

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Beverly Johnson. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam, Carol White; and school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer. Arriving late: Jen Belesca. Excused absent: Suzanne Rugh.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Carol White and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Carol White and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the March 1, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Putnam). A motion was made by Carol White and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the March 22, 2016 workshop minutes as written. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Putnam).

Correspondence

Beverly Johnson reviewed a letter the School Committee received from the North Haven School Committee. It requested support from the Chebeague Island School Committee in North Haven's efforts to change how the state reports MEA scores for small schools. After a good discussion, the School Committee agreed to communicate their support to the North Haven School Committee. Beverly Johnson will correspond with the North Haven School Committee outlining that support. The School Committee also directed the Superintendent to connect with the Island Institute to see if that organization is working with North Haven on this issue.

Beverly Johnson also reviewed an email she and Mike Pulsifer received from Laurie Hegarty that asked the School Committee to reconsider school choice and paying tuition to North Yarmouth Academy. Laurie also asked in her email if this topic could be placed on a future School Committee agenda. After discussion, the School Committee's consensus has not changed: it will not pay private school tuition outside of the tuition contracts the town has now with Yarmouth and SAD 51, and they do not plan to put this topic on future School Committee agendas.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Beverly Johnson reported that the WeatherBlur unit that the school did a few years ago will be funded this time by the Maine Math and Science Alliance. This community-based online citizen science project allows communities to develop their own research programs, to help them solve a local problem that is related to weather and/or climate changing events. Jeff Putnam and Beverly Johnson will also be assisting resources for this valuable learning unit. This project connects classrooms and communities from across the state and the nation. Participants share data, get feedback on their work, analyze data, and work on collaborative projects.

Beverly also reported that the school will be involved with the MIMIC (Marine Invasive Monitoring and Information Collaborative) through the Wells National Estuarine Research as we have done over the past two years. With help from Carol White and other volunteers, the teaching and learning unit will have a hands on focus of various marine invasive species that are all around us on Chebeague Island.

Jen Belesca reported that she attended a meeting on March 29 in Yarmouth. The meeting was to discuss the potential change in the school day start time for students. She reported that it was a positive meeting, but it did seem that no clear decision to the start time is decided yet. As more information becomes available she will keep the School Committee informed.

Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer shared reports from the CIS teachers on what is happening academically in the classrooms this term. He will plan on having one more report later this spring. Additionally, he also shared the results of the early release day work from March 25. A lengthy inventory and review of all school supplies and equipment was done, and some clearing out of closets was accomplished as well. It was a positive afternoon for the school.

Old Business

The 2016-17 School Department Budget was discussed at length. After some changes were made to different budget lines, a motion was made by Carol White and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the 2016-17 School Department budget in the amount of \$1,127,945. This is an increase of \$47,389 over the 2015-16 budget. The motion passed 4-0. Mike Pulsifer will forward the budget to Marjorie Stratton for the Board of Selectmen. There is a budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen on April 13.

New Business

A motion was made by Carol White and seconded by Jeff Putnam to table the Energy Audit presentation until May 3. The motion passed 4-0.

Beverly Johnson and Mike Pulsifer shared a draft CIS Emergency Management Plan with the School Committee. The teachers have seen the draft, and the Policy Committee has reviewed it as well. Additionally, Mike shared the plan with the CI Fire Chief Ralph Munroe. Jeff Putnam

motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to approve the CIS Emergency Management Plan as a first reading. The motion passed 4-0.

Mike Pulsifer shared a draft 2016-17 CIS Calendar. He also shared the approved 2016-17 Yarmouth school calendar for the School Committee to compare. There is a complete alignment for all student days and many teacher days. The CIS calendar includes 176 student days and 183 teacher days. Carol White motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to approve the 2016-17 CIS calendar as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Mike Pulsifer also reviewed 2015-16 CIS Calendar, and he noted that at this time, if we do not have any more snow days (we have had two so far this year), the last student day will be on Friday, June 17.

Other Business

Beverly Johnson informed the School Committee that there is going to be a full-time taxi service on the island beginning this summer, and the School Committee and Superintendent might want to consider it as an option in place of any short bussing or car pool needs.

AP Warrant #17 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for the warrant.

Executive Session

A motion was made at 8:44 pm by Carol White and seconded by Jeff Putnam to go into executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations as per 1 MRSA § 405 (6) D. The motion passed 4-0.

A motion was made at 8:59 pm by Jen Belesca and seconded by Carol White to exit the executive session and re-enter the regular session. The motion passed 4-0. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Adjournment

Jeff Putnam motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion passed 4-0.