



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021– 5:00pm – via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. Warrant Article Balances
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. Update on Testing, Vaccinations, and Re-Opening
 - B. Graduation Guidance
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Return to In-Person Learning Five Days per Week
 - B. Ambassador 351
 - C. Personnel
 - a. New Hires
 - b. Leave of Absence
 - D. Donation
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/86533950834?pwd=SXZybnQwckttYk5yaUJaWUh5Tk5KQT09>

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 5:00pm– Via Zoom

Those present were; Chairperson Megan Anderson, Member Kelly McCracken, Matt D'Andrea (Superintendent), Richie Smith (Asst. Superintendent), Shelley Einbinder (Principal), MaryAnn Bartlett (Asst. Principal), Mark Friedman (School Business Administrator), Nancy Dugan (Director of Student Support Services – Pre-K - Gr.7), Nedine Cunningham, Jennifer Fournier, Deanna Ahearn Laird, Brooke Leahy, Michelle Oteri, Rebecca Rabeni, Maria Soares, and Tara Sykes.

I. Approval of minutes from March 10, 2021

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Megan Anderson, the committee approved the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. PTA Report

The focus of the last meeting on April 13, 2021 was on the drive-in movie being presented in collaboration with the MV Film Festival. The event is more of a community event than a fundraiser. The movie on Friday, May 7, 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle', is geared towards the older children. The doors open at 7:00pm, and the movie begins at 8:00pm. The movie on Saturday, May 8, 'Gnomeo & Juliet', is geared towards the younger children. The doors open at 6:30pm, and the movie begins at 7:30pm. All ticket sales are qualified as donations. Tickets are a minimum of \$25/car (non-PTA member) and \$20/car (PTA members). There are 10 tickets per night being sold for the front row at a minimum of \$75 (non-PTA members)/\$70 (PTA members) that include 1 bag of concessions. There is a maximum of 50 tickets per night. Concessions are being sold on the PTA Member Hub on the Edgartown School website and on Facebook for \$8. They will be handed out on-site seeing as sales are not permitted at the event site.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 4:00pm via Zoom.

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report

The monthly expenditure and fund balance reports were shared with the Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Friedman described the finances as "busy and stable". The budget is tight. Dr. Einbinder is scrutinizing every expenditure and is being conservative with the budget. There are no new or surprising negative variances. There were positions that had to be shifted around in the budget due to scheduling changes in response to COVID.

There is no surprise that the substitute line continues to be exceeded. The nurse's office has additional expenses this year, which was to be expected. All variances throughout the report can be covered with transfers at end of the year.

Mr. Friedman is continually focused on the Residential Expense line due to unanticipated and unbudgeted placements. This line is projecting over budget by \$189,000. Nancy Dugan has submitted an application to the State for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief. The results should be available in time for the May meeting. There are 20-30 districts that have applied. There is no set guarantee or formula with this program; the State will provide as much relief as is available, which is around 75%. He is hoping that the negative variance is covered by these additional state reimbursements. If the relief from the State is less than expected, the school needs to be prepared for that.

B. Warrant Article Balances

There are four (4) capital funds that have balances that Mr. Friedman is recommending be closed out so that the unreserved funds can be returned to the Town. The monies for these various warrant articles were voted on at Town meetings over the years for either capital or equipment projects:

*Fund 500 – A Warrant Article from 2018 for the repair of lightning damage in the amount of \$91,125. There is an unexpended balance of \$26,125. The project has been completed.

*Fund 502 – Also a Warrant Article from 2018 for a new Generator in the amount of \$100,000. The unexpended balance is \$3,263.80. The project has been completed.

*Fund 503 – Another Warrant Article from 2018 for front door security in the amount of \$10,500. The unexpended balance is \$700. The project has been completed.

*Fund 504 – A Warrant Article from 2020 for dehumidification in the amount of \$18,000. The unexpended balance is \$2,057.10. More time is being requested as due diligence in confirming there are no outstanding invoices and to tie up any loose ends. He hopes to have the answer by the next meeting.

Dr. Einbinder will communicate with the Town Hall that 3 of the 4 unexpended Warrant Articles can be closed.

***Not on the Agenda: A new State grant called the 2021 Coronavirus Prevention Grant is being made available to each school. The funds in the amount of \$22,400 will be deposited directly to the Town Hall for the school's use. Eligible uses for these funds include but are not limited to PPE, hygienic supplies, costs associated with social distancing, on-site learning, remote learning, hybrid approaches, and additional COVID-type expenses. Mr. Friedman has discussed with Dr. Einbinder and Dr. D'Andrea that a portion of these funds be used towards payment to the school nurse for her additional hours with contact tracing taking place on weekends. The tent rental will also be paid out of this fund. Even though the COVID-related grant did not require an application process, Mr. Friedman requested that it be on the record as accepted by the Committee.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Megan Anderson, the Committee accepted the 2021 Coronavirus Prevention Grant funds in the amount of \$22,400 by way of roll call vote.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Update on Testing, Vaccinations, and Re-Opening

The ability to implement testing allows the catch of any outbreak that may occur. There are 800-900 tests every week. There are 24 tests in a pool. When a positive test is received in a pool, they break the pool into 12 pools of 2 and retest. One of the two will come up positive. The barcodes are given to Dr. D'Andrea to locate the individuals and to discuss next steps. The individuals go to a website where they enter their barcode number and answer some questions. Mirimus will tell them whether they are positive or not. It must work this way due to different regulations regarding confidentiality when doing pool testing opposed to a diagnostic test on an individual. There are a very low percentage of positive tests coming back. The most received in one week is two.

There have been two vaccination clinics sponsored by the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. A high percentage of staff has received at least their first vaccine, if not both. Beginning in May, the hope is that the entire staff will be fully vaccinated.

For the most part, K-8 is fully in-person. There are a couple of issues in some schools that need to be worked out. After the April break, K-8 and MVRHS will be in-person full day. The plan for September is to be back fully in-person.

B. Graduation Guidance

On March 22, 2021, Dr. D'Andrea received guidance from the State on how graduations are to be conducted this year. Some of the highlights he shared included:

*commencement can take place indoor or outdoor – if indoor, there are more restrictions with fewer people in attendance (maximum 100). There is uncertainty regarding the restrictions for outside events and capacity. Dr. D’Andrea is working with the State for clarification.

*attendees are required to do a self-assessment checklist

*masks required of all attendees

*a requirement of 6’ social distancing

*families will sit together in their own cohort

*no gatherings prior to or after the ceremony – the school cannot be involved in any pre or post event gatherings.

*attendance is limited to graduates and their guests, faculty, and administration. It is recommended that it is a ticketed event in order to control who and how many are in attendance.

*cleaning requirements and protocols

*music/singing restrictions

This guidance is available on the DESE website:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/commencement-guidance/download>

V. Principal’s Report

A. Return to In-Person Learning Five Days per Week

All students returned to 5 days per week of in-person learning on April 5, 2021. Grades K-3 will continue to be dismissed at 1:40pm until they return from the April break on April 26, 2021. As of this date, all grades return to full days, 8:20am – 2:40pm. The school is working closely with the Edgartown Police on traffic control in anticipation of everyone being dismissed at the same time.

B. Ambassador 351

Project 351 is a youth-led movement for positive change which unites 8th Grade Ambassadors from across Massachusetts for a year of leadership opportunities. They are selected for exemplary ethic of service, and for possessing values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude. Maria Soares has been named this year’s Project 351 Ambassador. She has been working on her “playbook”, which are different scenarios involving discrimination and racism that are discussed with the other Ambassadors. For her spring service, she is doing “Cradles to Crayons”, which takes clothing donations and gives them to low-income families.

C. Personnel

a. New Hires

1. Jill Taney – Cook’s Helper – started on April 12, 2021

b. Leave of Absence

1. Kiely Rigali – from Gr. 7/8 Special Needs – effective May 12, 2021 through the end of the school year

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Kelly McCracken, the Committee approved the leave of absence for Kiely Rigali by way of roll call vote.

D. Donation

1. Plant A Tree Campaign

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 30, 2021, a long-standing tradition continues where each student and staff will receive 2 seedlings, one deciduous and one evergreen. Planting instructions and information about each tree are also provided. A special thanks to Geoff Freeman, parent and Director of MV Airport, for the donation of the posters; and to Alan Debettencourt (Town of Edgartown Tree Warden) and Melinda De Feo (Edgartown School Garden Coordinator) for bringing the campaign to the school.

2. **MV Diversity Coalition**

A \$300 donation towards the purchase of books from a list related to eradicating racism.
This is a part of the MV Diversity Coalition's Library Book Project.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Megan Anderson, the Committee approved the donations with gratitude by way of roll call vote.

***Not on the Agenda: The total enrollment as of April 13, 2021 is currently at 381 students with two pending. Of this amount, 349 students are in-person, and 32 are remote. One remote student will be returning to in-person learning after the April break.

***Not on the Agenda: At the direction and guidance of Michelle Pikor and Derek Chrebet, Grades 1-4 participated in the American Heart Association's fundraiser, Kids Heart Challenge, during the week of March 15, 2021 and raised \$2,060 for the cause.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. New/Old Business

The Edgartown Town Meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2021 under the tent on school grounds.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting of the Edgartown School Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:00pm. Location TBD.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee