

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017—6:15 P.M. IN THE ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Vice Chair Bill Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Board members present: Bill Kelly, Lars Nelson, John Gorham, and Chloe Joule. Board members absent: Laura Houle. Others present: Heather Knight, Patrick Phillips, Kate Legere, James Hayden, and Melissa Jagger.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the September 12, 2017 board meeting: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Chloe Joule, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 board meeting. 4-0 in favor.
- III. Correspondence: None
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda: None
- V. Open Session:
 - a. James Hayden, Islesboro resident, spoke to the board about several issues: the General Mills “box top” program, transportation issues related to the magnet program, and concerns about the impact on taxpayers of school budgets. James asked whether board members and school administration were aware of the box top program, and though there was awareness by some, no one had experienced the program first-hand. James cited this program as one way to lessen the impact on local taxpayers of increasing school budgets, and was disappointed that his previous inquiries to board and administration had not been responded to. Bill Kelly suggested that the school should run a pilot of the box top program to see if indeed it was worth the effort. James also expressed strong disagreement with the practice of picking up magnet students at the ferry when they arrive late for school. He expressed the opinion that it was the parents’ responsibility to get students to school. Bill Kelly asked that the school collect data on the degree to which this is happening, report back to James once it is assembled, and to prepare for a discussion at an upcoming board meeting. James also expressed concerns about the number of Quicksilver trips for magnet students, and cited this as another example of spiraling costs.
 - b. Melissa Jagger, parent and Islesboro resident, had several comments about curriculum and standards-based grading. She expressed strong support for the school and was very happy, overall, with how her three children are being educated at ICS. However, she expressed concerns about the pace at which the school is moving toward a standards-based system, most notably standards-based report cards. She encouraged the administration to begin piloting this type of system soon, and asking students to help lead the way by becoming more knowledgeable about their learning targets.

Melissa also expressed strong support for kinesthetic learning and encouraged the school to include more opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning. She also asked about the process for posting coaching positions, and whether all positions were routinely posted. Mr. Phillips responded that if teachers or school employees express interest in coaching positions we do not advertise outside the school. This is a contract issue. Melissa also asked about how Athletic Directors are evaluated in cases where they are also coaching. Ms. Knight responded that that is one reason we have two Athletic Directors and noted that she also participates in the evaluation of coaches. Melissa also expressed a worry about several incidents at away games where racially charged language had been used by fans of ICS opponents on the field. She was very supportive of the climate here at ICS but expressed the worry that students might not be prepared for how other schools address this issue. She recommended a recent report from the ACLU which Heather had recently received.

VI. Presentations

- a. Heather Knight and Kate Legere presentation of the revised 2017-18 Student Handbook: Kate and Heather provided an overview of the recommended changes to the Student Handbook. Kate had “volunteered” to do a significant amount of the editing and reformatting, since the last complete review of the document had been conducted a number of years ago. Heather noted that examples of other Student Handbooks were reviewed in the process. Bill Kelly suggested that we make specific reference to the Magnet Program policy in that section. He also suggested that we reword the “disciplinary action” section to allow for a more nuanced review of serious behavior infractions. He suggested that three aspects of behavior should be included in how the administration and board responds: severity, intent, and consequence or outcome. Bill also noted that the section on firearms in school should be reviewed for consistency with the statute. Patrick and Heather agreed to make the suggested changes and bring back to the next meeting for board review and consideration for approval.
- b. Heather Knight presentation on a 10-year overview of ICS enrollment: Heather presented a one-page summary of student enrollment and family residential history, both those who have moved off island and those who have successfully found housing and remain. Heather noted the prevalence of housing as a common factor in the basis for families moving off island. John Gorham noted that the current level of Islesboro resident students is as low as it has ever been. Heather updated the board on the outlook for the next 4-5 years, in view of the current enrollment at the preschool and efforts by the town to focus on affordable housing and the broadband initiative. If current trends persist, we can look forward to having roughly 65 island students in the K-12 program. If the magnet

program continues at its current level, the overall enrollment would remain around 90-95 students overall. The board expressed support for sharing this report with the Select Board.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Board goals discussion (with board policy ADA as framework): Bill Kelly asked whether the board had given thought to the possibility of identifying a small number of goals and objectives for the year ahead. Lars Nelson expressed the view that the school has a great deal going on currently, and that we might not need a framework of goals in addition. He expressed strong support for some continuation of the board's commitment to the affordable housing issue, and to find a way to connect on a regular basis with the Town. Bill Kelly asked whether Lars would consider serving as a liaison to the Town on these issues. Bill also suggested that the superintendent develop a letter to the Select Board noting that Lars was willing to serve as liaison on affordable housing issues, and that the superintendent should also develop a broad resolution statement on affordable housing that could be shared with the Select Board. Bill also asked individual board members to come prepared to the next board meeting with ideas for goals.

VIII. New Business

- a. Fuel oil and propane bids: Two bids were submitted for #2 fuel oil, from Downeast Energy and M/M Fuel. The board examined the bids and required documentation. Both bids were for \$.25 above rack price. It appeared that the bid from Downeast Energy did not have all the required documentation, and a motion was made to award the bid to M/M Fuel. Motion by Chloe Joule, with second by John Gorham, to award the fuel oil bid to M/M Fuel. 4-0 in favor. The board then reviewed the bids for kerosene, two were also submitted, Downeast Energy and M/M Fuel. For reasons identical to the above, there was a motion by John Gorham, with second by Chloe Joule, to award the bid for kerosene to M/M Fuel. 4-0 in favor. Bill Kelly asked that the enclosed policy on bid procedures be brought to an upcoming meeting of the Policy Committee for minor revisions.
- b. Consideration of school nurse contracted services agreement: Patrick summarized the basis for adding this contract for school nursing services, and added that the school would also work with the Islesboro Heather Center for other services throughout the year beyond the scope of the agreement being discussed. Bill Kelly suggested that we add a statement as #6 to the agreement: "Under this agreement the nurse will not be an employee of Islesboro Central School, not be eligible for benefits, and not covered by the teachers' contract." Patrick agreed to make those changes for complete the process. Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars

Nelson, to approve the agreement with Chris Harrington to serve on a limited basis for school nursing services. 4-0 in favor.

- IX. Committee/Administrative Reports
- a. Principal: Heather presented her written report which included an update on the upcoming Magnet Committee meeting scheduled for October 12 at 3:00 p.m. She also updated the board on the winter extracurricular appointments, including Chris Bolduc as coach for middle school boys basketball, and Krysti Zollman and Cami Richards for high school girls basketball. She explained that there was not sufficient interest by students to field a boys basketball team, but that she would be working with the students and Athletic Directors to put together an alternative set of experiences to maximize access to scrimmages, pick-up games etc. to give the students as much as possible. She also noted the upcoming visits of college educational programs to ICS.
 - b. Superintendent: Patrick updated the board on board subcommittee meetings, including the attempt to have a Facilities Committee earlier in the day, which was postponed due to attendance. The postponed meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room. Other committee meetings: Finance Committee on Oct. 24 at 3:00 p.m.; Policy Committee on Oct. 24 at 4:30 p.m., and Magnet Committee Oct. 12 at 3:00 p.m.
 - c. Region 8: John Gorham said that the Region 8 board had received a financial update at its last meeting, but more importantly ground has been broken for the new center!
 - d. Committee Reports: None.
- X. Other Business
- XI. Executive Session
- XII. Adjournment: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to adjourn. 4-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick R. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools