

**Edgartown School Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday 9/17/19**  
**10-11AM**

**In Attendance:** Dr. Shelley Einbinder, (principal), Pam Hurley, Gr. 1 teacher (minutes), Elizabeth Barnes, (parent), Martina Thornton, (parent), Beth Zeller, (parent), Stephanie Immelt, (SRO).

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting attendees introduced themselves. Shelley stated that we are looking for someone to co-chair the SAC this year. She would like another teacher to volunteer to serve on the Committee.

**SAC Membership and Officers**

Pam stated that we have not had officers in the past. There were nine members of the SAC last year. Kate Lefer was co-chair/teacher; however, she informed Shelley that she would not be able to serve on the committee this year. Mike Joyce and Karen Bressler, community members, did not attend this meeting. Shelley will reach out to them before our next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting were approved. We are looking for minutes from meetings in April and May. There was a June 5 meeting with the School Committee. At that time, the Final Edgartown School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 was approved.

**Back to School Update**

Shelley provided an update regarding opening enrollment. As reported at the School Committee Meeting on September 9, we opened school with 385 students. As of September 13, there were 394 students. That is considerably higher than our opening enrollment of 371 students a year ago. A new kindergarten class was opened due to our increasing numbers. Our largest grade is our fifth grade. We also have three sections of third grade this year.

Shelley also reported that Leah Palmer, ELL Director, was invited to speak to the Edgartown staff and provided data about the rising number of ELL students. She also shared strategies for working with these students, and research about the importance of allowing ELLs to communicate in their native language. Finally, Shelley reported that our Full Professional Development Day in August focused on three broad District Goals:

Social Emotional Learning/Health & Wellness, Differentiating for ELL and Special Ed and Improving Writing. These goals align with our School Improvement Plan, which is very comprehensive.

### **2019-2020 School Improvement Plan Discussion**

The committee discussed the first Target Area: School Environment and Social Curriculum and the actions listed in our School Improvement Plan including the Med Star Survey, hiring of Cheryl Taylor, and collaboration with Kim Harris and counselors from Community Services. Martina asked, "Who does health here K-8?" Sue Costello and Nicole Barlett were mentioned. Beth spoke about Nicole and mentioned it to the PTA. Martina mentioned the need for a Brazilian representative for the SAC. Pam and Martina brought up the Med Star Presentation.

To further strengthen school culture and increase awareness, appreciation, and respect for diverse perspectives and needs, faculty members Kate Lefer and Kara Gelinas have stepped up to work with our Student Council this year. Martina and Elizabeth discussed the need for a parent newsletter. Shelley reported that she has met with Bill Jacob who is gathering information from staff about what after school clubs they would like to offer this year. She also stated that she would like to form a scheduling committee to explore different models to plan for any changes in the 2020-2021 school year. Martina mentioned that Susan Mercier has a group of resources to help strengthen the home-school connection. Shelley indicated the desire to have more parent involvement. We will continue to explore initiatives such as Anti-bullying and will reach out to families. Providing multi language choice when calling the Main Office was raised. A recorded message is provided in both English and Portuguese.

### **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: In the past, the SAC would meet at 10:00 AM on the same day as the PTA, following the PTA meeting. The PTA is switching their meeting time to 3pm on October 8. There was no SAC meeting on October 8.

**The next SAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at 10:00 AM in the Staff Dining Room.**