

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Chairperson Martha Morgan called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Colleen Coogan, Susan Brisson, Martha Morgan and Rebecca Sly, Heather Nelson was absent. Also, present was Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I.

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the regular minutes from April 15, 2015.  
Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Susan Brisson motioned to approve the regular minutes from May 6, 2015.  
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Susan Collins has been appointed to the position of Elementary SPED School Play Practice 1:1 Teacher Assistant.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Middle school student Nathaniel Kirby presented information on "Save Money and Increase Educational Opportunities with Renewable Energy". He reported on the renewable benefits to the schools, provides learning opportunities, grants for funding, and three financing options.

B. Public Participation

Mr. Zenas Seppela 92 Granite St. asked about school elections. Discussion will come up during Handbook review.

III. Discussion and Recommended Actions

A. Joint School Committee/Selectmen Technology Meeting

IS&T Director Monty Hitschler introduced the IS&T staff; Frank Taormina, Mike Montgomery and new employee Thomas Randazza. Mr. Hitschler reviewed this year's accomplishments including: completed fiber network, new data center, work throughout town departments, implemented google for government, school networks and intercoms, library and police servers, school 3D printer, implemented new mobile device management solution and hiring new networks manager. He also reviewed labor allocations, which has been focused on the needs of the town government this year and will return to a more even breakdown in the coming year between the government and school, ticket breakdown by department, the new help desk and asset management software, how the combined IT department works between the government and schools, and the percentage of funds expended in FY15. Mr. Hitschler also reviewed the estimated budgets for FY16 and FY17. The three main goals for the schools in FY16 & 17 is to increase student access to technology, increase teaching time and improve productivity. For the government their goals are to electronically scan documents, connect town buildings to fiber network, communications and security projects, address website, and improve the experience in all of main meeting rooms. Representatives from CATV were introduced and explained proposal for covering school and government meetings. They would like to partner with Rockport and provide robotic cameras in various meeting locations with a dedicated microphone and wireless projector. This entitles community engagement with easy access and gives the

town to go live. The installation for one location is approximately \$22,000 and CATV would manage the project from start to finish.

B. School Improvement Plans

RMHS Principal Philip Conrad reported that the RMHS School Council continues to work on the plan this year and next. He explained that the council formulated a list of goals that included: an increase in Middle School standardized math scores, continue to strive for full implement of the recommendations of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Committee on Public Schools, and review the need for marketing materials for our school programs. Chairperson Martha Morgan stated that she is pleased to see the council in action and that everything is coming together. Mrs. Morgan will also like to receive help from PTO to organize and hold the council elections.

C. Student Handbook Approval

RMHS Principal Philip Conrad reported that there are no changes to the Middle and High School Student Handbooks. The handbooks are being check by both the district and SPED lawyers to review and advise on policies that are required to be in the handbooks. Mr. Zenas Seppela was happy to hear that the student government elections continue to be the same. Mr. Conrad reported that we have had students go on to represent our school at the state level.

D. Policy Review/Revise/Adoption

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve policy File: JFBB School Choice as read for a second reading.

Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

School Committee member Colleen Coogan presented "talking points" that the Policy Sub-committee has developed on the Entrance Age policy. Back in 2004 the district intentionally choose not to adopt the MASC suggested policy, felt it was better suited for city schools. After consultation with the early childhood teachers, they feel it is usually in the whole-child's best interest socially and emotionally to be educated with their peers from grades K through 12. They are also considering crafting a policy that would allow for an in-depth evaluation of academic, social and emotional first grade readiness with a possible first grade placement later in the academic year.

E. Field trip approval

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the field trip out of state to Canobie Lake Park for the RMS Choral class.

Seconded: Susan Brisson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

B. Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Funk donated 130 Manga Graphic Novels to be used by the RMHS Library.

Joni King & Bruce Nelson donated 142 Manga Graphic Novels to be used by the RMHS Library.

Middle School Teacher DC Gagnon donated 1 DVD of Benjamin Franklin to be used in the RMHS Library.

RMHS Teacher Marsha Ferrante donated the following books to the RMHS Library: "The Lowland" by Jhumpa Uahiri and "The Boston Girl" by Anita Diamant

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rockport Girl Scout Troop 63156 donated a "Gaga Pit" to be installed next to the Elementary School Playground.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendents Report/FundFlow (6/10)
- B. EL School Committee Improvement Plan approval (6/10)
- C. EL Student Handbook approval (6/10)
- D. EL Math Program Review (6/10)
- E. New Curriculum Cycle Review (6/10)
- F. School Committee Goals (6/10)
- G. State Representatives (8/26)

VII. Calendar

June 10, 2015, Regular Meeting  
August 26, 2015 Regular Meeting  
September 9, 2015, Regular Meeting

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:53 p.m., a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session.

Susan Brisson	yes
Martha Morgan	yes
Rebecca Sly	yes

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools