

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

3:30 p.m. – Long Island Library Conference Room

MINUTES

Citizens in the audience are invited to speak during public comment and/or on a topic that is introduced during the course of the meeting under New Business. Each citizen is to be limited to one presentation per citizen, per topic, of not more than three minutes unless the chair gives special permission. Audience participation shall cease on a topic at such time as the chairman calls for board discussion.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mrs. Powers called the meeting to order at 3:45. Ms. Donovan, Mr. Whitener and Mrs. Train were also present. Mr. Avignon was traveling abroad and unable to attend.

2. ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

Mrs. Powers explained that it was time to elect a new Chair. Mr. Whitener nominated Ms. Donovan, who agreed to serve. The motion passed 2-0.

3. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Whitener moved approval of the June 12, 2019 minutes. Ms. Donovan seconded his motion which passed 2-0.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Powers then reported that this year's Open House will be held on Tuesday, September 24 from 5:00-7:00. The program will begin with appropriate topics covered in the Great Room and then families will move to the classrooms to learn more about day-to-day and curricular learning activities.

She also reported that Mr. Whitener, Mrs. Rich, Mrs. Train and she met with representatives from Trane, the building's heating software maintenance providers. There was an explanation of their service contract and necessary partnership with Pine State to insure proper heating for the classrooms and rest of the facility. Coordination between the two providers has been an issue. Mr. Whitener agreed to more fully explore the best direction for the school given those remaining issues; i.e., consideration of using a single provider for all purposes – mechanical and software. He felt it would be worth trying that arrangement for a year to see if more consistent heating could be achieved at less cost. He will report back to the board next month.

Mrs. Powers also reported that a School Custodian has finally been hired. New to the island, Whitney Leblanc has agreed to take on 10 hours per week of custodial support for the school, plus summer coverage for the library and deep cleaning of the classrooms. Her hours will be transferred from Mrs. Rich's former contract per her request.

Regarding tuition revenues, she reported that we added one unanticipated high school student and are grateful to have a reserve account to take care of that unbudgeted cost. The tuition amounts for the coming year have been released: \$11,198.66 per student to Portland's Middle and High Schools and \$21,340.18 per elementary student attending Long Island. Currently, 5 Great Diamond Island children attended Long Island as kindergarten through 5th graders.

Great Diamond Island also recently inquired about the duration of the tuition agreement with Portland. They learned it is valid through 2023. As succession is contemplated, GDI parents hope to receive assurance that the agreement will last at least ten years. If the contract needs to be reopened, legal counsel will be utilized.

Finally, Mrs. Powers noted that the 2019-20 school year would be her final year as superintendent. Recruiting of her replacement will begin in the winter.

7. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Train reported that she has met and worked with the new grade 3-5 teacher on Chebeague Island. Student collaboration is being explored – Chebeague's five 5th graders with our single 5th grader. Thematic studies in science and social studies are possible areas for shared resources and research. Mrs. Train also reported that Weather Blur is another area of collaboration. Mrs. Powers added that in the past, we met with Chebeague teachers to work on Common Core learning goals in reading and math, and another year to calibrate writing evaluations by grade level. The two schools share their academic goals so any further collaboration should go smoothly.

Mrs. Train also noted that the first day of school went very well! All the children but one were able to attend. They all settled in very well and enjoyed what the teachers had planned for them.

Finally, Mrs. Train announced that she and Mrs. Norton attended a three-day literacy conference in Rockland this summer. The Island Institute finally picked up on the need for quality professional development in a multi-age setting, following the lead taken by North Haven who hired two dynamic and very experienced literacy specialists to work with their teachers to help raise reading performance. There will be a follow up session at the Island Institute Fall conference.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Powers reminded the board members present that the fall Maine State Superintendent and Maine State School Board Conference will be in August on October 24 and 25. At the October board meeting, she suggested the elect their delegate for this year's assembly, which will be held on Thursday, October 24.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 4:35.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Open House: Tuesday, September 24th, 5:00 p.m.

2019-20 School Board Meetings:

School Board meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise indicated. For School Year 2019-20, the following dates are proposed:

October 2
November 6
December 4
January 8
February 5
March 4
April 1 (really!)
May 6
June 3