

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017—6:30 P.M. (AFTER THE BASKETBALL GAME)  
ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Board members present: Laura Houle, Bill Kelly, Mike Boucher, Lars Nelson, and John Gorham. Others present: Patrick Phillips, Heather Knight, Kristen Kelley, and John Oldham.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes of the December 13, 2016 board meeting: Motion by Mike Boucher, with second by John Gorham, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 board meeting. Unanimous in favor.
- III. Correspondence: None.
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda: It was agreed to move the discussion of staff housing needs prior to any other agenda items.

Staff housing discussion: This discussion was intended to continue previous conversations with the board about staff difficulties in finding appropriate, affordable housing. The board had discussed possibly setting a goal to work on this issue in the coming year. Also present for this discussion were Kristen Kelley, who serves on the board of Islesboro Affordable Property (IAP) and has had difficulty in finding housing over her years as a teacher, and John Oldham, who has worked as a realtor for many years on the island. Heather Knight had volunteered at the last meeting to survey staff about their housing searches since being employed by ICS. The survey results had been forwarded to the board late last week, and therefore did not need to be reviewed in detail at the meeting. It was clear, however, that the board believed the data affirmed their earlier opinion that housing is indeed an issue that needs further work. Heather noted that once she had assembled and reviewed the results of the staff survey, she too had a new appreciation of the difficulties that staff had faced over the years. Kristen provided an overview of recent IAP activities and stressed that the model IAP uses depends on donations, relies on paying down debt to free up new money for projects, and must deal with variations in the demand for housing. Her personal story was also shared with the board, and included the fact that she has moved seven times since beginning to work at ICS five years ago. It was clarified in the discussion that one of the key issues is finding affordable year round housing, due to many rental properties not being available during the summer. John Oldham affirmed that from his perspective, the housing issues for staff are difficult to solve, given the nature of the existing housing stock on the island and the price of land. He also noted that any efforts to address only staff issues with housing run the risk of being seen as preferential treatment. The discussion then turned to potential projects around the island, where land was

made available by the town, and what other efforts are underway to address the housing issue for both staff and other families. It was agreed that the school committee is probably not the best entity to attempt to solve this problem, but that the data and voices of the board could have an impact if shared with IAP, the town, and the media. Heather agreed to also seek similar information from families. At that point, the data would be shared with the town, IAP, and potentially be used as a basis for news coverage. It was agreed that the best solution to the problems would be if private developers or builders recognized Islesboro as an investment possibility and increased the construction of new affordable housing options. It was also agreed that once the data gathering with families is completed, we would seek opportunities to meet with town officials to explore appropriate roles for all concerned interests.

- V. Review of Financial Records: Mr. Phillips noted that no unusual events had occurred that would impact either the anticipated revenues or expenditures. He noted that in the coming week or so, he and Sally would begin the process of mapping out a preliminary budget, then meet with Heather to add her requests for the coming year. The board would then have a more detailed discussion at the February board meeting.
- VI. Open Session: No comments were offered.
- VII. Presentations
  - a. Review and discussion of Mid-Year Memo to Staff (Heather and Patrick): Patrick and Heather reviewed a one-page overview of high priority tasks that will shape the work of the professional staff in the coming months. These include: completing work on the educator evaluation system, continuing work on key curriculum areas, finishing the work of the Stipend Review Committee, completing a review of technology needs in advance of seeking a new laptop computer purchase, providing adequate time for various teams to conduct planning meetings (elementary team, sustainability committee, middle school team, pathways team, and the principal's advisory committee). The work plan also noted that the budget development process will intensify in the coming weeks, and that a school calendar for next year will need to be approved as well. Bill Kelly noted that his belief is that the staff needs to continue to focus on those tasks that will have the greatest impact on student learning, and that we should carefully examine any work that stems from external influences.
- VIII. Unfinished Business
  - a. Second reading of policies:
    - i. ACAA—Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
    - ii. ACAA-R—Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
    - iii. IHBA—Individualized Educational Programs
    - iv. IHBAC—Child Find
    - v. Update on inquiry to Charlotte Bates, policy specialist at MSMA

Motion by Bill Kelly with second by Mike Boucher to approved the second reading of the above policies. Unanimous in favor.

b. Update on staff housing needs: Heather Knight (see above)

IX. New Business

- a. Discussion of budget priorities for the development of the 2017-18 ICS budget: Patrick noted that the February board meeting is when the budget discussions begin in earnest, but that if the board had any high priority goals that could help frame the process, the administration would include those in the early work. Members of the Facilities Committee discussed briefly the conversation held earlier in the day about several budget priorities for maintenance and transportation needs.
- b. Discussion of next steps in the development of Educator Evaluation System; possible distribution of board policy for February review: Mr. Phillips noted that this item had been reviewed in the discussion of the work plan earlier in the meeting.

X. Committee/Administrative Reports

- a. Principal: Heather noted that her report was covered in the work plan discussion.
- b. Superintendent: Patrick distributed a short memo that covered his report, including a summary of meetings scheduled for the month of January, and a summary of the recent MSMA bulleting on Governor LePage's plan for the state budget.
- c. Region 8: John Gorham noted that nothing new needed to be reported at this time, but that work continued on clarifying aspects of the new building project.
- d. Committee Reports: none

XI. Other Business: none

XII. Executive Session: none

XIII. Adjournment: Motion by Mike Boucher with second by John Gorham to adjourn. Unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick R. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools