

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 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, Pre-K Teacher Nancy Earnest and Technology Teacher Beverly Johnson; and guests David Brunner, Marjorie Stratton, and Laura Summa.

Executive Session

A motion was made at 5:06 pm by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Stephen Todd 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 6:02 pm a motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Jen Belesca 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 Suzanne Rugh to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Stephen Todd and seconded by Jen Belesca to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of January 22, 2019 as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence

The School Committee received a letter from the three classroom teachers requesting a time to sit down together and discuss the current teacher contract that expires on August 31, 2019. After discussion, Jeff Putnam said he would respond to the teachers and offer a time to meet.

The Superintendent received an email from Meredith Beaupre asking for more caution to be used for school students riding the ferry during rough weather. After discussion, it was agreed to have the Superintendent respond to the email.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chair: Jeff Putnam noted that the next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for February 19th and a few members will be away. After discussion, it was agreed to cancel the February 19th School Committee meeting.

Jeff also alerted the School Committee that our auditor Peter Hall will be at the March 5th meeting to review the 2018 budget. A copy of that report was in the School Committee members' packets.

And finally, Jeff reminded everyone that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee have a joint workshop on Wednesday, February 6th to look at a rough outline of the School Department budget. It was noted that Stephen Todd, Courtney Doughty and Suzanne Rugh will attend that workshop with the BoS.

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer announced that Yvonne Thomas from the Island Institute was on Chebeague Island January 29th to do a presentation on scholarships for our students.

Mike also shared a letter from the MainePERS retirement organization, noting that we had an audit by them, and it showed that a number of staff were not paying into MainePERS that should be. Mike will work with the organization to make sure this is fixed. There could be a cost to the district for some makeup retirement funds being paid.

And finally, Mike shared a draft letter to parents that discusses ferry usage by parents riding to the mainland for school events. After discussion, it was agreed to send that letter to our school parents.

Old Business

School Renovation Update: David Brunner reviewed the most recent construction meeting that was held, and gave an update on change orders and the renovation work progress. We are roughly at 86% completion of the project, and at 79% of the contingency spent. Dave will contact Pond Cove Millworks to see if we can get a good price on storage cubbies for the hallway, and for two needed cabinets in the new small classrooms. He will report back at the March 5th meeting. David also reviewed a Blower Door test done by Claire Betze. It showed progress is being made, and one last test will be needed when the building is secured. The target score is a 60% increase from the initial assessment she did. Mike Pulsifer asked if the School Committee would consider spending Capital Improvement funds for attic storage racks and bins. After discussion, a motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Stephen Todd to purchase storage racks and storage bins using the school's Capital Improvement fund, not to exceed \$3,000 in cost. The motion passed 5-0. Mike Pulsifer said he still does not have a subtotal for insurance claim damage due to the summer storm and the ensuing mold in the school. He will share that with the SC as soon as he receives it from Ducas. Mike also shared that he is in the process of reapplying for a food service application with the state. The big part of that is getting water samples tested and approved.

Beverly Johnson and Laura Summa did an online confidential survey with staff to get feedback on the move out of the school last June, and to get feedback on ways to approach moving back into the school. Most of the staff felt it was difficult or very difficult moving out. For moving in, the allied arts staff felt they would like to move in as soon as possible, but the classroom teachers felt that they could use more time to move in and get settled. Laura shared a four-phased plan to move back into the school, with her heading up the effort as a sub-contractor. After discussion, it was agreed to discuss this more at the next School Committee meeting on March 5th before making a final decision.

Superintendent Search: The School Committee discussed a plan for the application process, and also Jeff Putnam had a letter he wanted to share with staff to get their input during the search. At this point the SC is still collecting applications, and applications close on February 15th.

2019/20 School Department Budget: A lengthy discussion was held on the various parts of the school budget, and a draft of it will be redone including the various suggestions from the School Committee. It was noted that much is still to be done to get a final budget, and a special meeting may need to be scheduled to conclude the budget work.

New Business

Memorial Discussion: A discussion was held on forming a sub-committee to look into ways to do something to memorialize school staff who have passed away recently. Jen Belesca and Suzanne Rugh were appointed to form that sub-committee, and they will report back to the full School Committee at its next meeting.

First Reading of Policies: A motion was made by Jen Belesca and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve policies JL Student Wellness and JLCC Communicable/Infectious Diseases as first readings. The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

Warrant # 14 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for it.

Adjournment

Courtney Doughty motioned and Stephen Todd seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion passed 5-0.