

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Vice Chairperson Stephen Todd. Present: School Committee members Stephen Todd, Courtney Doughty, Suzanne Rugh, Jeff Putnam (excused late) and Jen Belesca (excused late); school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer; and guest Elizabeth Murphy-Lewis.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Courtney Doughty to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Courtney Doughty and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of May 29, 2018 as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence

Mike Pulsifer shared a letter that was sent to the School Committee from Nancy Earnest that outlined the Pre-K program's enrollments for past years. In it she urged the SC to develop a practice or policy to give oversight for future years' enrollments.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Murphy-Lewis came to the School Committee meeting to inquire about the possibility of the CIS Pre-K program taking students early. Elizabeth said she is not sure if she wants her son to take part in an early Pre-K program or not, but she was interested to know if that was an option for her to consider. The School Committee said that it was something they planned on discussing later in the meeting, as they did have an early admittance request before them to consider from another parent. The SC said they would discuss this more and get back to her.

Reports

School Committee Chair: None, but a general discussion was held among the School Committee members about the recent electrical failure at the school, and how it could be handled going forward. More discussion will take place later during the possible renovation.

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer reported on the recent Daughter of the American Revolution essay winners that CIS had. Each year our students take part in the essay contest and each year our students do very well when compared to other entrants in Maine. The following students received awards: Thaddeus Loder – State Runner Up; Eva Neumann – Chapter Runner

Up; Catherine Rich and Drew Hoidal – Chapter 3rd Runners Up. Mike also reported on the progress of a claimed bus accident, and he will keep the School Committee updated on that claim.

Old Business

School Renovation: The School Committee reviewed some recent discussion held on the Public Forum and the upcoming vote on Tuesday, June 12th. They also discussed the possible need for a new oil tank, or a new catch basis system. More discussion will be held after the vote next week on the additional funds needed for the renovation project.

New Business

Request for Enrollment into the Pre-K program for 2018/19: The School Committee received a letter from a set of parents requesting permission for their son to enter the CIS Pre-K program early. The normal date and age cut off is the student must turn 4 by October 15th to enroll in the CIS program. It was noted that the boy would turn 4 on November 22nd. It was also discussed that there are other possible students who could fall into that “early” category on the island, in addition to this request and the one from the parent earlier in the meeting who was inquiring about the possible early admittance of her son. The SC heard that there have been two exceptions made at CIS over the years to allow a Pre-K student to enroll early. The School Committee discussed that they would like a policy in place to guide future School Committee decisions on this topic, and that they would like to adhere to the state regulation that Kindergarten students may not enroll in school unless they turn 5 by October 15th, and use a similar date and age guide for the CIS Pre-K program going forward. The recommendation for the policy would be that all students must turn 4 by October 15th in order to enroll in the CIS Pre-K program. Mike Pulsifer was asked to convene the Policy Committee to work on a draft for the SC to review. A motion was made by Stephen Todd and seconded by Courtney Doughty to deny the request for a student to enroll in the CIS Pre-K program early, and to develop a policy to govern similar requests in the future. The motion passed 5-0.

Student Numbers and Class Sizes for 2018/19: A spreadsheet was shared that showed predicted class enrollments for next year. It also included any known new students who may be moving into town. The following enrollment numbers were predicted:

• Pre-K	1			
• K	2			
• 1 st	3			
• 2 nd	1			
• 3 rd	5			
• 4 th	3			
• 5 th	5	CIS totals	20	
• 6 th	11			
• 7 th	3			
• 8 th	4	HMS totals	18	
• 9 th	5			
• 10 th	6			
• 11 th	1			
• 12 th	5	YHS totals	17	Grand totals 55

A lengthy discussion was held on the low number in the Pre-K program, and the fairly low number in the K-2 classroom. Courtney Doughty said she knows of a possible new family moving to the island soon, and they have a Kindergarten and 2nd grade student. No decisions were reached on the low numbers and class configurations, but the SC Chair asked to put this topic on the next SC agenda and the discussion would continue.

Mike Pulsifer also shared some staffing questions with the School Committee that could occur if the renovation does happen, and our students and staff move over to the Recreation Center and Kids' Place. He will continue to review those staffing questions for next year and update the SC on any concerns or recommendations that he has.

Other Business

Expenditures to Date: A spreadsheet of the School Department budget spending from July 1, 2017 to June 5, 2018 was shared, and at this time it was noted that 89.6% of the budget has been spent. As the end of the year gets closer an updated expenditures spreadsheet will be shared.

Adjournment

Courtney Doughty motioned and Suzanne Rugh seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:28 pm. The motion passed 5-0.