

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday January 18, 2017

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, Martha Morgan, Heather Nelson, and Mary Porter, Rebecca Sly was absent. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the regular minutes, from January 4, 2017 with a change to the approval of the Middle School Assistant Principal to the High School Assistant Principal job description.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the executive minutes, from January 4, 2017

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

Heidi Goodwin has been appointed to the position of .35 FTE MS Spanish Teacher at the B-2 Rate \$80.82 pro-rated per day from January 23, 2017 to the end of the school year.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation

A group of 1st grade parents attended the meeting to discuss class size. Mr. Liebow explained the “in class” supports for each of the 1st grade classrooms, their responsibilities and how they receive their assignments. There is a posting for one more paraprofessional which will take until early February to fill. Typically the paraprofessionals are not certified teachers, but one was hired this year for three days a week. The kindergarten paraprofessionals support the general needs of all the students where the SPED paraprofessionals may have students assigned to them in various grades with various needs. Superintendent Liebow feels that if the numbers remain the same then a forth class will be added and this could happen as late as August. It will depend on if there are any retentions or students moving in to Rockport, he cannot guarantee that school choice students won’t be added if the class sizes are around 16 or 17. The discussion continued regarding class size policy review, communication with the parents, social/emotional support, the model agreement with the town funding the school budget, and what positions will be filled if forth class is added. Colleen Coogan mentioned the forum “Growing Good Kids: Informing Student's Social/Emotional Knowledge & Behavior in grades K -12” that will take place on March 13, 2017. Parents will learn how students are being taught how to deal with issues as they move through the school system with social emotional support and the vocabulary they use. Martha Morgan encouraged the parents to write to our State Representatives supporting public education and to attend the August meeting when the representatives meet with the school committee.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Field Trip Approval

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the overnight DECA State Competition at the Boston Marriott Copley Hotel on March 9, 10 & 11, 2017.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. RES Handbook final version

Principal Todd Simendinger presented the final version of the Elementary Student Handbook, this handbook was approved with future edits at a previous meeting.

C. 2017-2019 Calendars

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the school committee presentation calendar as presented.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

D. Mid-year Superintendent's Goals Review

Superintendent Liebow presented the status of his goals. Many of his goals have been completed or are underway and will be completed by the end of the school year. He is disappointed that the senior exhibitions will not happen this year due to the focus being placed on the High School Showcase festival, but will plan to offer a pilot class beginning next fall.

E. Policy Review/Proposals N/A

F. Warrants N/A

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

B. Donations

Rockport Rotary donated \$5,000 to contribute to the scholarship fund for the Rockport Music Department trip to the Czech Republic and Austria next year.
Lydia Brindamour donated a P-35 Keyboard to be used by the RMHS Music Dept.
Mr. & Mrs. Garth Greimann donated \$5,000 toward the purchase of with a wind turbines or solar panels for the greenhouse.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

V. Correspondence

Letter and data from 1st grade parents regarding class size.

Proposed letter to State Representatives regarding Foundation Budget Review, Circuit Breaker Reimbursements and New Revenue Sources. The committee agreed to send state representatives Tarr and Ferrante this version.

VI. Other Business

A. Superintendent's Report and Fund/Flow

Superintendent Liebow updated the committee on what is going on in the schools and explained the December 2016 Fund/Flow.

VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. District-Wide Special Education Program Evaluation (2/1)
- B. Staff Handbook policy updates (2/1?)
- C. Middle School un-tracking (3/1)
- D. Growing Good Kids: Informing Student's Social/Emotional Knowledge & Behavior in grades K -12(3/13)
- E. New Curriculum Cycle Review/Share (2/1)
- F. Superintendent's Report & FundFlow (2/15)

VIII. Calendar

- A. February 1, 2017, regular meeting
- B. February 15, 2017, regular meeting

VIV. Executive Session

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:01 p.m.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools