

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Beverly Johnson. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Stephen Todd and Jen Belesca, (Suzanne Rugh arrived excused late and Jeff Putnam was excused absent); school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer; and guest Geoff Summa.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Stephen Todd and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of April 13, 2017 as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence

Carol Sabasteanski from the Chebeague Transportation Company (CTC) asked for School Committee representation at an upcoming Yarmouth Town Council meeting scheduled for May 4th. An agenda item at the meeting is for the Yarmouth Town Council to consider the new CTC schedule for the upcoming year. Jen Belesca and Suzanne Rugh agreed to attend to support the schedule.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chair: Suzanne Rugh informed the School Committee of the week-long activities the CIS parents are doing to help celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Many great things are planned for the special week, and each day a different appreciation activity is being done. It is a great tradition, and the teachers are always very surprised and appreciative of the many great things our students and parents do for them.

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer shared with the School Committee that he has had communication recently with a family that may want to homeschool two children next year. He also shared information that outlined the potential grade level sizes for next year, and with two new students just added to grade 4 this week, that brings the class size to 10 for that grade level, which is our largest class. Next year CIS would have an estimated school total of 28. The class size for K-2 would be 7 and the class size for 3-5 would be 18. Due to the very unequal numbers, some modifications will need to be considered. And finally, Mike updated the SC on a request by the CPA to install a memory garden on the front grounds. The SC discussed the

request, and they said that the Superintendent might suggest to the CPA to have it in the current memory garden until our potential construction plans are firmed up or not.

Old Business

School Renovation Update: The School Committee reviewed the many notes and alternatives that have been given to them. Multiple renovation options and the corresponding costs were considered during the discussion. Overall, it was clearly recognized that a balance between the school's renovations and the impact on taxpayers needs to be a major factor. Geoff Summa suggested that getting second quotes on some work might be worthwhile. A number of renovation options were discussed and agreed upon by the SC, and those will be shared with the architect David Brunner for his planning. Mike Pulsifer shared a bond payment calculation sheet (with varying interest rates) which showed potential yearly payment amounts (principal and interest) on a twenty-year bond for different renovation alternatives. And finally, the SC agreed to mail out a post card announcement for the Open House it is planning for the community. The Open House will occur on Sunday, May 21st at 5 pm.

School Site Survey: Mike Pulsifer updated the School Committee on the status of the site work survey being done. The final survey should be done this week.

New Business

Quebec City Field Trip May 10, 11, 12: This year's grades 3-5 end-of-year field trip is to Quebec City, Canada. Beverly Johnson shared an overview of the three-day trip, and also went over some of the sites the group would visit. It was noted that the School Department does not have a field trip policy, or guidelines for trips. Mike Pulsifer was requested to get something for the policy committee to consider on field trips, and then share recommendations with the SC at a future meeting. A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Stephen Todd to approve the school field trip to Quebec City on May 10, 11 and 12. The motion passed 4-0.

Other Business

Warrant #21 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for the warrant.

Adjournment

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