

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

January 3, 2020

Happy New Year! On behalf of the School Board, I want to wish everyone a wonderful beginning to 2020! With a New Year, often comes changes and I am sure you all have witnessed the physical changes from the town project in the lot to the right of Town Hall as the clearing took place during December. Change can be hard, but the results can be wonderful. Personally, I am excited to see how the space transforms and enhances the vibrancy of our town. A big thank you and kudos to all the folks working or meeting in town hall, as it has been difficult to work at times with all the noise and disruption!

Another big change that has been long awaited is the launch of the new school website. Beta testing was to be December 16-23 with a survey to follow. The website is not complete and more information will continue to be added throughout the year.

Friday, December 6, CEHS hosted a Naturalization ceremony in the HS auditorium for 45 people from 19 different countries. Carolyn Young offered tech support with a last-minute video, and behind the scenes support was provided by Christine Marshall. The event included speeches from CEHS teachers Sonia Medina and Aysun Simpson, nationalized American citizens, and was attended by Ted Jordan's CP Government class, students, faculty and staff. It was a powerful event full of positivity, respect, excitement and repeated standing ovations. Although new citizens need to have a certain ability to communicate in English, fluency is not required. As a result, translators can attend multiple ceremonies. One translator mentioned to Principal Shedd that she had been to 7 ceremonies and this one, in particular, was the most impressive.

Cape Elizabeth High School was announced as a Blue-Ribbon recipient in the category of exemplary high performing schools by the US Secretary of Education on September 25th. On November 14 and 15, Vice Principal Carpenter and HS foreign language teacher David Peary went down to Washington, DC to receive the award. A Blue-Ribbon school is a coveted honor in which the Department of Education recognizes a school for their excellence in high standards and academic excellence. CEHS was one of 3 schools in Maine in 2019 to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations to our students, teachers and staff who make our high school extraordinary and worthy of such an honor!

For the 8th time in 9 years, our Mock Trial Team won in the final competition against Brewer. They will go on to the National Competition in Indiana in May. We will be wishing you good luck from the northeast! Tremendous thanks go out to the students for their commitment and

hard work, to the volunteers that donate countless hours supporting and teaching these students and to HS teacher Mary Page who organizes and takes the lead for the program to run. Principal Shedd was able to let the Fire Department and Cape Rescue know about the team's return from their final trial in Portland so they could escort them back to Cape with a well-deserved and welcoming parade! Congratulations to all!

We have honored many teams and individuals this fall, and at our December board meeting we learned of the success of our very own CEHS gym teacher and volleyball coach, Sarah Boeckel, who won the position as Class B coach of the year for her work with the girl's volleyball team. Go team!

December 6th brought Principal Eastman, Superintendent Wolfrom and art teacher Marguerite Lawler-Rohner, along with 42 middle school students to the State House Hall of Flags in Augusta to attend a recognition ceremony and exhibit opening for their artwork. The artwork was displayed throughout the walls of the DOE offices and after the ceremony, each student was guided in locating their own work. Both the Principal and the Superintendent mentioned how impressed they were with the students, Principal Eastman saying, "What quality kids we have here in Cape Elizabeth."

December culminated with much celebration as parents, faculty, students and others delighted in the receiving of so many talented students in music and the performing arts. From the band concerts to the Jazz concerts, to the all the Middle School music concerts and to the multiple performances of Footloose, our students displayed skill and dedication. Superintendent Wolfrom said the teachers and students, "awe us with their talents."

As we look towards January, the new year of 2020 and the new decade, we, as a school board, hope to support the excellence of students, programs and faculty. Creating environments where they can thrive and take their talents and skills to new levels, we hope to support them with more updated and effective facilities that can enhance their growth and not hold them back. Our work with the Building Committee continues on January 7th at 6:30 in the MS Cafetorium and on February 4th at 6:30 in the CEHS library. Please come join us and be a part of the conversation, the change for the better and the new beginning. Happy New Year to all and may your year be fulfilling and joyous!

With gratitude,
Heather Altenburg

Year End Policy Update

At the November 12th regular business meeting, the School Board voted to adopt revisions to policy AC-Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and policy ACAD – Hazing. The revised Policy AC now includes the term "gender identity and expression." In the ACAD-Hazing Policy, the current policy includes the statement that "Injurious hazing also includes any hazing activity that is expected of a student as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers a student." The Board voted to adopt the policy with the additional clause "regardless of the student's willingness to participate in the activity" to this provision.

The Policy Committee met on November 26th to review and discuss the following policies for Second Reading:

ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAA- R - Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
ACAB -R – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employee Complaint Procedure
JLF - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
JLFA - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response
JLF-R - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting - Administrative Procedure

Due to the need for further discussion and review, none of the above-mentioned policies were brought before the School Board at the December 10th regular business meeting. The Policy Committee did not hold a December meeting due to weather cancellations.

All policies are posted on the CESD website in the School Board section on the Policy & Procedures tab.

Policy committee meetings are open to the public, including students. The next policy meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 3:00 in the Jordan Conference Room at Town Hall.

FY21 Budget Update

FY21 budget preparations began months ago, and soon Superintendent Wolfrom and the CESD Administrative Team will bring that budget to the School Board. Each year the Board creates goals to guide the budget process. Updated School Board budget goals will be adopted at the January 14, 2020 School Board Business Meeting. As a reference, the budget goals for FY20 were: Maintaining and improving the high quality of education for every student; Careful examination of line items and consideration of the success and effectiveness of the expenditures in order to provide a fiscally responsible budget; Clear and continual communication throughout the budget process. Discussion during that same meeting will include current and projected enrollment numbers, state subsidy history, and a chart of department expenditures.

FY21 School Board Budget Schedule:

All School Board meetings and workshops are open to the public.

1/21/2020, 5-8:30 PM School Board Extended Budget Workshop:

Administrators and department heads present their budgets to the School Board.
CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

1/23/2020, 6:30-8:30 PM Continued Budget Presentations by Administrators (if needed)

CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

2/25/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM School Board Budget Workshop Q & A:

State subsidy estimate (ED279) announcement; intensive review and Q & A.
CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

3/3/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM School Board Budget Workshop Q & A:

Continuation of School Board's review of budget

Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

3/24/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM School Board Budget Workshop Q & A:

Continuation of School Board's review of budget
CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

4/7/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM Special School Board Budget Workshop:

Health insurance rates will be provided and discussed. Final Q & A of budget.
Location TBD (will be videotaped)

4/14/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM Regular School Board Business Meeting:

Adoption of CESD Budget

Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

4/27/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM School Board Budget Presentation to the Town Council:

The School Board will present the recently adopted proposed FY21 budget with follow up from Town Councilors.
Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

4/28/2020, 6:30- 8:30 PM Continued budget discussion with Town Council (if needed)

Town Council Finance Committee Wrap up
Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

5/4/2020, 7- 9 PM Town Council Public Hearing on Budget:

Town Council will receive input and comments from the public on the Municipal and School Board budgets.
Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

5/11/2020, 7 - 9 PM Town Council Business Meeting - Adoption of Municipal and CESD Budgets:

Agenda will include votes to adopt the Municipal and School Board's FY21 budgets.
Town Council Chambers (will be videotaped)

6/9/2020 Referendum on CESD FY21 Budget and possible state proposals

Future Dates:

Tuesday, January 7th, Building Committee, 6:30pm-8:30pm, MS Cafetorium

Tuesday, January 14th, School Board Member Training Workshop, 5:00pm-6:00pm, Jordan Conference Room

Tuesday, January 14th, Regular Business Meeting, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Town Chambers

Tuesday, January 21st, 5:00pm-8:30 pm, School Board Extended Budget Workshop:
Administrators and department heads present their budgets to the School Board,
CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

Thursday, January 23rd, Continued Budget Presentations by Administrators (*if needed*),
6:30pm-8:30pm, CEHS Library & Learning Commons (will be videotaped)

Tuesday, January 28th, Policy Meeting, 3:00pm-4:00pm, Jordan Conference Room

Tuesday, January 28th, School Board Workshop