

**Sebago School Department  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
October 26, 2021**

There was a Regular Meeting of the Sebago School Committee on Tuesday, October 26, 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, Chris Balchunas, Norma Sicotte, Cassie Winslow, Mabel Olden, Anne Batchelder, 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**

Joe McMahon requested that a discussion on the proposed quarry be added under item #6, Presentations/Reports. A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Tina Vanesse, to adjust the agenda accordingly. Vote Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the amended minutes for the School Committee meeting of September 28, 2021. Vote Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were none.

**Presentation/Report**

There was discussion of the quarry proposed by Gorham Sand and Gravel that would be located near the school. Tina Vanesse recused herself since the issue will be brought before the Sebago Planning Board of which she is a member. Joe McMahon gave some background on the proposal and the Sebago Comprehensive Plan. He feels that the proposed quarry is not an appropriate use under the Comprehensive Plan definition of a Village District. Wendy Newcomb asked if the School Committee should prepare a petition to the Board of Selectmen and ask for a moratorium. Justin Fariel asked whether an EIS is needed, and Joe McMahon said that this is a state requirement and no EIS has yet been prepared. The applicant wants town approval first before proceeding with

state approvals. Donelle Allen asked what course of action Joe McMahon would recommend. Wendy Newcomb suggested a school committee resolution on the issue.

Joe McMahon made a motion that the Sebago School Committee considers the presence of the proposed quarry would be a threat to the health and safety of the Sebago Elementary School, seconded by Justin Fariel. Superintendent Galin suggested that a better course of action would be for the School Committee to prepare a resolution and bring it before the next meeting of the School Committee for action. Joe McMahon and Justin Fariel then withdrew their motion and their second.

Joe McMahon made a motion that the Sebago School Committee considers a statement on the proposed quarry at the next School Committee meeting, seconded by Justin Fariel. Vote Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

### **Principal's Report**

- The NWEA testing is almost complete. The NWEA assessment is what we adopted for our school's assessment system. The state agreed this was a good system and now the kids only have to participate in one assessment rather than two. After some technical issues and large numbers of kids being out due to quarantine, we pushed really hard last week to get everyone tested and we are almost there. The state did extend the testing window due to all of the quarantining, but by the time they did that, we were almost all done. with our testing.
- Vaccine Data: 75.6% are vaccinated for October. We were 76.9% for September. This month's percentage includes substitutes and volunteers who are in the building on a regular basis. We should be at 77.8% for next month. Basically, our vaccination rate is staying pretty steady, it's the number of staff and volunteers I count that is making the difference.
- Thanks to Linda Hoffman, our GT teacher, we received an award in the amount of \$1100 from the Maine Environmental Education Association's Mini-Grants for Outdoor Learning Program. The funds will be used to purchase a trail-cam and Easy-Macro lenses. We are very excited to see what the trail-cam shows us!
- Harvest Fest is this Friday. This will be an all-day event coordinated and planned mostly by Mrs. Bennett, but with support from the PTC and other staff members. There will be pumpkins (over \$500 worth of pumpkins were donated by Hannaford and the Lion's Club), ghosts, scooters, trail hiking, and art projects for the kids to do.
- School store Fundraiser - The school has earned over \$400 so far. Teachers will be receiving over \$2770 in additional individual reward certificates soon! So far, kindergarten is our biggest winner with over \$850!
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held next week with the majority of them happening on Monday and Wednesday. Along with conferences, we also have the Scholastic Book Fair. It will hopefully be open to the public on the evenings of Monday and Wednesday, but we need volunteers to help man the fair. Please contact Mrs. Goff if you are interested in helping out with the book fair.

- The Penny War will be held during the week of November 15-19. Classes will be divided into two groups with the top group getting recognized for their team effort. All money raised will go directly to the Holly Jolly Helpers program. Notices were sent home last week to families about the Holly Jolly Helpers program and we have started to hear back from some families to sign up for assistance. If you would like to help or make a donation, please reach out to Mrs. Goff.

### **Chairwoman's Report**

- Donelle Allen reported that Justin Fariel has joined the Operations Committee, and that she and Joe McMahon were on the Finance and Negotiations Committee.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- **SPICE** - Hopefully many of you noticed the newly painted shutters and door on the school. A big thank you to SPICE, and especially Marci Laliberte, Grove Newcomb, Phil Lowe, and Frank Merritt for their work on removing, painting, and installing the shutters. They look really good. Claudia Lowe also did some strategic plantings to keep our school looking great. In addition, SPICE and the PTC are looking at after school enrichment opportunities for our students. Stay tuned.
- **Lion's Club** - Lin Green, from the Lion's Club, reached out to us to offer to provide funds to cover the cost of milk for all students. With the change to free lunch for all students this year, our food service director, Morgan Therriault, asked if the Lion's would be open to covering the cost of previous year's meal debt that some of our families have been unable to pay. Lin agreed to cover that debt. Thank you Lion's Club.
- **School Committee Videos** - The videos of school committee meetings were removed from our web site by You Tube, in response to a complaint from a community member that a public comment made at a school committee meeting violated the COVID-19 medical misinformation policy (<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/9891785?hl=en>). We were given a warning and the videos are back on our district web site.
- **Bus behavior** - We have been working on appropriate bus behavior with students on both an elementary and secondary bus run. The Director of Transportation has had to follow the bus and get on to speak with students a number of times. Bus rules are shared with all students. We would ask that all parents and guardians speak to their students about appropriate behavior on the bus.
- **COVID** - I have a survey that we sent to all parents and guardians in September. I want to note the positive response rates for communication, receiving information, and feeling safe at school. The questions about masking are for the Committee's next action on the reopening plan. Also, for the first time since we started pool testing we have no positive tests in any pool. We appreciate a week of class time with no additional students quarantined. We currently have 83% of our students participating in pool testing, with a range in individual classrooms from 100% participation to 50% participation.

- **Staffing** - Willow Timothy, one of special education ed techs, has requested a reduction in hours. I have approved her request. Eileen Mains resigned her ed tech position. We continue to recruit ed techs to work with us this year. As I have shared in previous reports and email updates to the Committee, we are currently short 3 instructional staff members - pre-k ed tech, a special education ed tech, and an interventionist, as well as a backup driver / second van driver. We have reduced our pre-k program to two and a half days per week. We have our school nurse driving the second van run. We are working on staff and student schedules to ensure that special education services continue for our students. We have a small number of candidates who have applied for these open positions and interviews with qualified candidates will take place soon.
- **Operations Committee** - The Operations Committee met today to review facilities priorities and budget. The Committee will see these as part of the district budget process.
- **Budget** - I want to share that I met with our accountants to review Q1 financials. At this time we look closely at budget lines with salaries and benefits in them to make sure that they are roughly at 75% of the budgeted line. They are. We also continue to monitor the special education cost center closely. We are preparing a report for the Committee in November related to these costs. Our accountant and I are confident that we are on track to end the fiscal year in a positive position. I will keep the Committee's finance subcommittee updated as we go through the year.
- **Snow Plowing** - Bids opened after meeting

## Action Items

### Policy – Second Reading

- A. Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion, File Code JKAA
- B. Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion, File Cod JKAA-R

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Tina Vanesse, to approve the second reading of the policies and to adopt them. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

### Job Description – Second Reading

- A. Director of Special Services, Locator 2.02

A motion was made by Tina Vanesse, seconded by Joe McMahon, to approve the second reading of the job description and to adopt it. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

### Job Description – First Reading

- A. Principal, Locator 2.01

A motion was made by Tina Vanesse, seconded by Justin Fariel, to approve the first reading of the job description. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

### **Items for Future Agenda**

A draft resolution on the proposed quarry will be presented for discussion.

### **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

Jock McGregor addressed the School Committee and raised his concerns again about teaching Critical Race Theory at Sebago Elementary School. Donelle Allen commented that the school website has the curriculum posted.

### **Information Items**

- School Committee Workshop – November 16, 5:30- 6:30 p.m., SES conference room
- School Committee meeting – November 16, 6:30 p.m., SES library.
- School Committee Workshop – December 14, 5:30- 6:30 p.m., SES conference room
- School Committee meeting – December 14, 6:30 p.m., SES library.

### **Executive Session**

A. Elected official, M.R.S.A. 405.6.(A)

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Joe McMahon, to go into Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried..

The School Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. No actions were taken during Executive Session.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

---

Secretary

---

Date Approved