

**Sebago School Department
School Committee
September 22, 2020**

There was a Regular Meeting of the Sebago School Committee on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Sebago Elementary School.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Tina Vanesse, Chair, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Sebago Elementary School.

Members of the Sebago School Committee present:

Tina Vanesse, Chair
Joseph McMahon, Vice Chair
Donelle Allen
Wendy Newcomb

Administrators present: Marc Gendron, Superintendent of Schools
Kirsten Goff, Principal

Guest present:

Allen Crabtree, Clerk
Randa Viitala
Chris Balchunas
Phil Lowe
Claudia Lowe

In addition there were two individuals who followed the meeting via the live-streaming video.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Wendy Newcomb asked about the test option – was it from Harvard or Yale? Superintendent Gendron said he would address this under his report.

Superintendent Gendron said that the reopening committee will meet on October 6 at 5:30 p.m. A public meeting will be scheduled to hear comments from parents.

Minutes

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Donelle Allen, to approve the Minutes from the August 25, 2020 Sebago School Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Randa Viitala said she had comments to contribute to the Discussion section of the agenda.

Presentations/Reports

Phil Lowe talked about the Capital Improvement Program for the school and the Town of Sebago Capital Improvement Program. Superintendent Gendron distributed copies of the Sebago School Dept CIP Projections and explained the SAD61 debt service payments through FY2032. The amount to be raised as part of the School Department budget for debt service will be \$193,227 for FT 2021, and this amount will be levelized for following years. This will allow creation of a CIP reserve over time as Sebago's obligation to pay down SAD61 debt service declines. The Sebago CIP reserve account will be used for transportation, technical, Special Ed and other budget requirements. He then explained the estimates for Capital Improvement Short Term Opportunities.

Donelle Allen wanted to know the projection for the life of the modular. Superintendent Gendron said that we intend to address the moisture issues, and if we take care of the modular the useful life will continue past the 20-year life projections for this type of unit. The modular was installed about 2005.

Superintendent's Report

- School Lunches – All lunches for all students will be free for the coming year. Distance learners will be offered twice per week pick up of 10 meals per week. We now have 18 students (14 families) doing distance learnings and only 2 of them have opted to receive the free lunches.
- Opening Professional Development Days - Teachers were glad to be back, masks were not a problem, kids were happy, we will continue to follow CDC guideline.
- FEMA Grants – we were not successful in getting this grant.
- Remote Learning – information has been shared with families. Every day Angela Niles has a 1:1 contact with remote learning students.
- Freezer for Cafeteria – Grant paid \$3,000, \$1,200 out of pocket
- Esther Chase is retiring
- Steve Minott has resigned as a part-time custodian
- Harvard/Yale University Testing Program – there is no funding for participation in this saliva-based COVIP-19 testing program, and no indications that if Sebago were a participant that there would be any testing done of our students. The universities will use our data if we have any. No plans now for anything further with this study.
- Vacation – Superintendent Gendron will be taking time off from October 2 till October 20.

Principal's Report

- Our current enrollment is 114, with 18 learning remotely. We started with 25 students choosing remote learning. Several of the students who switched back to in-person learning did so just before school started. The others have been trickling back in for a variety of reasons.
 - PK 10/1
 - K 15/1
 - 1st 15/1
 - 2nd 14/3
 - 3rd 9/5
 - 4th 15/1
 - 5th 16/5
 - SC 3/0
- Gina Elwood will be donating five Chromebooks to the school for students to use.
- Remote meeting daily for roughly 60 minutes followed up with independent, parent supported work. Mrs. Nilles checks in regularly with me to discuss students and their needs.
- The opening of the school has been wonderful! We are so happy to have the kids back in school. When we reopened, it had been 6 months since we saw them in person. It has been amazing to see how much they have grown and changed. A returning second grader said to Mrs. McConnell with a happy sigh, "It's so good to be back in school."
- For as much as we were concerned about the kids wearing masks at school, they really haven't been an issue. A few simple reminders for a few kids and they have been good to go. The teachers are getting outside as often as they can and making use of the tent areas and the shade structure.
- At last week's early release, we had training from Ann Fifield on how to check books in and out using Alexandria. (Just a little plug to families that we need those books back that were sent home in the spring!) We also discussed the Second Step SEL program and scheduled the kick off for this past Friday with the kids. We made some minor adjustments to the schedule to facilitate a smoother transition from recess to lunch and formed a committee of teachers who created a different rotation schedule for the playground. We decided on what kind of training folks wanted and scheduled that out for the next few early releases. At tomorrow's meeting, we will learn more about SeeSaw (which is a parent communication tool teachers in PK-2 and remote learners use, have more training on Second Step, and do more work on preparing for remote learning.
- We have made some adjustments to the reopening plan. First, we are changing the cleaners the teachers use to clean between kids who sit at their tables to work with them. We are returning to the "green" cleaners we have used for years. Dr. Blaisdell said COVID-19 is not a very strong virus that can be cleaned with regular cleaners. We will continue to use the "heavy-duty" cleaner for the nurse's office. Also, we reviewed the guidelines from the DOE, again, and have changed the cleaning of the busses to be once a day at the end of the school day. We will use the more heavy-duty cleaner for that as well. We felt confident in this change since all students present a Golden Ticket to get on the bus, take a squirt of hand sanitizer, sit alone or with a family member, and have their masks on the entire time

they are on the bus. Students in grades 6-12 do not have to present a Golden Ticket nor show the driver an app on their phone. SAD 61 is not requiring their students to do this. So, we won't be requiring it of the students we send to them. They are still required to wear a mask, take a squirt of hand sanitizer, and sit alone or with a household member.

- We would like to thank the PTC ahead of time for lunch tomorrow. Also, we would like to thank the Girl Scouts for the games that have been painted onto the old basketball court.
- I would really like to thank the families who have been incredible about remembering to send their kids to school with their "Golden Tickets". Also, the drop-off and pick-up routine is coming along nicely. Parents are coming in a timely manner and being respectful of the process. While we do have parents that line up out on 114, I am very thankful that the breakdown lane is built for parking cars.

Finally, I would also like to thank families for taking this seriously and keeping their children home when they present with any of the potential COVID-19 symptoms. It means that more kids will be absent more often, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Action Items

Nomination of Marika Ramey as a Social Worker

A motion was made by Tina Vanesse, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the hiring of Marika Ramey as Social Worker for Sebago Elementary. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy – First Readings

A motion was made by Donelle Allen, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the first reading of the following 17 policies. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1) Job Description, File Code GAB
- 2) Personnel Records and Files, File Code GBJ
- 3) Professional Staff Hiring, File Code GCF
- 4) Employee Social Media Privacy, File Code GCFA
- 5) Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers, File Code GCK
- 6) School Volunteers, File Code IJOC
- 7) Employee Computer and Internet Use, File Code GCSA
- 8) Student Achievement/Evaluation of Student Proficiency, File Code IK
- 9) Grading and Reporting of Student Progress, File Code IKAB
- 10) Patriotic Exercises, File Code IMDA
- 11) Animals in School, File Code IMG
- 12) Service Animals in School, File Code IMGA
- 13) Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response, File Code JLFA
- 14) Managing Students with Food/Substance Allergies, File Code JLCEA
- 15) Guidelines for Management of Allergies or Medical Conditions Caused by Foods/Substantial/Scents, File Code JLCEA-R
- 16) Students with Allergies or Medical Conditions Caused by Foods/Substances/Scents, File Cod JLCEA-F1

Discussion Item

Music, Library, and Arts Programs

There was discussion on the changes to the library program under the COVID-19 requirements. Superintendent Gendron said that the librarian is willing to come back if needed, but there is no perceived need right now. We will keep this option open.

Donelle Allen said that the School Budget for FY 2020-2021 included funding for the library and music programs. Other schools have been able to teach music with appropriate safeguards to deal with COVID-19. Library usage teaches life skills, important to all our students. We should have both the library and music programs at Sebago Elementary.

Superintendent Gendron said that the hours for the art teacher have been increased with 80 minute sessions, 2 days a week. Budget cuts must be made somewhere because of our tight budget.

Principal Goff said that Sebago Elementary has had 15-20 students in band.

Superintendent Gendron said that Jen has 100 hours and will work with 4th and 5th grade students for music. We will continue to look at the library program – reading is our #1 priority.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

Information and Communication Items

Thank you cards have been sent to recognize school contributions.

The new isolation room at the nurse's station is completed and Chris Balchunas gave School Committee members a tour after the meeting closed.

Future Meetings

- Reopening Committee meeting, October 6, 2020 – 5:30 p.m. – Supt. Office
- Operations Committee, October 27, 2020 – 4:00 p.m. – Supt. Office
- Policy Committee Meeting, October 27, 2020 – 6:00 - 6:30 P.M.
- School Committee Meeting, October 27, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Donelle Allen, seconded by Joseph McMahon, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Secretary

Date Approved