

Chebeague Island School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Jeff Putnam. School Committee members in attendance were Elizabeth Doughty, Courtney Doughty and Geoff Summa (6:10). Nancy Earnest was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Ann Kirkpatrick. On Zoom for the presentation with Yvonne Thomas from the Island Institute was Yvonne Thomas, Nancy Earnest and John Wilson.

**Approval of Agenda for January 24, 2023-** A motion was made by Courtney Doughty to approve the agenda for January 24, 2023 with the Chair taking New Business out of order.. Seconded by Elizabeth Doughty. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Minutes from January 10, 2023-** A motion was made by Elizabeth Doughty to approve the minutes for January 10, 2023. Seconded by Courtney Doughty. Motion passed 3-0-0..

**Correspondence-** none

**Public Comment - none**

**Student Enrollment-** Jeff Putnam asked Yvonne Thomas to share with the School Committee what other communities/islands are exploring to deal with the declining enrollments at their schools.

Although declining enrollment is happening on the mainland and on the islands, it is magnified on the islands without the border of a townline. Schools are the center of most communities so to keep them open some of the islands have joined together to share students, offer timelimited programs ( a week, month or semester) that are of interest to students like STEM, arts and theater, or sustainability of the fishing industry. Another idea was a magnet school; residential and day programs that specialize in Math and Science (Limestone), Ocean (Searport), Small Class Size (Isleboro).

Is there a threshold of a school size where the benefits of a small class size outweigh the social benefit? The answer is individual to the school and the student. Some of the outer islands have started a TLC program and book clubs. Chebeague Students participate in book groups. Discussion was around where would Chebeague draw students from in the local area, what would be the incentive for students to come to Chebeague School for the day and how are the extra students funded?

**Report from School Committee Chair-** Jeff Putnam thanked Yvonne for her insights and 40 minute discussion with the School Committee.

**Report from Superintendent/Principal-** Ann Kirkpatrick updated the school committee with the research into the prices of 5 computers for the school. The winter newsletter is in the final stages of editing. This newsletter will be about Chebeague Island School. Cunningham security is coming out to work on the fire alarm panel tomorrow.

**Report from Lead Teacher-** Sarah Klien had a letter to the School Committee.

### **Old Business**

**2023/24 School Calendar** - The first draft of the school calendar was reviewed. Input from the staff is needed to discuss starting before or after Labor with the students and teacher workshop days.

**Handbook-** There is an issue with the school policies from the former school website.

**Budget 2023/24** - The School Committee authorized the Superintendent to advertise for a part time PreK teacher for the 2023/24 school year.

### **New Business**

**Superintendent Evaluation-** The policy guiding the evaluation of the superintendent was given to all the school committee members. The timeline was set to have the evaluation completed by March 21, 2023.

**Warrant-** There was a warrant to sign-

The School Committee adjourned at 7:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann C. Kirkpatrick; Superintendent