

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2016—6:15 P.M. IN THE ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Houle at 6:16 p.m. Mike Boucher was absent. All other board members were present (Houle, Kelly, Nelson, and Gorham). Also in attendance: Superintendent Patrick Phillips, Principal Heather Knight, Ryan Martin, Kristen Kelly, and Julie Reidy.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board meeting minutes from December 8, 2015. Motion by John Gorham, with second by Bill Kelly to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 board meeting. Lars Nelson noted that he abstained from the vote at that meeting on the minutes of the November board meeting, which he did not attend. Mr. Phillips noted that he would make that correction.
- III. Correspondence: None.
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda. It was suggested that Ryan Martin's presentation under New Business be moved to the next item on the agenda to allow Ryan to catch the boat.
- V. Ryan Martin presented his proposal to broaden the scope of his Horticultural Program to a "Sustainability Studies" Program. Ryan outlined the key aspects of his proposal, including his hope to include an increased number of interdisciplinary course offerings with other high school teachers. Expanding the scope of the current program would involve adding another day and a half to Ryan's schedule, the cost of which would need to be picked up ICS. The response to Ryan's presentation was very supportive by the board. Given that the budget process is still in its early stages, it was suggested that the board give concept approval to the proposed, asking Ms. Knight and Mr. Phillips to bring back specific budgetary implications in the near future. Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to grant concept approval to Ryan's proposed new program. Unanimous in favor.
- VI. Review of Financial Records
 - a. Review 2014-15 audit report: Mr. Phillips noted that each board member has a copy of the auditor's report on the table at their seat. He summarized the findings of the report in simple terms, that the report had found no irregularities and that Sally McDonough is doing a terrific job of managing the school's finances.
- VII. Open Session
- VIII. Presentations
 - a. Heather Knight and Jessica Woods will present an action plan for Magnet Program promotion and recruitment: Ms. Knight and Kristen Kelly discussed the upcoming steps that will be taken to inform families about the ICS Magnet Program. Ms. Knight shared a two-page action plan that included the development of a new brochure and several meetings with current and prospective Magnet Program families. Julie Reidy noted that it is important to strengthen communications with island families as well as Magnet program families and to connect students to the community.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Second reading of policies:
 - i. ECB—Pest Management in School Facilities and on School Grounds
 - ii. ILD—Educational Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses, or Evaluations.
 - iii. IKE—Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students
 - iv. JICH—Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
 1. It was moved by Lars Nelson, with second by Bill Kelly, to approve policies ECB, ILD, IKE, and JICH for second reading. Discussion: Lars Nelson noted that a couple of the policies had inconsistently used the terms School Committee and school board. Mr. Phillips agreed to make these corrections prior to posting online. Unanimous in favor.
- b. Discussion of reworked policy GCB—Awarding Steps on Teacher Salary scale
 - i. Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by John Gorham, to approve first reading of policy GCB. Discussion: Bill Kelly recommended that the language in the policy regarding consulting with the teachers association should be removed. This should be an administrative decision. Bill Kelly also recommended that the “public” school wording be replaced with “certified” school to allow for private school experience. Mr. Kelly also noted that the concept of “exceptional” be addressed, so that it is clear that any granting of credit for years of work, outside of K-12 education, should be based on significantly useful experience and relevance to the position. Laura Houle noted that it is important to not involve the board in these matters. Mr. Phillips agreed to bring back modifications to the next meeting. Unanimous in favor.
- c. Continued discussion of budget process and priorities: The board expressed the desire to see a first draft of the budget that is based on high priority needs, but that overall the budget should be as close to flat funding as possible. Mr. Phillips noted that he would bring back a budget that focuses on innovation and improvement, and that whenever possible any additional spending would be based on reallocating existing funds. It was noted that we should add the budget development timeline to the website so the public can remain informed about the board’s process.

X. New Business

- a. Discussion of proposed redefinition of Horticultural Program to Sustainability Studies Program: Ryan Martin (see above)
- b. Set goals and date for board workshop (proposed for Tuesday, February 2): Mr. Phillips suggested that the board schedule a workshop for February 2, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. for a presentation on the progress made to date on the Action Plan presented at the beginning of the year. The 4:00 timing would allow several faculty members to attend more easily. It was agreed that such a workshop would be a good idea.

XI. Committee/Administrative Reports

- a. Principal: Ms. Knight reviewed the most recent draft of a K-12 science curriculum, and noted that Jon Kerr had done an excellent job of developing a model structure that can now be used by the other content areas to move forward on completing curriculum documents by the end of the school year, or at the latest by the end of the summer.
- b. Superintendent: Mr. Phillips stated that his report for this month is in the form of a draft article for the local newspaper, based on his earlier writing and beliefs about the most appropriate form of accountability. With the passage of a new federal education law, he noted, Maine has a chance to recalibrate its accountability structures, and should shift toward a more flexible and local type of accountability.
- c. Region 8: John Gorham noted that another site is being considered for a possible new building for the Region 8 center, this one in Warren.
- d. Committee Reports: None.

- XII. Other Business: Bill Kelly noted that he wished to attend an upcoming faculty meeting to discuss his personal views on the proposed new position. He has concerns that initial conversations with faculty may not have captured his reasons for recommending we add such a position. Laura Houle commented that she would like to attend at the same time. It was proposed that the first faculty meeting in February would be a likely time for such a discussion.
- XIII. Executive Session
- XIV. Adjournment: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to adjourn. Unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.