

Chebeague Island School Committee Workshop Minutes Held at CIS - October 17, 2015

Call to Order

The workshop was called to order at 8:39 am by School Committee Chairperson Beverly Johnson. Present: School Committee members Beverly Johnson, Jeff Putnam, Suzanne Rugh, Carol White and Jennifer Belesca; and Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer. Also present were guests from the Yarmouth School Committee; Margaret Groban, Jeanne Rapone, Leah Guay, Phillip Jones and Laura Conroi; and Yarmouth Superintendent Andrew Dolloff.

Joint Workshop

Breakfast foods and drinks were provided by Laura Summa, and the two School Committees began the meeting with a short overview of the positive joint relationship each community shares with the other. A list of discussion topics from the Chebeague Island School Committee was shared with everyone.

Discussion Topics:

- Transition of island students to the mainland.
- Difficulties of island students to do extra curricular activities with respect to logistics and transportation.
- Increase in Yarmouth school enrollments: will that ever effect the Chebeague Island/Yarmouth tuition agreement?
- Opportunities for Yarmouth teachers and students to use the island resources in their educational curriculum and studies.

Each discussion topic was reviewed, and those present had the opportunity to share their perspective of education for Chebeague Island and Yarmouth students. Some discussion points are noted below:

- Being an island community has its own set of complications, and our CI students learn early to be punctual for ferries, school and activities, and usually learn good life lessons from island living. Transitioning to mainland schools is a process that our students and parents work with on a regular basis.
- Chebeague Island students and parents would like to see more transportation options for after school activities. A suggestion was offered to work with CTC to make bus run(s) to Yarmouth High School, and both sides said they would work together to help with this.
- The Yarmouth Superintendent Andrew Dolloff noted that they have had a sizable increase in their overall student population, and a number of them have needed ELL services. At this time they have approximately 1,590 students, as compared to roughly 200-300 less five years ago. They still look forward to the Chebeague Island students attending Yarmouth schools in grades 6-12 and plan on renegotiating the tuition agreement so it is firmly in place for the 2017-18 school year and beyond. Andrew handed out a booklet of Yarmouth's Strategic Plan, and went over some key points for the two committees.

- An offer was made to the Yarmouth School Committee for their students and teachers to come to Chebeague Island to take advantage of any island natural resources or educational opportunities that might work for the students and teachers.
- A tour of the Chebeague Island School was given by Beverly Johnson to the guests.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am, and both sides commented that it was a positive workshop.