

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017—6:15 P.M.—ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Board chair Laura Houle called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. Board members in attendance: Laura Houle, Bill Kelly, John Gorham, Lars Nelson, and Chloe Joule. Others in attendance: Chris Morris, Renee Miller, Heather Knight, and Patrick Phillips, superintendent of schools.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes of the April 11, 2017 board meeting: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2017 board meeting. 4-0, with 1 abstention (Joule).
- III. Correspondence
  - a. Letter of resignation: Mr. Phillips noted that he had received a letter of resignation from art teachers Lisa Freeman, and that he had accepted the letter on behalf of the board. Heather updated the board on the status of securing a long-term substitute and plans for posting the position in the next week or so.
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda: Mr. Phillips asked that we add board committee assignments to the agenda, to be added to new business.
- V. Review of Financial Records: Mr. Phillips summarized his discussion with Sally McDonough regarding the status of the expenditures and revenue budgets. At this juncture, we are still expecting to end the year with a balance forward of roughly \$60,000-\$70,000. We are,, however, monitoring all expenditures and spending only for emergency needs.
- VI. Open Session: No comments from the public.
- VII. Presentations: ICS Special Education Programming: Chris Morris and Renee Miller: Mr. Phillips introduced the two ICS special education teachers (Chris is also Special Education Director), and commented on how fortunate we are to have two such experienced, creative, and hard-working staff. Chris and Renee were in attendance to provide an overview to the board of the ICS special education program, covering basic facts about our approach to least restrictive environment, co-teaching, and student numbers. They also discussed their approach to parent collaboration, development of IEPs, and our process for evaluating students when there is a referral. Mr. Phillips noted that the referral process takes place in the context of the Response to Intervention (RTI) program which serves as an early intervention and pre-referral process. Chris and Renee also reviewed the current case load by type of disability and discussed projections for student numbers, also in the context

of our improving RTI program. Chris also discussed a pilot program for delivering speech/language services through an innovative web-based program, which should save the district several thousands of dollars. If successful, the program could be expanded in coming years.

#### VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Approve modified school calendar: Mr. Phillips explained that the school calendar adopted at last month's meeting included only 174 student days, a fact that was picked up by Region 8 staff. Heather and Patrick recommend that we add one additional day to the end of the year. Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by John Gorham, to approve the revised school calendar for the 2017-18 school year. Unanimous in favor.
- b. Teacher Evaluation policy: Mr. Phillips reviewed the process of developing this policy through the work of the Evaluation Stakeholder Group. He noted that Maine DOE has not made any modifications to their regulations on evaluation even though the new federal ESSA law does not require states to require districts to use student growth as one component of local systems. He explained that as a result this most recent version of the policy includes an approach to student growth that he believes is consistent with our values and school size. Heather outlined her efforts this year in phasing in the new evaluation framework, including her regular work with teachers to understand the standards for teaching embedded in the Marshall rubrics. Bill Kelly raised strong concerns with the language on student growth included in the policy, and was supported in this perspective by several other board members. Mr. Phillips agreed to revised the language to make it more flexible, and bring it back to the next meeting. Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the first reading of the Teacher Evaluation policy, subject to the commitment to revised the language on student growth. Unanimous in favor.

#### IX. New Business

- a. Nomination of probationary teachers: Mr. Phillips nominate the following teachers for third year probationary status: Colden Golann, Jon Kerr, Chris Morris, Rob McHugh, Patrick Powers, and Jess Woods. He also nominated the following teachers for second year probationary status: Deborah Farr and Renee Miller. Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by Chloe Joule, to approve the nomination of the superintendent for probationary teachers. Unanimous in favor.
- b. Board officers and committee assignments: It was agreed to add Lars Nelson to the Facilities Committee to fill the board seat held by Mike Boucher, who will continue to serve as a community member of the committee. It was also agreed that Chloe Joule would replace Mike Boucher on the Finance Committee. It was also noted that we often address board officers at the first meeting after town meeting. Laura Houle was nominated to continue as board chair, and Bill Kelly was nominated to continue as Vice-chair. Unanimous in favor.

- X. Committee/Administrative Reports
- a. Principal: Heather reviewed her report to the board which included some reflections on the town meeting (suggestions and comments by the public), an update on special visitors coming to school on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (students participating in the National Transportation Conference), and an update on school events for the remainder of the year.
  - b. Superintendent: Mr. Phillips also shared his notes on comments and concerns raised by the public at town meeting and suggested that we put this topic on the agenda for June to do a more formal review of the list of concerns. He also noted that Ryan Martin has been moving forward with his proposal for adding new capacity to the barn, and will be presenting his proposal to the Facilities Committee next Tuesday.
  - c. Region 8: John Gorham update the board on recent developments with the construction project at Region 8, including preliminary infrastructure work being conducted by the City of Rockland, and the ongoing efforts to gain input from neighbors.
  - d. Committee Reports: None.
- XI. Other Business: Laura Houle wanted an update on the condom question. Patrick noted that he had met with Jess and Patrick and learned that we do have a temporary plan in place but would be taking additional steps. He agreed to provide a more thorough update at the June meeting. She also updated the board on the very successful senior trip, and spent several minutes describing the many ways that our seniors demonstrated outstanding conduct during the trip. She and they had a wonderful time!
- XII. Executive Session: None
- XIII. Adjournment: Motion by John Gorham with second by Lars Nelson to adjourn. Unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Phillips, superintendent of schools