

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2016  
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 6:20 p.m. Attendance: Board members Laura Houle, Bill Kelly, Lars Nelson, and Mike Boucher. Also in attendance: Heather Knight, Julie Reidy, and Patrick Phillips, superintendent.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approval of minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting: Motion by Mike Boucher, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Unanimous in favor.
  - b. Approval of minutes from the February 23, 2016 board budget workshop: Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by Laura Houle, to approve the minutes of the February 23 board budget workshop. 2-0 in favor, with Bill Kelly and Mike Boucher abstaining.
  - c. Approval of minutes from the March 1, 2016 board budget workshop: Motion by Mike Boucher, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the minutes of the March 1 board budget workshop: 3-0 in favor, with Laura Houle abstaining.
- III. Correspondence
  - a. Letter from small schools coalition regarding student testing: Nan Lee, Chairperson of North Haven, suggested in her letter that other island and other small schools come together to voice concerns around testing and the DOE approach around impact and accountability reports. Superintendent Phillips is supportive and willing to pursue this at the state level with the board backing. Superintendent Phillips will report back on what the strategies these tiny school may want to take in addressing these issues. Mike B. wants to be part of a collective voice but does not want to be grouped with other schools that may not have the same level of performance. Bill K. does not want to this to be a loss of local educational control.
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.
- V. Review of Financial Records: Superintendent Phillips shared the good news with our current financial numbers, that revenues have been helped a bit by the enrollment of two new magnet students, and expenditures proceeding as planned. April 1 will be the cut-off date on access to purchase order unless a conversation is needed to address end of year expenses.

- VI. Open Session: Julie Reidy commented that she would like us to consider streaming our meetings in the near future. Mike Boucher is in support and would like to have an idea of what the budget or staffing impact. Bill K. brought up other issues related to transparency, streaming versus taping and how it assists with sharing information. Superintendent Phillips noted that the streaming option would raise questions of the degree to which someone would need to monitor any online discussions and feedback. He and Heather will review options for some sort of video record of meetings, including any logistical considerations, and report back to the board at the April meeting.
- VII. Presentations: None
- VIII. Unfinished Business
- IX. New Business
- a. Approve bid specs for additional storage space attached to gymnasium: Superintendent Phillips has been working with Dick Cilley on the process along with input from Former Superintendent Mattos on the bid process. Mike B. went through, item by item, to review the materials and the specifics of the door to make sure that it matches up with our furniture need. The roof will continue from the existing storage space roof. Mike B. worked with Dick to pull out whatever we are going to have to do ourselves with our current connections with electrical work, plumbing, two sprinkler heads. The bidders needs to provide insurance at the time of the bid. Bill K. asked about the elevation drawings and asked if the bid is specific enough for the bidders to know what they are fully aware of what they were building. Bill K. would recommend providing more information before going to bid. Superintendent Phillips referenced that the former building specifications are being used to outline the size, scope, and recommended materials for this new addition. Mike B. offered to work with Dick Cilley to create a list of specifications that would provide the bidders more information. Bill K. made the motion to approve with addition information which will inform a bidder using an Exhibit A, to specify the type, quality, and quantity of materials, and reference that it needs to confirm the current building and that Mike and Dick compile to clarify the project. Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by Mike Boucher, to approve the bid specs to be amended with an Exhibit A. as discussed. Unanimous in favor.
- b. Discussion, and possible adoption, of proposed school budget for the 2016-17 school year: The board reviewed and discussed the budget draft that had been approved at the March 1 board budget workshop. Mike Boucher noted that he is concerned about the technology budget and whether the separation of the role into two separate positions is working as intended. There was discussion about whether this concern should be reflected in an adjustment to the proposed budget, but it was decided that it would be preferable to complete a review (to be conducted by Heather and Patrick) of the current staffing plan,

and return at a later time with recommendations. Bill Kelly suggested that options should include bidding out for some aspects of our current technology support plan. Bill Kelly also wished to express disagreement with how the contracts for consultants are being developed and implemented. He noted that he has argued previously that in-house capacity be developed instead of using outside consultants. Heather Knight and Patrick both stated that expertise to support curriculum development and professional development does not always exist among faculty, particularly in a small school. Patrick noted that the board last year specifically included extra money in the budget to be sure there was sufficient support for administration and key unmet needs, such as curriculum development. Both Heather and Patrick noted that while the contracts for consultants may be somewhat generalized, the accountability for execution is ongoing, and that the additional support has helped the staff make significant progress this year. Mike Boucher suggested that this might be the time to add money to the budget, in either equipment purchase lines or in a capital equipment reserve account, for the purpose of adding a tractor to the current equipment inventory. After weighing the various factors, the board decided to ask Dick Cilley to develop a more complete rationale if any new equipment is to be included in the budget. It was also recommended that Patrick and Dick ensure that the school and town share equipment to the extent possible. Motion by Bill Kelly, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the proposed 2016-17 budget, including a requirement that any new consultant contracts be approved by the board. Unanimous in favor.

- c. Set meeting date for signing budget warrant articles: The board agreed to set a meeting for Tuesday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. for signing the warrant articles.
- d. Discussion of town meeting presentations: tabled until the April board meeting.

#### X. Committee/Administrative Reports

- a. Principal: Heather Knight provided an extensive summary of Tuesday morning's visit by staff from the Department of Education for the purpose of reviewing the school's progress in developing Proficiency Based Educational systems. She thought the meeting went very well, and affirmed much of the recent progress in curriculum development and designed new ways to personalize instruction. She noted that a DOE team will return in June for further discussion.
- b. Superintendent: Superintendent Phillips agreed with Heather's assessment of the visit, and noted that our team (the Principal's Advisory Committee) did a great job of expressing our commitment to a unique approach to supporting students in their efforts to achieve proficiency. Our approach will emphasize each student's personal passions and interests, and will

represent a true “student centered” approach, not a standards driven approach.

- c. Region 8: None.
- d. Committee Reports: Superintendent Phillips provided a brief summary of the progress being made by the educator evaluation committee.

XI. Other Business: None.

XII. Executive Session: None.

XIII. Adjournment: Motion by Bill Kelly, with second by Mike Boucher, to adjourn. Unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.