

Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Held at CIS October 6, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by School Committee Chairperson Beverly Johnson. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam, Suzanne Rugh and Jennifer Belesca (late excused); Superintendent Principal Mike Pulsifer, and Pre-K Teacher Nancy Earnest; and guest Bob Earnest. Carol White was excused absent.

Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Jeff Putnam and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed 3-0 (Jen Belesca not in attendance at the time of the vote).

Approval of Minutes

The School Committee decided to wait until all members of the committee were present to vote on the approval of the September 15, 2015 School Committee meeting minutes. This item will be on the next School Committee agenda.

Correspondence

Mike Pulsifer shared the latest edition of the American School Board Journal with Committee members. Also, an update was given on the upcoming joint School Board/School Committee meeting on Saturday, September 17th with the Yarmouth School Board. They will come over on the 8:15 ferry, and be at the school a little after 8:30. To help the School Committee get more information for the meeting, it was agreed that the School Committee will invite current 6th graders to the School Committee meeting on November 17th to give feedback to the Committee on the students' beginning of the year experiences at Harrison Middle School. We will put the students at the beginning of the agenda.

Public Comment

None

Reports

School Committee Chairperson Beverly Johnson reported that the students went on a field trip Friday, September 25th and it was an overwhelming success. The children went to the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, and to Falmouth at Biodiversity of Maine for a conservation bird-banding exercise. The cost of the field trip and travel expenses were paid by a grant Beverly wrote to the Recompense Fund.

Beverly also informed the School Committee that William Robinson's family has set up a field trip fund in William's memory to help financially support CIS field trips. William loved the field trips that the school took when he attended CIS, and the family wants to support future trips for the students and school.

Mike Pulsifer reported that Chebeague Island School has a significant amount of REAP money available from the Federal Small School Rural Achievement grant. We have some funds available from the 2014-15 year (\$17,319) plus additional funds for this 2015-16 school year (\$17,332). The funds can be used to supplement the education of our students, but cannot be used to displace normal education costs.

Old Business

CIS Facility Study: A discussion was held on the presentation by Steve Blatt and Associates from an earlier School Committee meeting, along with a discussion of the CIS study results. Bob Earnest was in attendance, and he share quite a few thoughts on new construction, renovations and some thoughts on possible combining of resources between the school and the Recreation Center. Many different options and thoughts were shared among those present, but no firm decisions was made, other that the thought that more in depth discussion and study is needed. Some suggestions floated by the entire group were as follows:

- Should we do a student population study to give more information about student population growth predictions for the future?
- Would a combined Recreation/School facility be a best use of community resources?
- Much information needs to be clarified to understand the short term and long term cost differences between renovation the current CIS and building a new CIS. What is the most cost effective way to approach school needs?
- It might be a good first step to form a facilities committee to take the lead on the CIS facility needs. Membership should have a cross section of people, keeping in mind educational use needs, our town's financial implications, current structural needs, "green" energy options, and future costs down the road.

Current School Needs: Mike Pulsifer informed the School Committee that currently CIS needs some work on the roof, and it leaks quite a bit, and is in need of some TLC. He will begin that process. Also, the school's security fire alarm is not hooked up to a 911 call center or other emergency contact that would alert our Fire Department in the event of a fire at school. The Recreation Center next door is using a local alarm company, and Mike plans on working more on this problem to solve it.

School Committee Orientation: It was agreed to wait until the next meeting to do the School Committee Orientation due to all members not being present.

New Business

AP Warrant #5 was reviewed by the School Committee and approval was authorized for the warrant.

Ed Tech III Job Description: This job description was not reviewed, and it was agreed to wait until the next meeting to vote on it.

MEAs From Spring 2015: Mike Pulsifer shared the results from the grades 3-5 Spring 2015 Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) of our CIS students with the School Committee. The results were good, and our students appear to be progressing positively. It is only one measure of student growth, and too much weight should not be given to one assessment. Mike did note that scores from the English Language Arts sections were not scored by the state for our CIS students, due to some computerized glitches and test design. He noted that 51 schools across the state had the same issue, and the Department of Education is aware of the problem. And finally, he shared that this assessment will not be used by the state going forward but some sort of assessment will be used in its place.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Beverly Johnson motioned and Jeff Putnam seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:47 pm. The motion was approved 4-0.