



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020– 5:30pm via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2020 & November 4, 2020**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. Grant Update
 - C. Anonymous Donation
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. All Island School Committee
 - B. Policy Discussion
 - 1. Health & Safety
 - a. Mask Policy – 3rd Reading
 - 2. Fundraising
 - 3. Census
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Enrollment
 - B. Update on Re-entry Plan
 - C. Personnel
 - 1. New Hires
 - 2. Resignation
 - 3. Leave of Absence
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/81690621683?pwd=ZTFpcjNxd3pERnVieU1UNThZN0xQUT09>

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 5:30pm – Via Zoom

Those present were; Chairperson Megan Anderson, Member Kimberly Kirk, Member Kelly McCracken, Matt D'Andrea (Superintendent), Richie Smith (Asst. Superintendent), Shelley Einbinder (Principal), MaryAnn Bartlett (Asst. Principal), Mark Friedman (Interim School Business Administrator), Nancy Dugan (Director of Student Support Services – Pre K-Gr.7), Amy Baldino, Nicole Barlett, Joe Berini, Kerry Branca, Nancy Cole, Sue Costello, Claire Crowell, James Craig, Nedine Cunningham, Anne Davey, Deborah Debettencourt, Gina Debettencourt, Jennifer Fournier, Gail Gardner, Debra Grant, Bill Jacob, Alicia Knight, Brooke Leahy, Kara Leandro, Connie Leuenberger, Josh Levy, Maria Mackenty, Megan McDonald, Meaghan Morris, Jen O'Hanlon Denise Searle, Theresa Temple, Margaret (Tara) Sykes, Noel Sylvester, and Laura Walton.

I. Approval of minutes of October 7, 2020 and November 4, 2020

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved the minutes of the October 7, 2020 and November 4, 2020 meetings by way of roll call vote.

II. PTA Report

Megan Anderson and Matt D'Andrea attended the most recent meeting on November 10. The PTA is looking at ways to increase their membership as well as their passive fundraisers like Amazon Smile, Box Tops for Education, A+ School Rewards with Stop & Shop, and Amerigas (formerly Vineyard Propane). Stop and Shop is automatically rolling over participation in their fundraiser. Amerigas is digital now. You can go on-line and add your account number for credit to automatically be given to the Edgartown School PTA. They will take the physical papers like they used to as well.

Grant requests have been rolled out and will be digital this year. The applications are available upon request until an active link is added to their landing page on the school website.

The PTA website now has kids face masks and water bottles for sale on their member hub: <https://edgartownschoolpta.new.memberhub.store/Store> Purchases are made on-line. The items will be shipped by December 1. A contact-free way to distribute the items prior to the holidays is still being worked out.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom.

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report

The monthly expenditure report was shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.

Mr. Friedman pointed out some of the negative variances noting that the positive variances in the budget are more than offsetting them:

- *Administration salaries - projecting over budget and are most likely the retirement and separation costs related to the differential between the former and new Assistant Principal. These will be covered with residuals.

- *Kindergarten Teacher and Kindergarten Assistant - projected to be over budget due to shifts in assignments and departments but will be off set with savings in the Teacher Salaries budget.

- *Computer Software – the deficit can be covered within the department.

- *Nursing Substitutes – slightly over budget.

- *Fuel – projecting over budget. The Dukes County annual bid for heating oil is slightly higher than last year. They will look at consumption due to the recommendation of windows being kept open for air circulation.

- *General Maintenance – the deficit was noted and discussed at the previous school committee meeting.

Mr. Friedman suggested that at one of the next meetings that the Committee formally request a transfer to cover the overages.

The funds for the in-school COVID testing have tentatively been encumbered in the Teachers

Increments section of the budget but will not be spent from it. He recommends setting up a new line in the Nursing section of the budget for Contractual Health Services. The encumbered funds will then be moved to this new line for spending.

The School Choice fund is currently at \$124,507. The Revolving Lunch fund is in good shape at \$32,553, but Mr. Friedman will be keeping an eye on it. Fund #506 is the Warrant Article for the replacement of the water heater. This Warrant Article was approved at the Town meeting last spring for \$45,000. The amount will soon be entered into the system so that it doesn't look like there is a negative balance.

Former colleague, Woody Filley, is working with Mr. Friedman to move the accounting software from the Superintendent's office server to a cloud-based server.

The beginning of the FY22 budget process will be added to next month's agenda.

B. Grant Update

The Edgartown School is on target to use grant funds for the purchase of PPE and COVID-related expenses. They are juggling the spending between the School Reopening and CARES/Essex grants in order not to leave any funds on the table before their expiration.

*Technology Grant: chromebooks have been ordered but have not arrived

*School Reopening Grant: This grant expires on December 30, 2020. A list of expenditures was shared via email with the School Committee prior to the meeting.

*CARES/Essex Grant: the total amount awarded for this grant was \$25,727. The use of these funds does not expire until June 2021. A list of expenditures was shared via email with the School Committee prior to the meeting.

Dr. Smith expressed his thanks to Ken Romero, Denitsa Alton and Rachel Hickey for their coordination and handling of the grant funds.

C. Anonymous Donation

An anonymous donation was received in the amount of \$420 for the purpose of purchasing yoga mats for Maria Mackenty's Kindergarten class.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee accepted the anonymous donation to be used for the purchase of yoga mats for Maria Mackenty's Kindergarten class by way of roll call vote.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

The next meeting of the AISC will be on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5:30pm. There is only one agenda item. Robert Lionette, the Budget Sub-Committee chairman, is organizing and will run it like a workshop. The administration will present their recommendations, needs, and wishes for the Shared Services budget. The goal is to work with the sub-committee to shape the budget so that it can be presented to the whole committee for a vote.

B. Policy Discussion

1. Health & Safety

a. Mask Policy -3rd Reading

Dr. D'Andrea announced that there have been no revisions from the second reading to the third and final reading of the district Mask Policy.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee accepted the 3rd and final reading of the district Mask Policy.

2. Fundraising

This agenda item was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Census

Dr. D'Andrea emailed the October census for FY21 to the School Committee prior to the meeting. A quick overview was shared:

*Edgartown School – down 7 students to 383 from 390 in 2019.

*Elementary schools - down 50 students to 1,450 from 1,500 in 2019.

*MVRHS - up 30 students to 701 from 671 in 2019.

*Overall - down 20 students to 2,151 from 2,171 in 2019.

Also included in the report was the enrollment by Town. This information is used to assess each Town their portion of the High School budget.

V. Principal's Report

A. Enrollment

As of November 18, 2020, enrollment is at 384: 335 in-person learning, 47 fully remote, and 2 from out of the district.

B. Update on Re-entry Plan

On November 10, grades 5 & 6 were scheduled to return to four days of in-person instruction. On November 9, the first COVID positive test was documented in the school. The Health & Safety Committee met and agreed to delay the return by one week. Since then, Superintendent D'Andrea has postponed the start date of increased in-person instruction for all schools. Grades 5-8 will continue their current schedule of remote learning Monday-Thursday and in-person learning one day per week on Fridays. Kindergarten-Grade 4 will also continue their current schedule with in-person learning Monday-Thursday and remote learning on Fridays.

C. Personnel

1. New Hires

a. Benjamin Waldrop – Gr. 5 – Math/Science

b. Sarah Ensor – Gr. 1 ESP

c. Lorna Schenck – Gr. 7/8 ESP

2. Resignation

a. Chelsea Georgi Zusan – Gr. 5 – Math /Science – effective October 21, 2020

b. Robin Forte – Assistant Cook – effective December 23, 2020

3. Leave of Absence

a. Benjamin Waldrop – from Gr. 7/8 ESP

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee approved the leave of absence for Benjamin Waldrop from his Grade 7/8 ESP position to be the Grade 5 Math/Science teacher by way of roll call vote.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. New/Old Business

Dr. D'Andrea shared an update on the in-school COVID testing. The nurses will be able to utilize the testing on symptomatic individuals and bi-weekly testing on the asymptomatic. Testing is scheduled to begin the first week of January with Miramis, the testing company. Dr. Zack is helping with the process – physicians order, a CLIA Certificate of Waiver (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment), and nurse training. Once the State requirements have been met, the tests can then be ordered.

Dr. D'Andrea has been emailing a daily update on the numbers of what is happening in the schools. As things calm down, the updates may come less frequently like once per week.

The testing is a Federal program. The Federal government purchased 150 Million test kits. The State of Massachusetts has received 2 Million. The distribution will be to those schools that are part of the program.

At the most recent parent forum held by Dr. D'Andrea, a parent inquired about MCAS testing. MCAS testing is scheduled as normal. In order for the testing to be cancelled, it would have to begin at the Federal level. This would allow each State to apply for a waiver to the requirement of MCAS testing. At his point, they are not offering a waiver, and one is not anticipated before the January 20 testing. Dr. Smith added that it would be challenging for the Department of Education to administer the testing with so many districts having remote students. There would be too many irregularities as well as differences on how they would be delivered, not to mention accountability. The testing is very valuable if they are used the right way.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next Edgartown School Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:00pm via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee