

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING
Wednesday May 3, 2017

Superintendent Robert Liebow called the regular meeting of the Rockport School Committee to order 7:02 p.m. in the MS/HS Library. Present were Nicole Altieri, Colleen Coogan, Heather Nelson, Mary Porter and Rebecca Sly. Recording Secretary Ingrid Keating was also present.

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

Superintendent Liebow requested a nomination for the position of chairperson.

Motion: Heather Nelson nominated Colleen Coogan as chairperson.
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Chairperson Colleen Coogan requested a nomination for the position of vice-chairperson.

Motion: Colleen Coogan nominated Heather Nelson as vice-chairperson.
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 3-0.

Sub-committee appointments:

Budget: Heather Nelson/Mary Porter
Website/Technology/Communications/Advocacy: Nicole Altieri/Rebecca Sly
Policy: Colleen Coogan/Mary Porter July-Sept), Rebecca Sly (Oct-Dec), Heather Nelson (Jan-March),
Nicole Altieri (April-June)
School Building/Facilities: Heather Nelson/Rebecca Sly
Negotiations: (RTA): Mary Porter/Colleen Coogan
Negotiations: (Support): Heather Nelson
EL Council: Nicole Altieri
MS Council: Mary Porter
HS Council: Colleen Coogan
Health and Wellness: Nicole Altieri

I. Opening of Regular Meeting

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the regular minutes from April 5, 2017.
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

APPOINTED: Elementary Paraprofessional Kihana Gubicza has been appointed to the position of Long-term Elementary Teacher Substitute from April 24 to the end of the school year to cover a leave of absence.
Emma Hensler has been appointed to the position of HS English Teacher beginning next year, at the RTA rate of M-5, \$53,121.
Heather Murphy has been appointed to the position of HS Guidance Counselor beginning next year, at the RTA rate of M-3, \$48,815
HS Paraprofessional William Sclafani has been appointed to the position of HS Social Studies Teacher beginning next year at the RTA rate of B-2, \$43,142.
Sheryl Frontiero has been appointed to the position of Long-term Elementary Paraprofessional to cover a maternity leave, at the Step 2 rate - \$115.17/day.

II. Community Participation

- A. Student Advisory Representative N/A
- B. Public Participation N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Counseling/PBIS/SEPAC

Elementary School Psychologist Lydia Treat presented PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) at the Elementary School. There are three tiers to PBIS: tier 1 is all students, tier 2 supports small groups, at risk students and tier 3 focuses on individualized interventions, with frequent progress monitoring. Students who are on an IEP or 504 plan qualify for individual or small group meetings. Currently PBIS is in its second year of implementation, it takes 3-5 years to fully integrate into a school. PBIS has consistent behavioral standards and consequence procedures, with schoolwide expectations, language and responses, and proactive strategies to create a positive school environment. Ms. Treat explained “Why PBIS?” and what research suggests regarding problem behavior, and she presented the School-wide Expectations Matrix used at the elementary school. A ticket reward system acknowledges good behavior, teachers and staff nominate a “Buzzworthy Student of the Month”. They are making really good progress and have seen better results in the hallways and a greater sense of calm in the building. Ms. Treat explained how behavior issues are being tracked through a data collection program called “Swiss”. They are able to see the problem areas and focus on those areas.

Director of Student Services Lindsey McGovern reported on the PBIS program in the middle school. Viking of the Month”, 6th grade Kindness Club, and visits with elementary students are incentives for good behavior in the middle school. The staff is encouraged that PBIS language is becoming part of the school culture throughout the middle school. The middle school also collects data with the “Swiss” program, staff review data at the beginning of the school year, and will be working with a consultant from the May Institute.

RMHS Principal Gregg Bach reported that the middle school will focus more on social media issues next year. The high school will not implement PBIS until there is a good foundation to work with. Right now they use peer leadership and adult modeling of good behavior. The students take on incentives of their own; they are engaged and very busy. The faculty reports that there is a calm in the school, students take care of each other, and less ejections from class.

Superintendent Liebow and Mrs. McGovern explained the need for an additional 0.8 FTE Middle School Counselor for the general ed students. Reasons are: increase in students with intensive needs, social media issues, school based vs. outside counseling, testing and evaluation requirements.

B. Midas Update

RMHS Gregg Bach stated that regardless of what the Midas issues are, our IT staff has done extraordinary work to get us to where we are at today

Mike Montgomery explained that he is the project lead and has all the issues and requests go through him first, since he is able to deal with many of them and to also keep Midas from receiving multiple “tickets” for the same reasons. He mentioned that both Jodi Goodhue and Amanda Osier spent many hours with the transition from iPass to Midas. The data base with issues, that superintendent Liebow created, has been updated with results or a timeframe for installation or correction. The staff directory has been placed on an excel spreadsheet and linked from the school website to the Google Doc. Mr. Montgomery explained the differences and needs in report cards, between the Elementary trimesters and RMHS quarters. Now that the committee has had a comprehensive review of Midas, Chairperson Coogan will create a letter to elementary parents explaining why Midas is not used as much at the elementary level.

C. Northshore Education Consortium – establishment of a Capital Fund

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the Capital Plan of Northshore Consortium.
Second: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Nicole Altieri motioned to approve the creation of a Northshore Consortium Capital Fund.
Second: Nicole Altieri seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

- D. Policy Review/Proposals N/A
- E. Warrants and Payroll
- F. Fieldtrip/s

RMHS Principal Gregg Bach reported that music teacher Nathan Cohen would like two current high school students, who have signed up for next year's European music trip, be allow to attend even though they will be attending a private school next year. The school committee agrees with this request.

IV. Information and proposals

- A. School Council Update
- B. Donations

Laura Ozanne Hawkins, of Gloucester, donated a Canon Pixma MG2520 Printer/Scanner to the technology department to be donated to a Rockport family.
Retired elementary teacher Cheryl Sullivan donated a 29 gallon aquarium with lamp to the Rockport Elementary School.
Rockport PTO donated \$1,000 toward the solar panel project.

- C. Updates
- Sub-committee reports: N/A
- D Other Business N/A

V. Correspondence

VI. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report/FundFlow (5/17)
- B. School Handbook review (5/17)
- C. School Improvement Plans (5/17)
- D. RTA/MOA (5/17)

VII. Calendar

- A. May 17, 2017, regular meeting
- B. June 14, 2017, regular meeting
- C. August 15, 2017, IT Review/"Vision of RPS" at Selectmen's Meeting – Town Hall

VIII. Executive Session N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow
Superintendent of Schools