

ROCKPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
Wednesday September 7, 2016

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, Rebecca Sly and Mary Porter. Also, present was 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 minutes, from August 10, 2016.  
Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 4-0.

B. Personnel Actions

RESIGNED: Wanda Visnick RPS .5 Nurse Leader/.5 Nurse effective immediately  
RETIRE: Mary Ryan RMHS PE/AD will retire June 30, 2018  
Maureen Murphy EL Teacher will retire June 24, 2017  
Martha Cooney RHS Social Studies Teacher will retire September 30, 2017  
Anita Scatterday EL Teacher will retire September 30, 2017  
LEAVE: Lisa Maddox will take a one year leave of absence from her EL Teacher Position to fill a one year MS SPED Teaching position.  
APPOINTED: Phillip Whitley will cover the Grade 5 position for one year and Dan Tivnan has been appointed to the position on one year long term EL Science/Health Teacher.

II. Community Participation

A. Student Advisory Representative N/A

B. Public Participation

Parent Elizabeth Malcomeson had heard concerns that the new student information system, Midas, is not available to parents yet. Superintendent Liebow reported that the district was initially going to run our current system, iPass, in tandem with Midas but during the summer it was decided to go strictly with Midas. There will be information during the school open houses and a workshop will be offered in the evening at some point. He will have an update out to parents before this Friday.

III. Discussion and Recommended Action

A. Elementary Handbook

Elementary Principal Todd Simendinger reported that the Elementary Handbook has had far more delays and reviews by attorneys than expected. There are a couple of significant changes in attendance and discipline. Mr. Simendinger would like the attendance to be more consistent with the middle and high school for an easier transition when the students move to the middle school. Communicating to the parents the schools responsibility to report unexcused absences to the state, such as extending vacations and multiple unexcused absences will be important. Mr. Simendinger explained that the office will no longer accept permission slips sent via email, fax, or verbally by phone, a signed and completed permission slip will be required for student participation. Principal Simendinger is still considering alternatives to discipline consequences.

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the elementary student handbook as presented with the understanding that there will be general edits after review with staff and that a final copy will be presented to school committee.  
Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.  
Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

B. Lunch Price Increase

Director of Food Services Abbey Pelletier reported that there have been no complaints or issues with the meal price increase.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the increase of the meal price effective at the start of the 2016-2017 school year..

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

C. 3 Year Strategic Plan Review

Superintendent Liebow presented an updated draft of the RPS Strategic Plan with suggestions from the school committee. He will be sending it out to staff, parents/guardians, town groups, etc this week for more input and will submit a final draft for the school committee's consideration at another meeting.

D. Opening of School Report

Mr. Liebow reported that the district had a very smooth opening. He presented enrollment numbers, total PK-12 is at 931, the lower number is a reflection of fewer Rockport resident students, and this number may fluctuate by 10 students. School choice percentages are at 20% in the elementary, 30% in the middle school and 25% in the high school. High school Principal Gregg Bach would like to have a day in the downtown area that would showcase students and what the school has to offer.

E. Superintendent's Goals

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the superintendent's goals as presented.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

F. Policy Review/Proposals

Second reading for both File CDA and File KHB-R:

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve revised File CDA: Evaluation of School Administrator and Superintendent policy as presented.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve revised File KHB-R Guidelines for Distribution of Information policy as presented.

Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

G. RTA/MOA's

Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport Teachers Association and the Rockport School Committee revising Appendix G: Rockport Public Schools Teachers Evaluation.

Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport Teachers Association and the Rockport School Committee agreeing to reduce the ELL position from 1.0 FTE to 0.8 FTE for the 2016-2017 school year.

Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

- Motion: Colleen Coogan motioned to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport Teachers Association and the Rockport School Committee agreeing to create and incorporate Greenhouse/Wellness stipends and job descriptions into the RTA contract beginning the 2016-2017.
- Seconded: Mary Porter seconded the motion.
- Vote: The motion carried 5-0.
- Motion: Mary Porter motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport Teachers Association and the Rockport School Committee as presented approving 1 "Comp Time" day for Mysha Kuhlmann.
- Seconded: Heather Nelson seconded the motion.
- Vote: The motion carried 5-0.
- Motion: Heather Nelson motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockport Teachers Association and the Rockport School Committee as presented additional summer work days at the individual nurse's per diem rate for, Wanda Visnick, Jeanne Pratt, and Sarah Sawyer.
- Seconded: Rebecca Sly seconded the motion.
- Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

#### IV. Information and proposals

##### A. School Council Update

The councils have not met, the committee discussed the process to seat representatives and PTO will discuss the process at their next meeting.

##### B. Donations

Rockport Rotary: on going book donations to RMHS Library throughout school year.  
 Melinda Kerwin: Full size violin with pick-up and extra bows  
 Anonymous: 1 full Cremona size chello, chell books, metronome and accessories  
 Brace Cove Foundation: \$5000 gift to provide one on one music instruction to students at RPS.

##### C. Updates

Sub-committee reports: N/A

V. Correspondence N/A

VI. Other Business N/A

#### VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Superintendent's Report & Fund/Flow (9/21)
- B. School Committee Goals (9/210)
- C. MASC/AYP (10/5)
- D. Capital Improvement Requests (10/5)

#### VIII. Calendar

- A. September 21, 2016, Regular Meeting
- B. October 19, 2016, Regular Meeting

#### VIV. Executive Session

- Motion: Rebecca Sly motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:09 p.m.
- Seconded: Colleen Coogan seconded the motion.
- Vote: The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebow  
Superintendent of Schools