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the job description for Out of District Placement Coordinator as presented.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. Policy Review/Revise/Adoption N/A

D. Field Trip Approval N/A

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Martha Morgan reported that the RMHS Council is trying to develop a marketing tool, such as a web-based brochure, for RMHS. She also reported that the Day on the Hill was attended by Sophomore and Junior Council Students, Susan Brisson and RMHS Principal Phil Conrad.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

V. Correspondence

RTA RIF Notice
Email from Karen Tysver regarding upcoming fluoride presentation

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendents Report/FundFlow (5/20)
- B. School Committee Improvement Plan approval (5/20)
- C. Student Handbook approval (5/20)

VII. Calendar

June 10, 2015 Regular Meeting
August 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Mr. Liebow explained the reasons and process of executive session to the new members.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:10p.m.
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools