

**Sebago School Department
School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 24, 2019
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 Library of the Sebago Elementary School.

Members of the Sebago School Committee present:

Tina Vanesse, Chair
Joseph McMahon
Donelle Allen
Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft
Wendy Newcomb

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

Guests present:

Allen Crabtree, Clerk
June Allen
Ann Burns
Mabel Olden
Dot O'Donnell

Kathy Harmon
Chris Coburn
Sandra Coburn
Karah Coburn

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

There were none.

Minutes

A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Donelle Allen, to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2019 Sebago School Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

Presentations

There were none.

Superintendent's Report

- Update on the 2019-2020 School Budget

Under Action Items the School Committee will be asked to request that the Sebago Board of Selectmen call a Special Town meeting on October 22, 2019 to amend the school budget and approved issuance of bonds or notes for improvements to the physical plant. Following the Special Town Meeting voters will be asked to vote on the measure at the November 5, 2019 general election.

- Update on Before and After Care program.

We are still waiting for final approval by the state for the program. Naomi is following up and will bring the program back when approvals are in hand. The School Committee has completed all its necessary approvals.

- Snow Inspection Contract

A separate snow inspection contract will not be needed as it is included in the contract for roof work and for snow load removal.

Principal's Report

- The Morning Walking Club has started with the kids on Wednesdays and Fridays. This allows teams of teachers to meet weekly to strategize about how to help students who are struggling. If the weather is nice, they play on the playground. If the weather is not cooperating, students go to designated classrooms to do different activities rather than walking in the halls. We offer Legos, Go Noodle, arts & crafts, or table games.
- Grades 2 & 3 went to the Cumberland Fair on Monday the September 23. Ms. McGuinness hung up work done by the students at the fair.
- We will have our Walking School Bus on Wednesday the 25th. We will meet at the Town Beach at 8:15 and head up to school after both busses drop off the students at the beach. Grades 4 and 5 are going to the Fryeburg Fair on October
- The Harvest Fest will happen on October 30 from 12:00 - 3
- Grades 2 and 3 are also going to the Historical Society on October 9.
- Teachers are reading a book this year called Better Answers by Ardith Cole. This book was recommended to us by Ms. Viitala. Our goal is to improve our skills in teaching students how to write better-constructed written responses. This improved skill will make a real difference in our MEA scores. Our first meeting will be tomorrow.

- Last week, Principal Goff attended two conferences; one was about our Emergency Response Plan and the other was about all of the new laws the state has passed. She is working on updating our Emergency Response Plan with the information and has shared the new laws that affect us with Mr. Gendron.
- Our first Early Release Day will be Wednesday, October 2 and there is a Professional Development Day on October 4. The Curriculum Committee is working on planning the professional development.
- One of Principal Goff's duties is to support the bus drivers and to help them with the management of student behavior. So far this year, she has ridden Jay's bus and drove the van run. Jay's bus run was a very early morning with the bus leaving the school at 5:50 a.m. to start picking up kids. The van started later at 6:45 a.m.

Action Items

- Personnel

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Joseph McMahon, to approve hiring Steve Minott as a part-time custodian for Sebago Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously.

- Special Town Meeting

A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft as follows:

To request the Sebago Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting on October 22, 2019, to consider articles for the following purposes: (1) an article to amend the amount approved at the May 14 school budget meeting in Article 16, the total summary budget article, to be consistent with the total expenditure amounts approved in the cost center categories in Articles 2 through 12 (\$3,651,319), and (2) an article to confirm the authority of the Town of Sebago School Department to issue general obligation bonds or notes in an amount up to \$240,000 for a variety of improvements planned for the current fiscal year including LED lighting installation, insulation and window sealing, flooring, parking lot and sidewalk paving, heating system upgrades and related physical plan improvements.

The motion was seconded by Donelle Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Policies, First Reading

A motion was made by Donelle Allen, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the First Reading of the following policies:

- 1) Capital Assets, FC-DID
- 2) Travel Expense, FC-DLC
- 3) School Closings and Cancellations, File Code EBCE

- 4) Bus Rules, File Code EEA-R
- 5) Drug and Alcohol Testing of School Bus Drivers, File Code EEACD
- 6) Regulation on Drug and Alcohol Testing, File Code EEACD-R
- 7) Acknowledgement, File Code EEACD-F1
- 8) Use of Private Vehicles for School Business, File Code EEBB
- 9) Competitive Food Sales – Sales of Foods in Competition with the School Food Service Program, File Code EFE
- 10) Copyright Compliance, File Code EGAD
- 11) Head Lice, File Code JHCC
- 12) Head Lice Letters – JHCC-F1, F2

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

- Board Goals will need more work before they are brought back to the School Committee for action.
- The Apple Fest will be held on October 30, 2019, from noon till 2:30 p.m. Wendy Newcomb reported that there will be several booths and special activities for Pre-K and K students. Volunteers are needed.
- The MSAD#61 Board meetings with discussion on middle and high school topics are held on the first Monday of each month. Donelle Allen attended the September meeting and reported that there was a discussion on a vaping education program at the high school, an incident at one of the football games, a rearrangement of middle school block classes, and on vocational classes. Tina Vanesse will attend the October meeting, and Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft may be attending the November meeting.
- There was a discussion on having an additional policy workshop. Tina Vanesse asked about having a workshop two weeks before the next school committee meeting and whether it is going to be needed. General consensus was that it was not, and no changes were made in the regular schedule for policy workshops.
- Tuition Rate for Sebago Elementary School

There was a discussion on tuition for students. Superintendent Gendron commented that there is one student now who regularly attends Sebago Elementary as a tuition student. The State tuition rate for elementary schools last year was \$9,586. Tuition for other nearby school districts range from \$5,955 to \$15,000, with most in the \$7,000 to \$9,000 range. He recommends that Sebago set a rate of \$6,000 plus special education costs. The “sending town” would be responsible of special education costs.

A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to set Sebago Elementary School’s tuition at \$6,000 plus special education costs. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion re: Bus Issue

There was a discussion regarding the bus going down Peabody Pond Road which included the following:

- the road is narrow and will be narrower in the winter
- wear and tear on the bus is a concern as the road is rough
- the bus driver feels the road is not safe for the school bus and recommends not driving down the road
- going down the road could add 15 minutes to the bus route time.

There was also discussion about the bus routes on Anderson Road and Hog Fat Hill Road.

Superintendent Gendron will draft a proposal for the next meeting of the School Committee.

- Allen Crabtree noted that the Town of Sebago website has changed and that he has been trained by the Town Manager and can post school items on the new town website.

Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

Information items

Superintendent Gendron distributed the new school calendar, a Title 10 Report, and commented on the improvement in reading scores.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Wendy Newcomb, seconded by Joseph McMahon, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Future Meetings of the School Committee:

- October 22 – Special Town Meeting - 6:30 p.m. – Sebago Town Hall
- October 22 - School Committee Regular Meeting, immediately following Special Town Meeting at Sebago Town Hall
- November 26 - School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at SES in the library
- December 17 - School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at SES in the library

All meetings are open to the public.

Allen Crabtree

Secretary

October 22, 2019

Date Approved