

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Chairperson Jeff Putnam. Present: School Committee members Jeff Putnam, Suzanne Rugh, Courtney Doughty, Stephen Todd and Jen Belesca; school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer and Pre-K Teacher Nancy Earnest; and guests Marjorie Stratton and Polly Wentworth.

Executive Session

A motion was made at 5:04 pm by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Jen Belesca to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as per 1 MRSA § 405 (6) D. The motion passed 5-0. At 6:14 pm a motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to leave the executive session and re-enter the public meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Stephen Todd and seconded by Courtney Doughty to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of March 5, 2019. The motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence

Jeff Putnam reported that he had received a phone call from the Chebeague Recreation Center Board Chair Janna Hobbs about the possibility of having a discussion in the future between the School Department and the CRC Board. The reason for the discussion would be to talk about working jointly on things that might be of interest or that might save money for both groups. Jeff said that might be a good idea, and at some point in the future a meeting on creating synergy between the two groups would be worthwhile.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chair: Jeff Putnam said that he has had some conversations with Bob Earnest and the teachers about moving back in to the school. The teachers recommend they pack up their rooms on Friday, April 12, a non-teaching day, and have town employees and volunteers help move some larger items that day into the school. Then that weekend, he said he could organize an effort of volunteers to move all of the things into the renovated school. While there is some concern about using volunteers, he did find that we could use some volunteers if the conditions

were right. Marjorie Stratton was in attendance, and said that our liability insurance company discourages volunteers, but they can be used in certain circumstances: SC members, high school students doing approved, required community service, adult community members and town employees. Also it would be OK for citizens to loan the School Department their vehicles for moving (like a pick up truck). There also was a discussion about paying salaried staff an hourly rate to pack and unpack things. Marjorie pointed out that it can be time consuming for her staff to sort that out, but it is possible. During the move discussion, it was suggested by Nancy Earnest that having the students take part somehow in the move might be beneficial, for symbolic reasons. Everyone seemed to agree with that comment.

Jeff also said that the Board of Selectmen will be invited to the next SC meeting to discuss the school budget, and he asked if the SC would like to do a tour of the renovated school with the BoS before the meeting. The consensus was yes for the tour. Jeff thought a 5:45 tour would be a good time to do it, and then start the SC meeting at 6 pm as usual.

Superintendent/Principal: None

Old Business

2019/20 School Department Budget: The School Committee did a review of the draft budget from the last meeting, which was up approximately 3.78% over the 2018/19 budget. A list of some potential saving areas was reviewed for the second time, that included the following:

- Increasing FICA/Medicaid/MainePERS costs
- Reducing Ed Tech costs
- Reducing Contracted Services costs
- Reducing Electricity and Fuel Oil costs
- Increasing Contingency amount
- Budget for an after-hours supervisor position

It was also agreed to advertise the Custodian and Food Service position as one position. Polly Wentworth was in attendance, and she suggested the School Committee consider extending the secretary's work hours to have someone available to answer the telephone after 1 pm when the secretary normally ends her day. No final decisions were made or votes taken on the budget.

Superintendent Search: Jeff Putnam announced that the initial interviews have taken place, and final candidates will be invited to the school for a tour of the school and island and for teachers to meet the candidates. He said that one candidate was here today, and the tour and teacher meetings went very well. Nancy Earnest said that all of the teachers really liked the candidate today, and were impressed with her.

Second Reading of Policies: Stephen Todd motioned and Suzanne Rugh seconded to approved as a second reading policies JL Student Wellness and JLCC Communicable/Infectious Diseases. The motion passed 5-0.

Memorial Discussion: Jen Belesca said that at this time she is still gathering information, but in the near future she would be ready for the School Committee to discuss this topic at more length.

New Business

None

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Jen Belesca motioned and Suzanne Rugh seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:35 pm. The motion passed 5-0.