

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Chairperson Jeff Putnam. Present: School Committee members Jeff Putnam, Courtney Doughty, Jen Belesca and Stephen Todd (excused late); school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer, Pre-K teacher Nancy Earnest, Counselor Denise Sullivan, K-2 teacher Tammy Hoidal, Cook/Custodian Laura Summa, and Administrative Assistant Meredith Beaupre; Town Manager Marjorie Stratton; and guests Carol Brown, Peggy Brown, David Brunner and Geoff Summa.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Courtney Doughty to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of June 19, 2018 as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence

Jeff Putnam shared an email correspondence he received from Eliza Jane Adams about an upcoming 4th of July celebration that will occur on the school property. The Board of Selectmen have approved the Town to oversee the 4th of July celebration. Jeff also received an email from Denise Sullivan that praised the hard work and efforts that Laura Summa and Meredith Beaupre put into the moving and storing of the school things over the past week. And finally, Jeff shared some emails he received from Peggy Brown who suggested the School Committee should put in a uni-sex bathroom in the new renovation plans.

Public Comment

Peggy Brown was in attendance; she is a summer resident who lives in New Hampshire during the rest of the year. She gave an overview of some emails she sent earlier to the School Committee and Superintendent that asked the SC to provide a uni-sex bathroom in the renovation plan. She also said we should not label any bathrooms with "male or female" designations in the school. Her concerns were students who may be transgender, changing gender or be gender uncertain. After her comments, Jeff Putnam and Jen Belesca gave responses to her, and thanked her for her comments and suggestions. David Brunner said he could draft up some drawings that show a uni-sex bathroom adjustment if requested. Jeff said that would be a reasonable idea, and for David to get back to the School Committee in the near future about possible changes that could be made inexpensively to the renovation.

Denise Sullivan was in attendance, and she shared her thoughts on the organization and hard work that was shown by Laura Summa and Meredith Beaupre during the recent move from the school. Both spend a lot of time and energy organizing and planning the effort. She also suggested that surveying the staff about their experience might help the move back into the school when the renovation is completed. The School Committee and Superintendent thanked both Laura and Meredith for their extraordinary service.

Reports

School Committee Chair: None

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer shared the 2018/19 School Committee meeting dates with the SC. Those will normally be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Election of School Committee Officers for 2018/19

Jeff Putnam informed everyone that School Committee officers are elected for one-year terms at the first meeting of each new school year in July. He called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Jeff Putnam was nominated for Chairperson by Jen Belesca. As there were no more nominations, Jen Belesca then motioned and Courtney Doughty seconded to appoint Jeff Putnam as Chairperson of the School Committee for the 2018/19 school year. The motion passed 4-0. Stephen Todd was then nominated for Vice Chairperson by Courtney Doughty. As there were no more nominations, Courtney Doughty then motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to appoint Stephen Todd as Vice Chairperson of the School Committee for the 2018/19 school year. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

School Renovation: Architect David Brunner was in attendance, and he informed the School Committee that the renovation contract signing meeting went well, all permits for the renovation have been approved, and he has ordered new construction plans. One set will be with him, one with John Thaxter, one at Town Hall and one in the Superintendent's office. He noted that many things that we hoped to salvage will be unsalvageable. He also informed the SC that there is not a need at this time for a large grease trap, so that will save some renovation costs. He is still working on finding out where the furnace room drain goes, and after that happens, he will report back on the possible need for a new oil tank. Next he shared some different colors for roof shingles, vinyl siding, building trim and windows. Those need to be selected. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Stephen Todd and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the Midnight Blue siding, the White building trim, the White windows and the Silver Birch roof shingles. The motion passed 4-0.

Mike Pulsifer shared that the Cunningham Security link will be kept active during the renovation, but will be turned off during the workday by the crew, and turned on again each day after their work is completed. That way the security line will be active when the crew is not there. Mike also shared a bill from David Brunner for his recent architectural work. It was noted that his bills will be paid by the Board of Selectmen going forward, but copies will be shared with the School Committee for their review.

Student Numbers and Class Sizes for 2018/19: After the last School Committee meeting Mike Pulsifer spoke with Carrie and Matt Ridgeway about the possibility of their daughter joining the K-2 class next year due to the fact that she is the only Pre-K student signed up at this time. Jen Belesca also spoke to Carrie recently, and she explained the situation of having one student with one teacher, and Carrie understood the situation very well, and said in a perfect world a new student will move in and the Pre-K program will move forward as it always does. Carrie also said she really likes the K-2 teacher, but realizes there is a big span between Pre-K and 2nd grade. 2nd grade teacher Tammy Hoidal was in attendance, and she assured the School Committee that she could make the classroom environment very appropriate academically and socially for the Pre-K student if she was to join the K-2 class next year. The School Committee asked Mike Pulsifer to contact Carrie again and share with her what was said and then report back at the next SC meeting.

New Business

Jeff Putnam noted that the time was getting late, and he motioned and Stephen Todd seconded that all new business (a. Memorandum of Understanding with the Chebeague Recreation Center, and b. 2018/19 School Calendar and Workshop Day Request) be put again on the next School Committee agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

Other Business

Warrant # 27 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for it.

Adjournment

Courtney Doughty motioned and Jen Belesca seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:47 pm. The motion passed 4-0.