

**Sebago School Department  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2021**

There was a Regular Meeting of the Sebago School Committee on Tuesday, November 16, 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, Joe McMahon, Wendy Newcomb, and Tina Vanesse. Justin Fariel was absent. Also present were Superintendent David Galin, Principal Kirsten Goff, Secretary Allen Crabtree, Randa Viitala, Chris Balchunas, and Cassie Winslow.

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 Tina Vanesse, seconded by Joe McMahon, to approve the Minutes for the School Committee meeting of October 26, 2021. Vote Yes-4, No-0. Motion carried.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Barry Jordan spoke on the proposed quarry on Sheep Mountain by the Gorham Sand and Gravel Company. He is opposed to the quarry and listed the potential impact to Sebago, surrounding neighbors in the Village District, and the Sebago Elementary School from noise, dust, truck traffic, and property values. He is advocating for the town to implement a 180 day moratorium on approving the quarry to provide an opportunity for a review of the town ordinances and revisions to them. Mr. Jordan also mentioned that there would be a rally in opposition to the quarry on the Sebago Elementary School lawn on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Wendy Newcomb asked Mr. Jordan if anyone had talked to the Loon Echo Land Trust about the quarry. He replied that he had not, but others had. Chris Balchunas asked if the quarry was an issue with the Portland Water District. Mr. Jordan said no. Joe McMahon said that a quarry should not be allowed in the Village District as described in the intent of the town's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Jordan said that the ordinance is vague and weak. He feels that the Planning Board is not asking the hard questions, such as potential impacts to water wells and silica produced from the ledges.

**Presentation/Report**

**Transportation Report:**

Principal Goff presented an update on our bus fleet:

- We received our new bus, which was purchased with the latest round of ESSER funds. This new bus allows us to have a three-year cycle of when we need to purchase a new bus instead of having to get multiple buses at once. We have three full-size buses (2016 with 72,000 miles, 2020 with 31,000 miles, and a 2021 with 2,000 miles), one minibus (2010 with 84,000 miles), and two vans (2018 with 60,000 miles and 2020 with 12,000 miles). We have about 205 students and average about 130 kids on the bus runs each day.
- On November 9, we had trouble with one of our buses during the afternoon bus run. We were able to finish the middle/high school run, but had to switch to our minibus with a maximum capacity of 25 students for the elementary run. I put out a call to the parents of that bus run and many were able to come and pick up their child instead of waiting for the minibus to bring their child. The number of parents who were able to get their child meant that only one trip was needed on the bus. I really appreciate the families' help!

### **Principal's Report**

- Our school was recognized by Maine Agriculture in the Classroom and was put on the first page of their November issue. The school was recognized for all of the kids' work in the gardens and the felt shoes the kids made over the course of the past few years.
- Parent-teacher conferences went very well during the week of November 1st. We had a mix of in-person and virtual conferences depending on the parents' availability and comfort level. We had a 93% participation rate. We will continue to attempt to make contact with the remaining families.
- Through Donors Choose, the kindergarten classroom was able to get a brand new rug so kids can have their own spot to sit. They also recently received a bunch of special classroom supplies like letter learning activities and playdough.
- The Penny War is happening this week! All profits raised will benefit the children of Sebago who need a little extra help this holiday season through the Holly Jolly Helpers program.
- We will NOT be having an in-person holiday concert this year. There is just no way we can do it safely following the safety guidelines. Instead, Miss Johnson and Mrs. Null will focus their efforts on a spring concert. Miss Johnson will practice holiday songs with chorus students and will upload a video to our webpage when it is ready.
- We did not host an in-person Veteran's Day celebration, but they were not forgotten. Our chorus sang a patriotic song and a 5th grader (a first year student) recorded a song on her flute to honor our veterans. Those videos have been uploaded to the website.
- I would like to thank our parent volunteers, Jill Irish, Jasmine Labb, Sharon Economides, and Willow Timothy for their help with manning the Scholastic Bookfair. Willow did almost all of the setup and takedown of the bookfair, too!

- We have completed the NWEA testing. At our staff meeting on November 10, we began the process of reviewing our data so we know how to best support our students.
- Northern Light canceled the flu vaccine clinic we had scheduled for November 9. Since they are unable to schedule another one until January, we recommended to parents that they reach out to their PCP if they still want their child to have one. At this time, we will not be hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for newly eligible children. Again, we are asking parents to reach out to their PCP if they wish to obtain one. The COVID-19 vaccine requires a 15 minute wait time after the injection is given, which would be too disruptive to the learning process.
- The generator works! On Thursday, November 4, the school and the surrounding neighborhoods lost power. Thanks to our generator, we continued to have power to most of our school and we were able to open normally.
- On Friday, November 12, the staff had their own PJ day. It's been a long month between pool testing with quarantining kids and staff, progress reports, and conferences. It was a much deserved day of comfort for the staff!
- Pool Testing Update. We went three whole weeks without a positive pool. And then today happened. We had two positive pools. We were able to isolate the positive case in one class, but not the other class. This means that tomorrow we will test all the kids in that class again. If we find a positive student, we will send that child home and the rest of the class will have to quarantine outside of school. If we do not find a positive student, we will continue as if it was a negative pool (basically treat it as a false positive.) Due to the holiday, there will be NO pool testing next week.
- On a happier note, Superintendent Galin and I visited with the 5th grade classroom to share a little bit about our family histories. The fifth graders are starting a family history research project.

### **Chairwoman's Report**

Chair Donelle Allen had no report.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- Superintendent Galin shared the draft of his entry plan. He will present this at our next meeting but wanted the School Committee to have it in hard copy so that they can get back to him with comments and questions before he presents this. If you could get those back to him this week or after the Thanksgiving break, he would be most appreciative.
- We continue to experience staff shortages. At this point in the year, we are still looking for a bus/van driver, two ed techs, and a part-time special education teacher. We have continued to receive a small number of inquiries about these positions.

- We have scheduled the first 4 meetings to negotiate contracts with our teachers, ed techs, and non-teaching staff. Dates are December 9 and 16, January 13 and 20.
- SPICE and the PTC have scheduled the first Sebago Elementary School Lantern Parade for 4:00 on December 19. Students will have created the lanterns in after school enrichment sessions. We welcome all members of our community to share in this excellent winter experience.

Tina Vanesse asked how the staff are holding up with the staffing shortages. Superintendent Galin said that they are adjusting to the schedule changes and are working hard.

Wendy Newcomb asked if volunteers from the community and/or from SPICE could help fill in, such as during lunch time duty or with the walking club. Principal Goff said that volunteer help during recess and lunch time would be greatly appreciated.

### **Action Items**

#### **Adopt Resolution re: Quarry**

Donelle Allen introduced a draft of a resolution prepared by Joe McMahon. There was discussion and agreement to the language of the resolution. Tina Vanesse recused herself from the discussion and vote because she is on the Sebago Planning Board.

### **RESOLUTION OF** **THE SEBAGO SCHOOL DEPARTMENT** **SEBAGO SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

I, Donelle Allen, do hereby certify the following:

1. I am the duly elected and acting Chair of the Sebago School Committee (Committee) of the Sebago School Department, Sebago, Maine, organized and existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Maine.
2. Paragraph three below constitutes a true and correct statement of the resolution which was duly adopted by the Committee at a regular meeting of the Committee held on November 16, 2021.
3. **RESOLVED:** the Sebago School Committee is very concerned regarding the proposal to permit a quarry approximately a quarter mile from the Sebago Elementary School. The projected traffic of 40-45 trucks a day would be a considerable increase in heavy trucking activity. The additional traffic is a threat to the parents, teachers, and children using our school.  
  
**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the dust and noise, blasting and vibrations, would interrupt the educational activities at the School. It could frighten some of our students. Being so close, blasting could impact the water quality of our School's well and possibly compromise the integrity of the building and foundation.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the School, nearby homes, and the parcel for the proposed quarry are in a Village District. The Town of Sebago's Comprehensive Plan intent for the Village District is to restrict incompatible uses which generate traffic and noise greater than that associated with residential neighborhoods.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Committee recognizes the intent of the Plan which should be followed and supports all efforts to maintain our quality of life by blocking the quarry use of land in a Village District.

4. The Resolution has not been amended, rescinded or modified and is in full force and effect on the date hereof in the form originally adopted by the Committee.

5. The following persons are (i) duly elected, qualified and acting members of the Sebago School Committee for the purpose of binding the Committee, and (ii) the signatures set forth after their names and titles are their true and genuine signatures:

Name	Office	Signature
Donelle Allen	Chair of the Committee	
Joseph McMahon	Vice Chair of the Committee	
Wendy Newcomb	Committee Member	

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Tina Vanesse, for the School Committee to adopt and approve the resolution. Vote: Yes-3, No-0. Motion carried.

#### Job Descriptions – First Reading

- A. Principal, Locator 2.01
- B. Teacher, Locator 3.01
- C. Special Education Teacher, Locator 3.10

A motion was made by Joe McMahon, seconded by Tina Vanesse, to approve the first reading of the above three job descriptions. Vote: Yes-4, No-0. Motion carried.

#### Items for Future Agenda

Update on a COVID vaccination clinic at SES

#### Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- Chris Balchunas spoke in favor of having a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the school. When Northern Lights proposed switching their clinic to January the SES Administration declined having one. However, 51 of the 85 schools in Cumberland County are having in-school clinics, and most of the 14 school districts have clinics. It makes sense to have the clinic at SES, and the 15-minute wait time for students after having their shots could be accommodated in our classroom routine. She said that we would use the same process that we have used without problem for past flu and vision clinics.

- Wendy Newcomb said that having the clinic at SES would reduce the potential for the problems that quarantining for positive pool tested students would represent. The Sebago Selectmen have declined to have a COVID booster clinic at the town hall.
- Superintendent Galin said that his decision on the clinic was a concern that SES would be first in line with a new situation. He is meeting with the Cumberland County Superintendents soon to see how others are handling the situation and addressing any problems that might come up.
- Principal Goff said that she would prefer to have the clinic on a Saturday.
- Donelle Allen said that the School Committee and the Administration share the goal of having our students protected but there are concerns over the logistics.
- Superintendent Galin said that this is not a School Committee decision, it is in the purview of the Administration. The item will be revisited at the December School Committee meeting.

### **Information Items**

- School Committee Workshop – December 21, 5:30- 6:30 p.m., SES conference room
- School Committee meeting – December 21, 6:30 p.m., SES library.
- School Committee Workshop – January 25, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., SES conference room
- School Committee meeting – January 25, 6:30 p.m., SES library.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Joe McMahon, to adjourn. Vote: Yes-4, No-0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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Secretary

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Date Approved