

**Sebago School Department
Regular School Committee Meeting
July 27, 2021**

There was a Regular Meeting of the Sebago School Committee on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 in the Library of Sebago Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The following School Committee members were present – Donelle Allen, Chair, Justin Fariel, Joe McMahon, Wendy Newcomb, and Tina Vanesse. Also present were Superintendent David Galin, Principal Kirsten Goff, Secretary Allen Crabtree, Randa Viitala, and Jock McGregor.

The meeting was called to order by Donelle Allen, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Adjustments to Agenda

There were none.

Minutes

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the minutes for the School Committee meeting of June 22, 2021. Vote Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

Presentation/Report

There were none.

Principal's Report

- Summer school is going well. The kids are enjoying themselves and we have had pretty consistent attendance. Tomorrow, the students who are working with Mrs. Harmon will be doing some experiments with waves and writing about their findings.
- Our new head custodian, Dave Brown, has been working hard getting the school ready to reopen. He also repaired the ceiling that was damaged by the burst pipe in the hallway. The biggest cleaning projects left are the art room and the cafeteria.
- Our lead driver, Jay Sanborn, has resigned. I have posted for a new bus driver on the website, school sign, and ServingSchools.org. I have asked Michelle Stosez to take over as

our lead driver. Mr. Sanborn has been an incredible asset and we will all miss him very much!

- We are hiring Halloye Johnson to be our new music teacher for one day a week. We worked with SAD 61 to hire a music teacher. They were struggling to hire someone for three days a week and we couldn't find anyone for one day a week. Once we combined our efforts, we found a wonderful candidate! The kids are really going to like her!
- We are still looking to hire a half-time special education teacher. I reposted the position today.

Superintendent's Report

- Water quality issue – our copper levels in the drinking water are too high. We will contract with Mitigation Systems to monitor our water quality four times a year for a fee of \$800 per year. Barbara Nichols has stepped down from those duties.
- The Maine School Board Association needs a representative from the Sebago School Committee and asked for any volunteers.
- The Reopening Committee will meet on August 3 at 4:30 p.m, to plan for the fall school reopening. There will be a workshop on August 10.
- Kathy Harmon sent a thank you note for the retirement ceremony and gifts.
- The School Department needs a parent to serve on the Operations Committee. Are there any recommendations?

Action Items

There were none.

Policies – First Reading

- A. Video Surveillance on School Property, File Code ECA
- B. Earned Paid Leave, File Code GBP

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the first reading of the above policies. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

Discussion Items

Superintendent Galin commented that he had participated in a conference call with Maine State CDC Director, Ms. Walensky, and Dr. Shah about the current status of the COVID-19 response.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Jock McGregor addressed the School Committee and asked them how they felt about teaching the Critical Race theory. Donelle Allen said that we teach elementary school basics in our curriculum. McGregor went on that he felt it was not in the best interest of students to teach it. Donelle Allen said we don't want to detract from teaching basics at SES. She doesn't know how the teachers feel about the subject. Sebago is a very diverse community. Tina Vanesse wanted to know if the Critical Race theory is a Department of Education mandate. Superintendent Galin said that it is not in the Department of Education rules. Principal Goff said that Sebago is a minimum receiver of state funding. Wendy Newcomb said that it is not appropriate to discuss this at this time, and Joe McMahon said we are not exactly sure what is involved with the Critical Race theory and how it would affect SES. Donelle Allen said that we have no plans to teach the Critical Race theory at SES at the present time, but will discuss the subject if there is any move to recommend teaching it in the future. Parents will have a role as well as teachers in making recommendations.

Information Items

- School Committee Workshop – August 10, 6:30- 7:30 p.m., SES conference room
- School Committee meeting – August 24, 6:30 p.m., SES library.
- The MSMA Fall Conference will be held October 28 – 29, 2021

Adjournment

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Justin Fariel, to adjourn. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried..

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Secretary

Date Approved