

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 07, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairperson Suzanne Rugh. Present: School Committee members Suzanne Rugh, Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam, Stephen Todd, and Jen Belesca (excused late); school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer; and guests Town Manager Marjorie Stratton and Auditor Peter Hall.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Beverly Johnson and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the agenda with one change: to move New Business item 9a. 2016/17 Audit Report to the beginning of the agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Beverly Johnson and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of February 16, 2017. The motion passed 4-0.

Correspondence

An invitation to attend a Maine Senate District 25 Forum was shared with the School Committee. It was sent out to all elected officials in the region. The forum is scheduled for March 14th at 6:00 pm in the Lunt Auditorium in Falmouth.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chair: Suzanne Rugh shared that parents and students are being invited to transition meetings for the next school year. Meetings are set up with student advisors so that parents can hear about class offerings for the following year. Scheduling the meetings has been tricky, but the information gained is very worthwhile.

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer shared with the School Committee that CIS has applied to be part of a four-district grant that would cover our Local Entitlement Grant Management costs. The funds are offered by the State DOE as incentives for school districts to create educational efficiencies by working together. He will keep the SC posted on our application. Mike also informed the SC that Laura Summa has been Awarded the 2017 eco-Excellence Award from ecoMaine for her efforts on the Chebeague Island Solid Waste Committee and her work to improve recycling practices on the island. Laura will be honored at a dinner in Portland on March 14th. Mike also reminded the SC that there will be a student art show at the Niblic on Thursday, March 9th from 4:45 to 5:45 pm. The artwork on display has been created by five students from CIS who took part in the after-school art program offered by Art teacher Louisa Wickard. And finally, Mike shared some updated renovation plans that Dave Brunner had

emailed recently. Dave will be in attendance at the March 21st meeting to personally update the full School Committee on the progress to date.

Old Business

2017/18 Budget Adoption: The SC discussed the most recent impacts to the budget, including the possibility of two new students enrolling next fall, and the Department of Education's release of the preliminary ED 279 subsidy report. After a lengthy discussion, Beverly Johnson motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to approve a 2017-18 operating budget proposal of \$1,183,904. The motion passed 5-0.

CIS Pre-K to Grade 5 Math/Reading/Writing Standards: Mike Pulsifer shared the most recent learning standards with the School Committee. The standards are a compilation of what students need to master at each grade level. The standards are aligned with the Common Core and the Maine Learning Results. These standards were worked on and refined by the CIS teachers during their summer workshops, and during early release time this school year. A motion was made by Beverly Johnson and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the CIS Pre-K to Grade 5 Math/Reading/Writing Standards. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business

2015/16 School Department Audit Report: Peter Hall from Smith and Associates in Yarmouth was in attendance to review the final audit report. The School Department's audited finances are part of the larger town audit, as the School Department is one of the town departments. Peter noted that no material weaknesses were found in our internal controls, and no significant issues were found in the audit. That was good news. Peter reviewed all of the financial reports in the audit that pertain to the School Department. In conclusion, he did offer one recommendation; that the town and school begin using a different fund chart of accounts. This would align the School Department with the State DOE, and help make things go more smoothly during the next audit, and it would allow a much quicker way to get expenditure feedback.

2017/18 CIS School Calendar: Mike Pulsifer shared a draft school calendar with the School Committee that contained 176 student days, and 7 teacher workshop days. He compared it to the recently adopted Yarmouth school calendar, and it matches very well. After a general discussion among the School Committee, a motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Stephen Todd to approve the 2017/18 CIS school calendar. The motion passed 5-0.

CIS Pre-K to Grade 5 Science and Social Studies Unit Plans: Mike Pulsifer shared an updated three-year unit of study plan for science and social studies. It is very similar to the unit of study plans developed three years ago, with a few minor changes. As CIS has multi-grade classrooms, the units of study will be taught in three-year cycles so students will get full coverage of the unit plans. A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Beverly Johnson to approve the CIS Pre-K to Grade 5 Science and Social Studies Three-Year Unit Plans. The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

Warrant #16 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for the warrant.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Beverly Johnson and seconded by Stephen Todd to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 pm for the purpose of reviewing the Superintendent's evaluation. The motion passed 5-0.

After the Executive session had concluded, a motion was made by Beverly Johnson and seconded by Suzanne Rugh at 7:44 pm to exit the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment

Beverly Johnson motioned and Jeff Putnam seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:45 pm. The motion passed 5-0.