

ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017—6:15 P.M., ICS MUSIC ROOM

MINUTES

6:00 P.M.: Finance Committee meeting to review warrants.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chairperson Laura Houle called the meeting to order at 6:15. Board members present: Laura Houle, Bill Kelly, Lars Nelson, John Gorham, and Chloe Joule. Other present: Patrick Phillips, Heather Knight, and Colden Golann. Due to the Presentation by Colden Golann, it was agreed to move the presentation up the beginning of the meeting.
- II. Presentations: Colden Golann on middle level character trait rubric and program to support student development: Colden, representing the middle school team, presented a framework or rubric for monitoring a variety of “character traits” that the team discussed and are prepared to pilot this year, in an effort to both help students develop more effective personal and interpersonal skills, and to provide a system for addressing student classroom behavior issues. Colden reviewed a few presentation slides that provided a broader context on why and how the rubric was developed, what other models the staff had looked at, and how the team would collect data on how well the students are doing against the standards embedded in the rubric. Bill Kelly voiced his concerns with several aspects of the way the rubric would be used with students. He worried that rating students on their character runs the risk of implying to students that if they receive a low score they are people of poor character. Bill suggested that our school size and commitment to personalization allow us to use less data-intense methods to build positive character, suggesting that a more conversational approach would be more consistent with our broader goals for student development. Bill’s concerns were also voiced by other members of the board, who suggested that our approach on other state mandates has been noteworthy for the degree of flexibility we have used to adapt such policy directives to our small size. This should be a case where we do the same. Heather and Patrick suggested that we take this feedback from the board to the middle level team, regroup, then return to the board in either October or November with a revised approach.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 board meeting: Motion by John Gorham, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2017 board meeting. Unanimous in favor.
 - b. Minutes of the August 29, 2017 special board meeting: Motion by Lars Nelson, with second by Chloe Joule, to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2017 board meeting. Unanimous in favor.
- IV. Correspondence: None

- V. Adjustments to the Agenda: Mr. Phillips stated that in reviewing prior records, it appeared that any withdrawals from the renovation account at the Maine Community Foundation need to be approved by the board. He noted that the funds were to be used to pay for the recent replacement of the cafeteria floor. Motion by Bill Kelly, with second by Lars Nelson, to approve the withdrawal of \$7,500 from the MCF renovation fund. Unanimous in favor.
- VI. Open Session: No comments from the public.
- VII. Unfinished Business
- a. Board subcommittee meeting dates (see table of committees): Mr. Phillips reviewed the updated chart of board committee, and highlighted the proposed schedule of meetings for the year. John Gorham asked if we could move the Facilities Committee to later in the day, and it was decided to meet at 4:00 p.m. on the scheduled dates. Laura asked if we could start the Curriculum Committee meetings at 4:00 p.m., which was agreed to. Mr. Phillips noted that if subsequent discussions lead to a board presence on the Magnet Committee, he would add that committee to the chart.
 - b. Continued discussion of policy JFAB-R—Admission of Non-Resident Students, including Magnet Committee and superintendent agreements: The board continued its discussion of this policy, which was tabled at the last meeting. The issues that were raised in August were whether the Magnet Committee should include one or more board members, and whether this policy should make reference to the enrollment of children of staff. Several members of the board voiced support for board presence at the Magnet Committee meetings, even the possibility of all board members attending. After some discussion, it was decided that Chloe Joule would be the board official member of the Magnet Committee, but that other board members were welcome to attend if there is interest. Heather listed the dates for the meetings through December. On broader issues that the board has identified with the Magnet Program, it was suggested that this policy be tabled until January, at which time, Chloe will have had time to participate in Magnet Committee discussions for a few months, and will be able to make recommendations to the full board on possible policy implications. It was agreed to bring this policy back in January.
 - c. Discussion of guidelines on public/student usage of the Kinnicutt Center: At the August meeting the board asked that the issue of student and community use of the gym be placed on the agenda for board review. Heather included a gym use form in the board packet as a starting point for discussion. Bill Kelly stated his position that we should provide maximum access for students to use the facility, without adult supervision if not available, and have a sign-up sheet to allow the administration to follow up if there are issues. Other board members expressed concerns

about student safety and care of the facility, and worried that taxpayers might share such concerns. Heather described the usual steps that she takes to arrange for adult supervision, which includes school staff as well as parents, to maximize access to the gym. After getting a sense of where each of the board members stood on this issue, it was decided that the current procedures should remain in place for the time being.

VIII. New Business

- a. Update from Heather on extracurricular appointments: Heather provide a list of her appointments for various extracurricular positions for the coming year.
- b. Board goals for the 2017-18 school year: It was suggested that this policy and discussion be placed on the agenda. Several board members discussed the board goal from last year on affordable housing, and the frustration that the board was not able to point to clear evidence of success. It was also expressed that this is a very complex issue, and one that is not among the customary powers and duties of school boards in general. Several positive comments were offered regarding the efforts underway with the Town to spur greater access to affordable housing. It was decided that board members would take the next month to consider what goals and objectives should be considered for the coming year, and be prepared to return to this topic at the October board meeting.
- c. Faculty/Administration goals for the 2017-18 school year: Heather and Patrick briefly presented a one-page list of faculty and administration goals for the coming year.

IX. Committee/Administrative Reports

- a. Principal: Ms. Knight updated the board on upcoming Open House and Harvest Fest details, on her plans to bring a 10-year enrollment review to the next meeting, and the faculty meeting focus question for the year.
- b. Superintendent: Mr. Phillips noted that he will not be here on Thursday, as planned, due to an unexpected trip to D.C. this week.
- c. Region 8: John Gorham said that nothing new had occurred since last meeting, other the awarding of the bid for the construction project.
- d. Committee Reports: None.

X. Other Business: Laura Houle noted that she will not be present for the October meeting due to her family trip to Austria. Mr. Phillips will work with both Laura and vice-chair Bill Kelly to develop the October agenda.

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. 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 R. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools