

Chebeague Island School Committee Minutes

August 4, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by the School Committee Chairperson; Jeff Putnam. School Committee members in attendance were Jen Belesca, Leah Guay, Suzanne Rugh and Carol White. As well as Superintendent/Principal Ann Kirkpatrick.

There were 16 members in the audience; Elizabeth Murphy Lewis, Denise Sullivan, Nancy Earnest, Beverly Johnson, Polly Wentworth, Donna Colbeth, Erika Neumann, Tammy Hoidal, Vika Wood, Sarah Klein, Corie Meehan, Jim Gallagher, Justina Warren, Doug Ross, Katy McCann, Marjorie Stratton

Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Leah Guay to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Carol White. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Minutes from July 21, 2020- A motion was made by Carol White to accept the minutes from the July 2, 2020 school committee meeting as written. Seconded by Suzanne Rugh. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Minutes from August 3, 2020- The minutes from the School Committee Workshop on August 3, 2020 were tabled.

Correspondence- The Chebeague Island Recreation department asked to use the ballfield on August 21 and 22 for a fundraiser. The school department will make sure the grass is cut for the event.

Public Comment- none

Reports

School Committee Chairperson- Jeff Putnam spoke about contacting David Brunner to help remediate the issue with the paint on the walls in the school. According to the contract with Patrick Ducas, the walls were to be primed and 2 coats of paint were to be applied. That did not happen as evident in the writing that bled through on the sheetrock behind the fish tank.

Superintendent/ Principal- The SORT committee continues to meet. Ann reviewed the protocols that must be in place for the opening of the school year 2020-2021. The State of Maine has requested that all schools have 3 plans for the start of school. The three categories are GREEN; in person learning with health and safety protocols; YELLOW is the hybrid model, teacher remote with students in class, student remote with teacher in class, shortened school day or week; and RED; all remote learning. Ann Kirkpatrick will have information to the parents about the details of Chebeague Island Schools plans for instruction

Old Business

The School Committee reviewed the 2019-20 end of the year budget. Not all cost centers had been drawn down to zero. However the Staff and Student support was overdrawn. At this time there is grant money that needs to be credited against this cost center before a transfer between cost centers can happen for the exact amount. The School Committee would also like to review the grants that we have at the first meeting of the month. Our grants are REAP, LEA and Covid Relief 9/1/2020- 12/31/2020.

New Business

Ann Kirkpatrick reviewed the slate of positions that were budgeted for the 2020-2021 fiscal year school budget. It was shared that the enrollment at the start of last year (2019) was 24 students, and by the end of the year in June 2020 it was 21 students. For this upcoming 2020-21 school year, there will be a net decrease of seven students for a total of 14, pre-K through grade five. This change in the local conditions is what brings about a recommendation to the School Committee. Due to the decline in enrollment, Ann Kirkpatrick made the recommendation in the overall interest of the school to eliminate a full-time teaching position at this time. This recommendation is provided with the stipulation that if enrollment were to get back up to 20 or more students with a somewhat equal distribution between the upper and lower grades, the School Committee would look to reinstate a full-time teaching position.

Audience members asked questions about public timeliness of this announcement, current number of full time adults in the building daily, the ability of the community to find a qualified candidate should the position be needed and what the plan is for the daily education of the students.

A motion was made by Leah Guay, pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 13201, to eliminate a full-time teaching position for the 2020-21 school year because of changes in local conditions, to terminate the teaching contract of Tammy Hoidal as of November 4, 2020 as the result of the elimination of that position. I further move that the School Committee instruct the Superintendent to provide Ms. Hoidal with at least 90 days written notice of these actions. Seconded by Jen Belesca. Motion passed 5-0-0.

The School has not received any bids at this time to mow the school property.

A motion was made by Leah Guay to create a subcommittee of the School Committee known as the Finance Committee for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. Seconded by Suzanne Rugh. Motion passed 5-0-0. The committee will have 1-2 members, Jeff can be a member ex-officio and the Town Administrator will also be invited to join.

Other Business

There is no warrant at this time.

Adjournment at 7:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann C. Kirkpatrick; Superintendent