

Isle au Haut School Board Minutes
June 14, 2024

Members present: Rita M., Kathie F., Sharen W., Cynthia S., Mike D.
Staff present: Dan Ross, Superintendent; Michele Turner, teacher
Citizens: Patricia Barter

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am.

Minutes Approval – May 10, 2024 Kathie/Cynthia 4-0-1 (Send to Michele)

Introduction and Welcome of New School Board Member: Michael Delchamp
Mike has worked in schools in Boston and Texas
Manager of The Island Store and member of Lloyd's Contracting crew
Cares about education and feels it is a big part of the island

Citizen's Comments

Calendar looks great. Supports an 8:30 opening time. Would like minutes.

Superintendent's Report – Financial

- 27.85% of budget has not been spent. June expenses yet to be paid.
- \$61,335 remaining.
- Propane tank has not been filled. No report on kero.

Discussion Items

1. PFAS

- a. Board received water test. Currently, the water meets the PFAS standard but will not in 2027 when level must be 4pts.
- b. Maine Drinking Water Program has a grant to remedy water.
 - i. Other SU76 schools are using this program
 - ii. Norlan's will assess, take a water test and put together a proposal
 - iii. Supt works with selectmen to bond the money
 - iv. Motion, "That Dan contact Norlan's as soon as possible to do a water assessment at the school" Rita/Cynthia 5-0-0

- c. Dan will: call Norlan's to begin the process; have Dave do another water sample; check on PFAS in soil; follow up with selectman
- 2. School Handbook
 - a. The current handbook should be on the town website
 - b. Michele and Dan will draw up 2024-25 handbook and present it to the School Board at the August meeting for approval
- 3. Specials Instruction
 - a. Jadyndyn will teach art 2 mornings a week – Monday and Friday
 - b. Dance will be on Wednesdays from Oct – May. Students will go to the studio once a month.
 - c. Michele will teach music and would not like an outside teacher to come. Rita had contacted Mabel Ellis from the island and Molly McGuire.
 - d. Book Buddies will continue at the library.

Action Items

- 1. School Calendar
 - a. "To approve the school calendar as presented by Rita."
Kathie/Cynthia 5-0-0
- 2. School Day
 - a. Michele spoke to her proposal of 8:30 -3:00 citing that other island schools have this schedule and an hour teacher duty free lunch time; children are young; long day for teacher to sustain energy; students will have more home time
 - b. School board members spoke to the 8:00-3:00 time citing that this schedule has been in place on IaH for over 7 years; changing the schedule will reduce hours of instruction; impact parents especially working parents; reduces tech's time by 2.5 hours a week; the schedule was known during the hiring process.
 - c. Michele withdrew her proposal.
 - d. Motion, "That the Isle au Haut school day be 8-3 as it currently is."
Kathie/Cynthia 5-0-0

Dan had to leave the meeting during the school day discussion.

Teacher Transition

- Michele's contract begins July 1.
- Miss Lizzy's House is being prepared for her and will be ready by then if not before.
- Michele plans to hire a special boat on July 1 and members offered to meet her with trucks to help her move into her house.
- No scheduled barge but Mike suggested contacting Buster Peasley to bring her car and maybe all her belongings eliminating the need of a special boat. There is at least one other car needing transport to the island which would help defer the cost of the barge.

Next meeting July 8 at 3pm. Items for agenda: school trips, policies, substitutes; school board stipends.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30. Kathie/Mike 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Rita MacWilliam