

Chebeague Island School Committee Workshop Minutes

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by Chairperson Jeff Putnam. Present: Chebeague Island School Committee members Jeff Putnam, Stephen Todd, Suzanne Rugh, Jen Belesca and Courtney Doughty; Chebeague Island School Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer; Yarmouth School Committee members Jeanne Rapone, Sarah Day, Leah Guay, Tim Wheaton, Philip Jones, and Laura Coroi; and Yarmouth Schools' Superintendent Andrew Dolloff.

Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Putnam opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the Yarmouth School Committee and Superintendent, and each person then introduced themselves. In addition, Laura Summa was introduced and thanked, as she had prepared a delicious brunch for those attending the workshop.

Discussion Topics

Chebeague Island/Yarmouth Tuition Agreement: The current ten-year tuition agreement expires in June of 2021, but there is a condition in it that allows the two parties to renegotiate the agreement during the 2017/18 school year. After a conversation on the topic, it was agreed to have each side send a subcommittee to renegotiate the agreement. That first meeting will be held at the Yarmouth Superintendent's office on Tuesday, October 31st at 8:30 am. If other meetings are needed, those can be scheduled by the subcommittees.

CTC Agreement and Cousins Island Residents: A discussion was held on the past Yarmouth Council meetings where some Cousins Island residents spoke against the CTC's request to continue the new school ferry runs for Chebeague Island students. Those ferry runs accommodate our students' travel for the changed start and end times for Yarmouth schools. The Yarmouth SC noted that it was a small number of Cousins residents who spoke against the school runs and that hopefully the runs should continue without objection or needing to come before the Council again.

Ferry Schedule for Island Students and Events on the Mainland: A brief discussion was held that centered on the scheduling of things on the mainland that put some pressure on island students due to the timing of those events. It was noted that this is not a regular occurrence, but periodically it may happen. Whenever possible, the Chebeague Island SC asked if consideration could be given to scheduling meetings, activities and conferences within the ferry's normally scheduled runs.

Preparation of Chebeague Island Students for Yarmouth Schools: Jeff Putnam inquired if our students going to Yarmouth schools seemed adequately prepared when attending the Yarmouth schools. Andrew Dolloff said that the Chebeague Island students assimilate very well into the Yarmouth schools, and they are well prepared academically. He noted they take part in a wide variety of activities and seem to fit in very well.

Everyone agreed that the joint workshops are productive and positive, and help keep the lines of communication open between the two communities and school districts.

Adjournment

Jeff Putnam adjourned the workshop at 9:47 am.