

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday April 5, 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 Martha Morgan, Mary Porter and Rebecca Sly, Heather Nelson was absent, Colleen Coogan arrived at 9:30pm Rebecca Sly had to leave the meeting at 10:00pm. Also, present were Superintendent Robert Liebow and Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating.

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the regular and executive minutes from March 15, 2017.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions

RETIRE: Elementary Paraprofessional, Ann Kistner, has delayed her retirement to the end of the 2017-2018 school year.
APPOINTED: Dana George has been appointed to the position of RMS SPED Teacher beginning the 2017-2018 school year.
RESIGNED: RMHS Principal, Gregg Bach, has resigned from his position effective 6/30/2017.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

B. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. K-12 Library/Technology

RMHS Technology Teacher Jeff Richards explained the new strands of the Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) which will prepare and inspire a much larger and more diverse number of students to pursue the innovative and creative careers of the future. Elementary School Librarian Katherine Schwinden reported that the elementary library is an active vibrant place. She has added \$10,000 in new books in the last couple of years. She will let the students take home books this summer that are on the summer reading list and works closely with MS English teacher Keith McCarthy to be sure books are available for the transition from 5th grade to 6th. The “office” has been converted to a “Maker Space”, the students have a self-check out station, and there is a “Zero Zero Zone” for silent reading. She reported that more technology is being incorporated into the classroom lessons. She has been attending workshops and works very closely with Carol Bender at the Public Library, who has help expand the “coding” lessons and has provided multiple copies of books for a 5th grade reading club.

Mr. Richards reported the donation, from two students, of almost 300 Manga books which have been checked-out 700 times in under 2 years. He says that the funding for the statewide database and Commonwealth eBook Collection are in jeopardy. Mr. Richards explained the EverFi program that can be used by the DECA club, STEM readiness, health & wellness: the program exposes the students to real world applications of curriculum they are learning and the program has a “game face” which the students like. Mr. Richards reviewed the technology course offerings at the middle and high schools, ongoing professional development, “the good”, areas of growth and deficits.

B. Lighthouse/Peer Leadership

Peer leadership advisor Amanda King reviewed the activities of the peer leadership group; they participate in TASC, elementary school lunch mentoring, workshops, and 8th grade small group meetings. The student participants talked about their experiences as a peer leader. Many were exposed as elementary students and

wanted to become members in high school for that reason. They feel that the younger students open up to them since they have gone through the same experiences in the past and that they get so much in return. A lot of what they do in their meetings comes from the workshops they attended with Ed Gerety who speaks on student leadership.

C. Town Expo – RPS Gives Back

High School Assistant Principal Amy Rose updated the committee on RPS Gives Back: A First Night for Education. The purpose of the event is to give students the opportunity to publicly demonstrate their knowledge and skills and to thank the community for its support of the many programs available to them in the Rockport schools. The event will be April 27th in the downtown area, exhibits will be held at the Art Association, Shalin Liu Center, public library, Fire House Trust, Dock Square and the Congregational Church.

D. Field Trip

MS Spanish club advisor, Martha Cox-Stavaros, along with Spanish Club members presented information on their request to travel to Dominican Republic to participate in a service project through NPH USA (Our Little Brothers & Sisters) a non-profit organization that runs homes for disadvantaged children. The club has already raised enough money to sponsor one child for a year. The school committee is very excited about their service study and approved the trip.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the out of country trip to Dominican Republic during February vacation week 2018.

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the out of state, overnight field trip for the DECA International Competition in Anaheim, CA.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

E. Job Descriptions

After discussion on curriculum coordination between grade levels and continued professional development the committee made the following motions:

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the Elementary Mathematics Interventionist, High and Middle School Dean job descriptions as presented.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the High School Principal, Middle School Principal, and revised Elementary Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director job descriptions with the addition of “provide for coordination and curriculum articulation among and between the grades at the (school level) and other schools in the district” where needed under Curriculum and Instruction, section #2.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

F. School Choice Vote

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to have the Rockport School District remain as a school choice district.

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

G. Superintendent's Evaluation

Chairperson Martha Morgan presented the Superintendent's End-of-Cycle Evaluation. The committee indicates that he has met his goals and for each of the Standards he received proficient or exemplary with an overall ratings of proficient.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve a salary increase of 2.1% for Superintendent Liebow for fiscal year 2018, beginning July 1, 2017
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

H. Policy Review/Proposals

File ADF: Wellness Policy

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the revised policy File: ADF as presented.
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to continue the meeting after 10:00p.m.
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

File GCF: Professional Staff hiring

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to waive policy CGF: Professional Staff Hiring to establish a hiring/search committee for the appointment of the one year middle school principal position.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

I. Warrants and Payroll

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the creation of a New Revolving Fund Code entitled Wellness Fund.
Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Committee member Mary Porter attended the RMHS School Council Meeting today were RMHS Principal Gregg Bach presented his proposed school improvement plans. She also heard from teachers in attendance that they are not completely happy with the student information system, Midas. Mr. Liebow reported that he created a spreadsheet for administrators and their support to list issues that they have with Midas The school committee is frustrated with the implementation and feels that we need to put the pressure on Midas. They would like to see the contract. Committee member Colleen Coogan stated how much the committee appreciates Mike Montgomery's efforts to patch the system; we just wish he didn't have to.

B. Donations

Mr. Stephen Bell donated \$2,000 towards the purchase of either wind turbines or solar panels for the greenhouse.

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

N/A

D Other Business

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve rescheduling the June 7, 2017 school committee meeting to June 14, 2017

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

V. Correspondence

Email from Alice McCarthy
Attorney General Advisory

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Counseling/SEPAC/PBIS (5/3)
- B. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow
- C. School Handbook review (5/17)
- D. School Improvement Plans (5/17)

VII. Calendar

- A. May 3, 2017, regular meeting
- B. May 17, 2017, regular meeting
- C. June 14, 2017, regular meeting

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools