

# **Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes**

## **October 20, 2015**

### **Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chairperson Beverly Johnson. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam, Carol White, Suzanne Rugh, and Jennifer Belesca (late excused); Superintendent/Principal Michael Pulsifer; and guests Laurie Hegarty, Polly Wentworth, Caroline Loder and Erika Neumann.

### **Flag Salute**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **School Committee Group Picture**

The picture for the school website was not done, but will be done at the next meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed 4-0 (Jen Belesca not in attendance at the time of the vote).

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jeff Putnam and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015 as written. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Suzanne Rugh abstained). A motion was made by Jeff Putnam and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015 as written. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Carol White abstained).

### **Correspondence**

Mike Pulsifer informed the School Committee that UNE dental school students will be at CIS on October 27 to do presentations on dental health to the students. They will do two presentations, one for K-2 students and one for 3-5 students. The UNE dental students obtained a grant to do the presentations, so there is no cost to the district. The UNE students will also be visiting schools on Long Island, Peaks Island and Cliff Island.

Mike also informed the School Committee that CIS has received \$11,099 from the state for Local Entitlement funds. These funds are given to schools in Maine to support special education services. The plan at this time is to use the funds to help support our costs for a special education ed. tech, and to help fund more time for our OT/Guidance person to spend at the school. This is the first time CIS has received this funding in three years. During the update, it was suggested by Erika Neumann that there could be many ways to utilize the time for our counselor/OT. She suggested that a workshop might be considered to review all of those ways. After consideration, the School Committee agreed to make it an agenda item for a future meeting. Carol White suggested that we contact the Island Institute Director Yvonne Thomas and invite her to the meeting. Yvonne may have valuable insight into the many and varied ways to utilize a counselor on an island school to support students.

### **Public Comment**

Erika Neumann informed the School Committee that the Chebeague Parents Association (CPA) is organizing a series of community support presentations/workshops for island residents. Some of the topics are as follows: Grieving and Loss (supported by the Center for Grieving Children); First Aid Responders (supported by NAMI), and Gatekeeper training for those who want to know more about suicide prevention. She and others in the CPA will be publicizing those presentations and they are open to all to attend.

### **Reports**

Beverly Johnson reported that she has received funding from the Sunrise Club of the Portland Rotary to paint a US Map on the outer parking lot at the Recreation Center here on Chebeague Island. She hopes to have it completed in the upcoming week, weather permitting. The map can be used by students interactively for learning about geography and states. She also reported that Seed Bird Sue will be visiting CIS in the near future, and when she gets more details she will keep the School Committee informed.

Mike Pulsifer gave out packets of curriculum and academic goals from the CIS teachers for this year. It was a fairly large packet. The School Committee asked if the 3-year Science and Social Studies goals could be broken down into specific years of study. Mike said he would get that breakdown to them.

### **Old Business**

CIS Facility Study: The School Committee discussed the need for a Facility Committee to take the lead on the school renovations or construction that will need to occur for CIS. Carol White suggested that they put this topic on the next agenda, and have a discussion of who should be on the Facility Committee. In addition, it was suggested that the School Committee could host a workshop and invite the public to come and give input on their thoughts for CIS's needs. That topic will be discussed at the next meeting as well. The School Committee also recommended that we still go forward with an educational use study, and ask Steve Blatt to complete that study.

School Committee Orientation: A handout packet was shared with the School Committee, and it was agreed that they would each review it individually and get back to Mike if they had any questions.

Ed Tech III Job Description First Reading: A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the first reading of the CIS Ed Tech III job description with some minor changes. The motion was approved 4-0. The Ed Tech III job description will be on the next agenda for a second and final reading.

### **New Business**

School Choice Funding Request: Laurie Hegarty asked to be on the School Committee agenda and presented a proposal to the School Committee to consider, that would allow Chebeague Island parents to have school choice outside of the current Yarmouth/Chebeague Island contract, and for the School Department to fund that outside of district choice as they

currently fund students under the contract. A lengthy discussion was held, and many viewpoints were shared among those present. A short outline of broad topics reviewed are noted below:

- Laurie Hegarty would like the SC to consider paying for school choice.
- Carol White reviewed the specifics and history of our 10-year contract currently in place with Yarmouth Schools.
- Laurie suggested a workshop to discuss things further.
- Laurie would like the SC to speak w/Yarmouth earlier than our current contract negotiations are scheduled for about allowing school choice.
- It was noted that it is a parent's prerogative to send a Chebeague Island student to a school outside of our current contract.
- It was also noted that the Chebeague Island School Committee and the Yarmouth School Committee met recently in a workshop session at the Chebeague Island School to reinforce the strong positive relationships that exist with the Yarmouth School Community.
- No formal votes were taken on this agenda item, nor were any formal decisions rendered.

AP Warrant #6: AP Warrant #6 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for the warrant.

#### **Other Business**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Beverly Johnson motioned and Carol White seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:49 pm. The motion was approved 4-0 (Jeff Putnam was not in attendance at the time of the vote).