

Chebeague Island School Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes- at the Chebeague Island School
September 7, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by the School Committee Chair Leah Guay. School Committee members in attendance were Jeff Putnam, Suzanne Rugh, Viktoria Wood. Meredith Beapre was excused absence. Others in attendance were Superintendent Ann Kirkpatrick, Sarah Klein and Polly Wentworth.

Approval of Agenda for September 7, 2021- A motion was made by Leah Guay to add to the agenda under new business a discussion about transportation and a discussion about the open seats on the school committee. Seconded by Suzanne Rugh. Motion was approved with the addition 4-0-0.

Minutes from August 17, 2021- A motion was made by Jeff Putnam to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021, Seconded by Viktoria Wood. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Correspondence- None at this time

Public Comment - None

Reports

School Committee Chairperson- Leah Guay thanked the School Committee for trusting her to lead these past few months.

Superintendent/ Principal- Ann Kirkpatrick updated the School Committee with the progress of getting the Little Casco Tank ready for operation. There will be pavers placed by the kitchen door. They are donated and installed by Tracy Ames. The generator will be serviced this week. The lunch program is up and running- more students are eating school lunch. Polly and Ann will look for grants to supplement the cost of the food. We are also tracking the cost of each meal per student.

The students and staff have picked all the peaches and onions. Polly is processing the peaches for smoothies in the winter.

LeadTeacher- Sarah Klein reported that the school year is off to a great start. It was exciting to have more students. Teachers and students are learning the routines of the classroom and the school.

New Business

Opening of School - Enrollment as of 9/7/2021 was Chebeague Island School 15, Middle School 10, High School 16 and 2 out of district placements. Open House is being scheduled for Monday October 18, 2021. The public will be welcome, but masks must be worn inside the building.

Purchase of a second vehicle- The School Committee had a candid discussion about the need for transportation on the mainland for students. The Superintendent will make some additional inquiries with parents and CTC, before any further purchases are made.

Open Seat on the School Committee- Clarification was needed before the upcoming election and the vacant seats on the School Committee. The Superintendent received letters of resignation from the School Committee from Lauy Guay (B. moving) and Meredith Beaupre (D. resigned). It was understood that their seats would be up on September 14 after the election. The School Committee then has 30 days to fill the seats. The person's term who is filling the vacant seat will expire at the next annual meeting; June 2022.

The School Committee will begin the process of filling these two vacant positions.

Old Business

Review of the COVID Protocol- The school committee asked that the Superintendent research the mask mandate at other schools, survey the parents, staff and students regarding wearing masks and establish criteria for ending universal mask requirement when indoors. The island schools of Long Island, Isleboro, Vinalhaven and North Haven all have universal mask mandates for all people regardless of vaccination status when inside. A survey will be conducted before the first meeting in October. The results will be discussed at the October 5, 2021 School Committee meeting.

Establishing a criteria for ending the mask requirement is difficult at this time as there are variations of the COVID strand and infection rates are inconsistent. Since schools in Maine have gone back in session many students have tested positive around the state. This makes it difficult to determine a matrix to determine that masks are no longer necessary in schools.

Policy BED- Leah Guat moved that the School Committee accept the Policy BED Remote Participation in School Committee Meetings in its second Reading. Seconded by Suzanne Rugh. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Adjournment at 7:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann C. Kirkpatrick; Superintendent