

**Sebago School Department
School Committee
November 26, 2019**

The Sebago School Committee had a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library at 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

Guests present:

Allen Crabtree, Clerk	Jason S. Luce
Marjorie Saunders	Michelle Johnson
Thomas Saunders	Linda May
Victor Berge	Tim Watson
Charles Frechette	Randa Viitala
Ryan Anderson	Phil Lowe
Chris Balchunas	Ted Greene
Michelle Luce	

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Adjustments

Tina Vanesse asked that the letter from our attorney addressing transportation issues be added to Discussion items.

Minutes

A motion was made by Donelle Allen, seconded by Joseph McMahon, to approve the Minutes from the October 22, 2019 Sebago School Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Joseph McMahon, to approve the Minutes from the October 22, 2019 Special Town Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

Discussion

Bus issues – Peabody Pond Road

There was extensive discussion about school buses driving down Peabody Pond Road to pick up students who live on the road. Tina Vanesse began the discussion by presenting the results of her discussions with the Town Manager, the CEO, and researching bus information. Current school buses have gotten larger and need 115 feet to turn around with backing up. Superintendent Gendron said that both bus drivers had safety concerns about taking buses down the road. There is also concern about the length of time that pre-school children will be on the bus and extending bus routes will increase the time they have to ride.

The distance that the Peabody Pond students would have to walk to meet the bus at Route 107 was discussed along with safety concerns about parents parking at the end of the road to pick up their students from the bus. At the last meeting of the School Committee, a compromise was suggested for a turn around one-quarter mile down the road. Principal Goff will instruct the bus drivers to begin using it.

Peabody Pond Road is #2 on the list for upgrades and road improvements, and the Town could create a turnaround for the buses. Phil Lowe suggested that the School Committee send a letter to the Board of Selectmen with this recommendation.

Comments were made by Victor Berge, Charles Frechette, Ted Greene, Jason Luce on aspects of the issue. School Committee members Donelle Allen, Wendy Newcomb, Tina Vanesse and Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft also made comments.

Ted Greene asked if the school could acquire a smaller bus that could be used and bus routes realigned to allow it to pick up and drop off Peabody Pond children. Principal Goff said that a special driver's license is needed if more than 8 children are being transported. Superintendent Gendron said it might be possible to use the Dodge Caravan.

It was clear that more work needs to be done to investigate this issue. A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Joseph McMahan, to investigate further options to address the Peabody Pond Road bus transportation questions and to bring the measure back at the December School Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Luce asked to serve on the study team to help develop options. Superintendent Gendron will also participate.

Transportation

Tina Vanesse distributed a letter from the School's attorney addressing the transportation of non-Sebago resident students and non-Sebago Elementary School students on SES buses. There are liability concerns and there are no obligations to provide SES bus transportation for these students. No action was taken by the School Committee on the attorney's recommendations. This is now covered in the policy on Student Transportation Services EEA under action items later in the agenda.

Chris Balchunas asked if there is cooperation on the policy with other school districts near us. Superintendent Gendron said if the other districts use the same insurance carrier then there is shared liability.

Presentation/Reports

Superintendent Gendron reported on the status of testing. No data is available yet. Once it is available, a committee of School Committee members and teachers will be formed to review the results.

Superintendent's Report

- There is a false rumour circulating that SES plans to take all Sebago students from grades 6 through 8 at Lake Region Middle School back to SES. Superintendent Gendron and Principal Goff said the rumour did not start with them, and Tina Vanesse said it did not start with any member of the School Committee. It is groundless and no such plans are even being considered.
- SES will follow MSAD #61's snow policy for cancelling school when there is inclement weather.
- Superintendent Gendron recognized Ted Bridge-Koenigsburg for receiving the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Award from the Maine's Commissioner of Agriculture.
- The upgrade of SES telephones and cameras has saved 40% on communication bills. A new copier has been purchased for the front office. A \$15,000 Gifted and Talented program award will be awarded to SES.

Principal's Report

- Curriculum Brochures - as a part of the curriculum course Principal Goff took this fall, she created new Curriculum brochures for our school. She reviewed the curriculum from some of the surrounding districts' websites, looked at our report cards, and met with our teachers for their input and review of the product. The new brochures give families an overview of what their children will be learning for each grade level. Brochures will be given out to current students at the end of the school year for the next grade level, to families who enroll over the summer or during the school year, and at Pre-K and K registration. The brochures are already uploaded to our website and are located in the "Links for Families" section.
- Principal Goff has added a FERPA statement to the handbook. We are required by law to have an annual notice of FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). She has added it to the current Family Handbook and sent it home with the December newsletter today.
- School-wide Title I status - there is good news and bad news. The good news is that as a community we are doing better financially, which means fewer families qualified for free or reduced lunches. The bad news is that because fewer families qualify for free or reduced lunches, we went from almost 50% of our students qualifying to about 37%. This means our application for Title I School-wide status is on hold. I have to apply for a waiver since we are under 40%. Assuming our waiver is approved, we will proceed with the school-wide application. The reason for going school-wide is to allow Title I funds to be used to help all students who have a need for extra help instead of being limited to those who meet specific eligibility requirements. It would allow all of our staff to work with all of our students, not just those identified for Title I assistance.
- Sebago Elementary School upcoming events are as follows:

- Student Council will be shopping on Monday morning to purchase items for the Holly Jolly Helpers program
- On Wednesday, December 4, we have a trainer coming to work with teachers to improve our math teaching skills. Our Title I teachers will be "attending" a webinar to learn how best to use our new intervention program "Number Worlds".
- Our Holiday Concerts will be on Tuesday, December 17. K-2 will perform at 12:30 p.m. and 3-5 will perform at 1:30 p.m. We are hoping that by having both concerts in the afternoon, families with multiple children won't have to take the entire day off.

Action Items

A. Policies, Second Reading

- A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Donelle Allen, to approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

School Closings and Cancellations, File Code EBCE

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Repeal policy, First Reading

- A motion was made by Joseph McMahon, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to approve the First Reading to repeal the following policy:

Competitive Food Sales, Sales of Food in Competition with the School Food Service Program, File Code EFE

The policy will be replaced by a Wellness Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

C. November 6, 2019 Referendum Vote

- A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Donelle Allen, to acknowledge the votes of the November 6, 2019 Referendum. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Superintendent Evaluation and Contract

- Tina Vanesse reported that the Committee for Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract is moving forward, and a new contract will be developed by the end of December. Tina Vanesse, Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, and Principal Goff are on the committee.

E. Policies – First Reading

- The following policies will continue to be reviewed by the School Committee Policy Committee and will be brought back for action at the December School Committee meeting:
 - a. Student Transportation Services, FC – EEA
 - b. Code of Conduct Consequence Guide, FC – JIC-R
 - c. Code of Conduct Definitions, FC – JIC-E1
 - d. Code of Conduct Purpose Statement – FC – JIC-E2
 - e. Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), File Code IHBA
 - f. Referral and Use of General Education Interventions, File Code IHBAA
 - g. Referral and Use of General Education Interventions Administrative Procedure, File Code IHBAA-R
 - h. Child Find, File Code IHBAC
 - i. Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion, File Code JKAA
 - j. Physical Restraint and Seclusion Administrative Procedure, File Code JKAA-R
 - k. Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities, File Code JKF
 - l. Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities, File Code JKF-R

Discussion Items

A. School Committee Goals

Tina Vanesse said that work continues on the goals and that they would be brought back at the next School Committee meeting in December.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- Randa Viitala reported on the SPICE Apple Fest and gave copies of Thank You posters to the SPICE
- Phil Lowe commented that the lively discussion on bus transportation should be viewed as a positive thing. Such discussions involving citizens were rarely, if ever, seen at MSAD #61 Board meetings.

Information items

- Future Meetings of the School Committee:
 - December 17 – Policy Committee Meeting at **5:00** - 6:30 p.m. at SES Conference Room
 - December 17 - School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at SES in the library
 - January 21 – Policy Committee Meeting at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at SES Conference Room
 - January 21 - School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at SES in the library

All meetings are open to the public.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Audrey Douglass Schoolcraft, seconded by Wendy Newcomb, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Secretary

Date Approved