

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday January 4, 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, Rebecca Sly, Heather Nelson, and Mary Porter. 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 December 7, 2016.  
Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Personnel Actions

APPOINTED:	Keith Enos	MS Teacher Asst.	Beginning 12/15/2016
	Michele Gallo	Long-term EL Tech Teacher Sub	1/3/17 to EOY
	Kihana Gubicza	Long-term Pre-K Teacher Sub	1/3/2017 ó 4/13/2017
	Karen Harvey	P/T EL TA	12/5/2016 ó EOY
		3 day/week	
	Charles Nicolosi	Long-term Gr 6 Math Teacher Sub	2/8/2017 ó 4/13/2017

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative

Student representatives Anna Catena and Robert Welcome reported that there isn't much going on yet since returning from the holiday break. They did attend Alumni Day today, where some of last year's graduates return and talk about their experiences in their first semester of college.

B. Public Participation

N/A

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. EL Math Program Review

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director Heather Castonquay reviewed the first and second years of the Elementary Math Program Envisions. She explained that the elementary school experienced a predictable implementation dip in the PARCC scores and that the curriculum team plans for improvement in year three. The team will plan units and design instruction to meet student needs, analysis data, refinement to pedagogy through evaluation process, implement flexible grouping of students according to their needs, focus on developing benchmark assessments and data collection, use volunteers for interventions, begin stages for teacher coaching and co-teaching, and increase understanding of math concepts for teachers and students. They will add a more hands on approach by adding more pencil to paper method. Mrs. Castonquay says that moving forward they will focus on curriculum development, increase coaching and co-teaching with math specialist, begin cross curricular alignment, gather and analyze data, and be more specific in learning outcomes and determining goals. The committee discussed more with Principal Gregg Bach and Math Specialist Jodi Goodhue regarding using the data from Data Days, coaching, MCAS vs PARCC vs MCAS 2.0, and professional development offerings.

B. HS Schedule Proposal Discussion

High School Assistant Principal Amy Rose reported that the use of directed learning blocks (DLBs) came to light during the RMHS NEASC review. The current schedule has too many available at the upper levels and does not allow faculty common planning time. Mrs. Rose reviewed the current elective offerings, which

students are choosing not to take  $\delta$ so, how can we make our offerings more interesting and relevant?  $\delta$  She asked other school districts and found that many do not offer DLs unless there are exceptions. Moving forward she will ask the departments to propose new curriculum/classes for 2017-2018 to replace classes with low enrollment, modify PE/Health to accommodate more students, incorporate more technology, and propose 2-3 solid scheduling options to entire faculty. Students were interviewed and gave their ideas for elective offerings, 95% like the Monday through Friday schedule, 30% of underclassmen that responded have 2 or more DLs, and they found the Tuesday/Thursday 88 minute classes to be long. From the faculty review in December, each department is assigned to review curriculum and identify areas of need and improvement (particularly in elective offerings), review policy of DLs and foreign language requirement, the committee found that most schools have recently transitioned to an X block schedule format. With all this information the committee narrowed their choices down to three options  $\delta$  stick with current schedule, 8 day rotation or a Power Block schedule. They would like to propose the Power Block schedule, it allows common planning time, blocks meet 4x/week, the Power Blocks can be used for purposeful time with teachers, and time can be built in for assemblies, class meetings, TASC etc. and no traditional DL time. The changes would include a seven instead of 8 block schedule, no home rooms, incorporate an efficient online program to schedule student time, and strategic scheduling to accommodate weekly department time and instruction to students. Both student representatives liked the proposed schedule and felt it would give them more structure, more time during the day to schedule with teachers, less time waiting for attendance to be taken, and help them with time management. There will be upcoming events to introduce this proposal to both parents and students.

C. Curriculum Cycle Review

RMHS Principal Gregg Bach reported that our current Curriculum cycle is designed for larger schools and offered an alternative. He has created a spreadsheet that lists all offered courses with more detail: stages begin and end dates, comments, professional development requirements, resources and funding needs. He currently has staff that are rewriting curriculum and will pilot, develop and review the course all in one year, which is better than having to wait years for a review cycle to come along. He is going to complete his data base and share with the school committee and will be available to discuss again at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

D. Job Description

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the High School Assistant Principal Job Description as presented.  
 Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.  
 Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

E. Wage Correction from FY16

Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve retroactive pay to an employee in the amount of \$4,142.60 for unpaid work in FY16 from FY17 School Choice Funds.  
 Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.  
 Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Policy Review/Proposal N/A

G. Warrants N/A

IV. Information and proposals

A. School Council Update

Mary Porter attended the RMHS School Council Meeting where Amy Rose presented the proposed high school schedule. She would also like to find a way to reach out to more students to become involved in representing the student body on the various committees and councils.

B. Donations N/A

C. Updates

Sub-committee reports:

Colleen Coogan and Rebecca Sly of the Communications Sub-committee reported that they have created a FaceBook page for the School Committee. This page would be for getting information out to the public

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Other Business

VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report & Fund/Flow (1/18)
- B. Budget presentation to Selectmen (1/10/17)
- C. EL Handbook final version
- D. Growing Good Kids: Informing Student's Social/Emotional Knowledge & Behavior in grades K -12(March)
- E. Superintendent's Goals Review (1/18)
- F. New Curriculum Cycle Review/Share (2/1)
- G. Superintendent's Report & FundFlow (2/15)

VIII. Calendar

- A. January 10, 2017 Budget Presentation to the Selectmen
- B. January 18, 2017, Regular Meeting

VIV. Executive Session

At 9:18 p.m. a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. A Roll Call vote was taken. The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session and will reconvene in open session.

Colleen Coogan	yes
Martha Morgan	yes
Heather Nelson	yes
Mary Porter	yes
Rebecca Sly	yes

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:34 p.m.  
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools