

# **Chebeague Island School Committee Meeting Minutes Held at CIS September 1, 2015**

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Suzanne Rugh, Jeff Putnam, Jen Belesca (excused late), Carol White (excused late); Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer, Food Service/Custodian Laura Summa, and guests Steve Blatt, David Pinkham, Steve Doel, Marjorie Stratton, Doug Ross, Geoff Summa, Chris Loder, Joan French, Charles Hall, Herb Maine and David Hill.

## **Flag Salute**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Suzanne Rugh and seconded by Jeff Putnam to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jeff Putnam and seconded by Suzanne Rugh to approve the minutes of August 18, 2015. The motion was approved 3-0.

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Reports**

School Chairperson Beverly Johnson reported that three student volunteers came to CIS and helped clean, repair and set up the CIS computers. A big thank you goes out to Erin, Luke and Jonathan Groothoff for helping get the school laptops ready for our students.

Superintendent Mike Pulsifer reported that the new school vehicle has been purchased and is on the island ready to go. It is a 2006 Ford Freestyle, all-wheel drive. After some general discussion, the School Committee agreed to have the old van sold to a salvage yard.

Mike also updated the School Committee on the two workshop day plans for CIS staff. The teachers will be working at school on September 2nd and 3rd, with students coming to school on Tuesday, September 8th.

And finally, Mike informed the School Committee that Ann Marie Dubois retired and a replacement Speech and Language consultant will need to be found.

## **Old Business**

2015-16 Meeting Schedule: A quick discussion was held on the 2015-16 School Committee meeting schedule, and it was agreed to schedule our meetings this year on the first and third Tuesday of each month. If additional meetings need to be scheduled, or scheduled meetings

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need to be canceled, the School Committee will make those adjustments as needed. The 2015-16 meeting schedule will be posted on the school department's website.

CIS Facility Conditions Study: Steve Blatt, David Pinkham and Steve Doel were in attendance to review the facility study that they did at the end of the school year. Steve B. reported that the study was done from a structural/mechanical perspective only, and not from an educational or functional use point of view, so the report is designed to inform the School Committee on the building strengths and needs. Much discussion was held on the study, with major time spent discussing the roof, building envelope, heating/ventilation, and kitchen needs. Some key recommendations offered in the study are as follows:

- Replace the roof with a sealed flat roof
- Structurally reinforce the roof, so that it can bear more weight, and it could be closer to BGS code specifications
- Replace windows, and reduce the number of windows
- Replace the siding and add more/better insulation
- Build entrance vestibules in the front and rear of the building
- Redo the heat and ventilation systems of the building, use more efficient methods
- Add an exhaust fan in the kitchen and add a stove hood, fire suppressor, and also replace the kitchen counters and floor
- Electrically it seems fairly sound, but upgrades could be done
- All exit signs need to be lit up and functioning
- A fire alarm system needs to be set up for the school to a responding unit
- Expansion of the building may be needed for storage/classroom needs

A question and answer time was given, with guests and School Committee members bringing up topics and questions for the Facility Study team. An overview of some points brought up were as follows:

- What would it cost to build a new school? Estimate of \$1.2 - \$1.6 million was suggested.
- What would it cost to renovate the school? Estimate of \$315,500 if the school was on the mainland, with an increase of approximately 25% more for on-island costs (approximately \$400,000 for an on-island total). \$400k would cover the entire recommendations from the study. Delaying lower priority items might lower the projected costs by about \$100k.
- Could renovations be done over the summer, so there would be fewer disruptions to the students' education? The answer was yes, work could be done mostly over the summer.
- Would alternative energy sources or creative heating/venting be a good idea? Possibly, but the small size of the building, coupled with installation costs could overshadow the positive paybacks. More discussion would be needed on this topic.
- Could the school use the Recreation Center more, and possibly not need construction additions? Possibly, but that needs to be explored more in the future with the Rec. Center.
- What type of soil base does the school have, and would it drain sufficiently for roof drains? The school is on one of the higher sections of the island, and has excellent drainage, with the soil mostly made up of gravel.
- Would reducing window space help with energy costs? Possibly, windows can lose heat and reducing the window space could help save costs. The window square footage at CIS is much greater than is recommended for new construction.

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- Was an energy audit ever done? Yes, approximately 5-7 years ago. Carol W. will try to find that and share it with the School Committee.
- Was an educational space use study done? No, but Steve B. recommends that one be done prior to renovations or construction. More conversation is needed on this topic.
- Has the school population fluctuated greatly over the last seven years? At this time we have 33 students, and that is just a bit more than normal. It might be prudent to have space available in case the school population grows in the future, or at least have a plan in place to consider if expansion is needed.

A the conclusion of the discussion, the study team was thanked for their time and expertise.

### **New Business**

AP Warrant #3 was shared among the School Committee members and approval was authorized for that warrant.

### **Adjournment**

Beverly Johnson motioned and Jeff Putnam seconded to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:45 pm. Voted unanimously, motion approved.