

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Superintendent Pulsifer. As the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee were both excused absent, a motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Courtney Doughty to appoint Jen Belesca as Chair Pro Temp for the meeting. The motion passed 3-0. Present: School Committee members Suzanne Rugh, Courtney Doughty, and Jen Belesca; and school staff Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer and Pre-K Teacher Nancy Earnest.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Courtney Doughty to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of November 20, 2018 as written. The motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence

Mike Pulsifer shared a copy of the \$3,079 check from Phyllis and David Brunner for their water fountain donation to the school. Mike also included a copy of the water fountain specifications sheet and Suzanne Rugh agreed to write a 'thank you' to Phyllis and David Brunner for their generous donation.

Mike also shared an email chain between Chairperson Jeff Putnam and summer resident Peggy Brown about Peggy's efforts to secure funding for a uni-sex bathroom at the school renovation, and Jeff's response why the additional remodel is not financially feasible at this time. The School Committee was very appreciative of Peggy's efforts, and Jen Belesca agreed to write a "thank you" correspondence on behalf of the School Committee to Peggy for her time and interest on this.

Public Comment

Nancy Earnest said that she thought her sister Peggy Brown was disappointed that the uni-sex bathroom was not able to be done at this time due to increased costs and significant unforeseen project delays. She felt she understood the current priorities of the school competition and how it

is in the best interest of the students to not delay things longer after this year's unimaginable circumstances.

Reports

School Committee Chair: Jen Belesca reviewed a meeting she attended that morning with Jeff Putnam and Mike Pulsifer, who together met with a subcommittee from the Yarmouth School Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to work on a renewal contract of the current Tuition Agreement that Chebeague Island has with Yarmouth to educate the Chebeague students in grades 6-12. The current tuition contract expires on June 30, 2021. Jen reviewed some things in the proposed agreement that were either added or deleted, and each member of the School Committee present shared comments and/or asked questions on the draft proposal. Mike Pulsifer said that this draft tuition agreement will be on the next School Committee meeting agenda for the School Committee's further review and discussion.

Superintendent/Principal: Mike Pulsifer informed the School Committee that the school's Holiday concert would be held the next night (December 19th) at 5:30 pm and all are invited. As always, it should be a great concert.

Mike also shared a timeline he received from Town Manager Marjorie Stratton that outlines the Board of Selectmen's schedule for budget development and the two proposed joint meetings between the School Committee and Board of Selection set for Wednesday, February 6th and Tuesday March 19th. The final town budget meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th at 9 am.

Mike then presented the School Committee with his letter of resignation effective June 30, 2019. Mike expressed that he is resigning with a heavy heart, but it is time to spend more time with his family and grandchildren. He said he is very grateful for the four years he was able to spend with the great students, staff and parents of Chebeague Island. He also thanked the School Committee for their positive efforts and commitment to the students, teachers and school as well. The School Committee expressed their sadness at his leaving, but understood his reasoning. A motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Courtney Doughty to accept the resignation with regret. The motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

School Renovation Update: David Brunner had sent in a general report dated December 17, 2018 to the School Committee. In it he reviewed the work completed so far, the change proposals and a list done or being considered, and finally he shared an outline of contingency funds spent. David will be present at the next School Committee meeting on January 8, 2019.

Mike Pulsifer shared that he had been informed that Patrick Ducas had generously agreed to fund the purchase of the used Kohler generator from the Island Commons for the school. Mike was very excited that this would happen, and he will make sure to get the generator moved to the school and also will write a thank you letter to Patrick for his donation. At a later point a decision will need to be made on the generator's placement and on the size of a propane tank for it.

New Business

Teacher Leader: Mike Pulsifer said that there is a Teacher Leader vacancy at the Chebeague Island School, and he recommended Tammy Hoidal for that position. He included a copy of her application letter in the packets. After discussion a motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Courtney Doughty to appoint Tammy Hoidal as the Teacher Leader for the Chebeague Island School. The motion passed 3-0.

Other Business

Warrant # 11 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for it. There was a discussion on parents riding the CTC ferry, and the increasing costs of their fares going to and from the mainland that is paid by the School Department. It was agreed to have further discussion on this topic when the budget is being developed later this school year.

Adjournment

Suzanne Rugh motioned and Courtney Doughty seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:37 pm. The motion passed 3-0.