

Chebeague Island School Committee Minutes
October 6, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by School Committee Chairperson; Jeff Putnam. School Committee members in attendance were Jen Belesca, Leah Guay, Suzanne Rugh, Carol White. Also in attendance were Superintendent/Principal Ann Kirkpatrick and members of the public; Jeremy and Tracy Ames, Meredith Beaupre, Donna Colbeth, Donna Damon, Nancy Earnest, Grace Groothoff, Beverly Johnson, Sarah Klein, Kathy McCann and Adrian Cole, Erika and Topher Neumann, Geoff and Laura Summa.

Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Jen Belesca to approve the agenda. Seconded by Leah Guay. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Minutes from September 1, 2020- A motion was made by Leah Guay to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020. Seconded by Jen Belesca. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Minutes from September 15, 2020- A motion was made by Leah Guay to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020. Seconded by Jen Belesca. Motion passed 4-0-1 (jp)

Correspondence- Ann received an 2 emails from parents in response to her end of the month report where she asked for feedback. Both emails were positive comments about how their children felt about the start of school.

Public Comment- The following spoke during public comment; Jeremy and Tracy Ames, Donna Colbeth, Donna Damon, Grace Groothoff, Beverly Johnson, Katy McCann and Adrian Cole, Erika and Topher Neumann, Geoff and Laura Summa. The topics were about the process of Superintendent requests to attend a different school, the Chebeague Island School bus, meeting the needs of the individual students that live on Chebeague Island and the sustainability of the Chebeague Island School.

Reports

School Committee Chairperson- Jeff Putnam shared a recent walk through of the school that David Brunner, Polly Wentworth, Jen Belesca, Mark Dyer, and Dustin Vining attended. They looked at the peeling paint on the walls and doors in the school and tried to determine if a primer was used. They were trying to determine what action, if any should be taken with Ducas Construction. In a letter from Mr. Brunner, the paint was applied to the specs in the construction document or there was not enough evidence to be able to determine that it was not. As a result, it was recommended that tape and other adhesives not be used on the walls but more white/cork boards or hanging wires be used. The correction to the paint chips on the walls will be the responsibility of the school. The door may require primer before repainting. The board has asked the Superintendent to draft a letter to Patrick Ducas to share their disappointment of the handling of the painting of the school. Geoff Summa offered to set up a time to look at the chipped paint with a Sherman Williams Paint representative to make further recommendations.

Superintendent/ Principal- Ann told the School Committee that the school teachers and staff are working hard establishing routines for school materials and the flow of the day. They are also teaching the students how to use the computers and apps for the data that they produce and for the use at home.

Gowen Generator Service has inspected and serviced the generator per our annual contract. We had the opportunity to use the generator when the island lost power last week due to the wind.

Pine State Heating- we are still under the warranty from construction. They came to check on the systems to make recommendations for filters, cleaning schedule and maintenance contract.

Hannah Reidman has been hired as our occupational therapist. We are excited to have her join our team. She will be working with students with IEP's for OT services, supporting the handwriting without tears program in the classrooms (fine motor skills) as well as making recommendations for increasing core strength. She will be working on Thursdays.

Thursday and Friday are professional development days for the teachers and staff. We will not be attending the Island Institute workshops as they are being held remotely. Activities planned for the two days are finishing the mandated staff training, working on assessments, and an hour of mindfulness and possibly incorporating it into the school week.

School day hours are from 8:30am - 2:30pm. These hours reflect the same amount of time the students at Yarmouth are in school. Yarmouth schools will be re-evaluating the current length of day in early December. CIS will do the same. The 8:30-2:30 allows the PreK- 5 to have a full day of school and the teachers to have necessary planning time before the ferry.

Motion: Leah Guay moved that the school hours for Chebeague Island School should remain at 8:30-2:30 until the next time that Yarmouth Schools visits the school hours/remote learning at the beginning of December. Seconded by Carol White. Motion passed 5-0-0.

The Chebeague Island School Committee has a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the school bus. The school bus is for school aged students that attend Chebeague Island School grades PreK-5 and for grades 6-12 Chebeague Island students who attend Yarmouth Schools. If a parent chooses a different educational path for their students both the tuition and transportation is their responsibility.

Motion: Carol White moved that all school aged children may ride the Chebeague Island School bus to the ferry and home again provided there is room for them. Seconded by Leah Guay. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Old Business-

Policies- the finance committee is looking at the policy regarding purchasing and reimbursement.

Policies- There are to the School Committee members before the next meeting.

There will be a meeting at 5:00 pm on October 20, 2020 on ZOOM for the School Committee to review the Policies.

New Business

Finance Committee- The Finance Committee met on September 30, 2020 at the Town Office. The notes from the meeting are attached.

Guidance Positions- We hope to have a recommendation to the school committee within the next month.

Library Skills- Jeff Putnam shared a document about re-opening a library after a pandemic. The School Committee wanted to know when library skill classes were going to begin for the school. The lead teacher and the librarian are communicating via email to determine a health and safe way for the students to attend library classes.

Grounds- It was noted that there are some dead birch trees between CIS and CRC. There are also trees encroaching on the ballfield fence that we should look into trimming or removing.

Other Business- We will wait for Marjorie to let us know when there is a warrant to sign.

Executive Session- Leah Guay made a motion pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. subsection 405 (6)(D) Labor Contracts. Seconded By Carol White. Motion passed 5-0-0. Due to the topic of the contract Jeff Putnam excused himself and signed off from the meeting. The school Committee went into Executive Session at 7:42p.m.

Motion by Carol White out come out of executive session at 8:37p.m. Seconded by Leah Guay. Motion passed. 4-0-0. No action was taken from the executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann C. Kirkpatrick, Superintendent.