

**Sebago School District
School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 29, 2018
Sebago Town Hall**

1. Call to order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Tina, Chair, at 6:39 pm

Members of the Sebago School Committee present:

Joe McMahon
Tina Vanasse
Wendy Newcomb

Guests present:

Superintendent Marc Gendron
Allen Crabtree
Phil Lowe
Claudia Lowe
Anne Mc Mahon
Tammy Girardin
June Allen
Donelle Allen
Lisa Johnson
Audrey Douglass
Jeremy Turon
Chris Balchunas
Kirsten Goff
Mandee Dearborn

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Adjustments

A discussion on student transfer policy was added to New Business, as was a discussion on the calendar

minutes of last meetings

Joe made a motion approve the amended minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting 2nd by Wendy. Minutes approved.

5. Public Comments

Joe suggested the town website posting of School District minutes be ordered chronologically for better reading, with the most current at the top. Allen will investigate to see if it can be fixed. Allen also asked about leaving the old MSAD61 minutes on the town website for historical questions and the general consensus was to leave them on for now.

Lisa asked about the funding for student transfer vouchers. Marc will include this information in his Superintendent Report.

6. Superintendent's Report

A. Pre-Kindergarten

A Pre-Kindergarten Charter School Concept worksheet was distributed. Superintendent Gendron has met with the sponsors. There are some advantages for embracing the charter school concept for pre-K including full funding from \$4,000-\$8,000 for each child. A pilot program for 4-year olds was discussed. No funding would be available until 2020. Charter school funding would come from the State Education pot. Sebago would provide the place, administration and students, while charter schools would provide expertise. Pre-K would be open to any child in Maine, Pre-K size probably would be 16 students. Partnering with the Sebago level-4-day care could be done. There are nine charter schools in Maine currently.

Wendy asked if Sebago would have their own teachers for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Marc said that a class of 16 students would require 1 teacher and 1 ed tech. More students would require additional teachers and/or ed techs.

Joe asked about transportation. The Superintendent said that Pre-K students from Sebago would ride on SES buses, but there would not be any SES bus transportation for out-of-town students.

B. Staffing Updates

Marc said that there is a good candidate pool for staffing vacancies, and that interviews with candidates will take place this week and next. Interview teams include a member of the School Board, a teacher, and a parent. Interviews for positions in K/ grades 1-2/ grades 3-4/ and grade 5 are how they are done now, but he is proposing changing that to K/ 1-2, 3/ and 4-5. Classes could be mixed for reading – he has seen it work in four other districts – an emphasis on reading works.

Joe asked about getting grade 5 ready for the 6th grade rubric in math and had questions about the SAD61 grading system.

Wendy asked for more information on the rubric. It is a specific set of instructions with accomplishment measured on a scale of 1 to 5, and is applied to many tasks, not just math.

C. Superintendent Agreements

Five SES students wish to go to other districts, and 8 wish to come to SES. Kindergarten size is a problem – there are 17 coming to Kindergarten from Sebago now. He has denied Superintendent Agreements for K students coming from other towns over concern for class size and staffing needs. There are also revenue input and staffing cost implications – a rough breakeven is \$6,700 per student.

Lisa reminded everyone that Baldwin stood behind SES on the 2 ½ years of the withdrawal process. Also, with increased population growth in Sebago means that Kindergarten will be larger in future years.

Phil commented that kids coming in to SES at the Kindergarten level will be with SES for the full K-5 term. What is the tipping point?

Donelle asked about SES kids going to Sacopee Valley.

Marc said that there should be automatic approval for siblings so that no families are split between different schools.

Claudia wanted to know what the student space limitations in the SES building are. Marc said 150 students max.

D. Investigating changes to testing, software support programs and K-5 Math programs

Marc said that he was not a fan of the Envision Math Program and that a focus group with teachers prefer Everyday Math.

E. IXL and NWEA informational presentation

Marc gave a PowerPoint presentation on the IXL and NWEA methodology. He is a strong supporter of reading programs as key to positive student progress.

7. Old Business

There was none

8. New Business

- Discussion and approval of 2018 – 2019 School Calendar

The draft calendar was presented and will be brought back next month for action. An open house will be added on August 27. There was discussion about the ski program and the December 14 scheduled early release.

- Distribution and discussion of School Committee training materials; set training schedule

Training will be set up for all the School Committee members once the June elections are done and there are 5 committee members.

- Elect vice-chair for June 26th meeting

Tina will not be at the next meeting. Wendy made a motion, 2nd by Tina, to appoint Joe as the temporary Vice Chair to lead the meeting.

- Discussion of Student Handbook

A draft of the hand book was discussed. A question was raised about free lunches for all. Allen was asked to post a copy of the draft handbook on the town website

- Discussion of Student Transfer Policy

Under the terms of the agreement with MSAD61 we will pay tuition for 80% of Sebago students to the Middle School and the High School. The other 20% may go to other schools at the state tuition rate. Should students for these 20% slots be selected on the basis of a lottery or on a first-come-first-serve basis. Since this would be a multiple-year process from Grade 6 through 12, one option would be a lottery to get in and then the student would stay in the block. It was agreed that a policy is needed.

9. Communications

There were none.

10. Adjourn

The meeting of the Committee concluded at 8:20 p.m. following a motion by Joe McMahon and 2nd by Wendy Newcomb and approved by the Committee.

- The next Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:30pm at the town offices.