



**EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021– 5:00pm**

**Edgartown School Library**

**REVISED**

**AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
  - A. Finance Report
  - B. Donation
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
  - A. School Reopening
  - B. Revised Mask Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
  - C. Student Transportation Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- V. Principal's Report**
  - A. Opening Day
  - B. Enrollment
  - C. Personnel
    - 1. New Hires
    - 2. Leave of Absences
    - 3. Retirements
  - D. Celebrate the Art of Teaching Project Grant Recipients
  - E. Dedication Ceremony in Memory of Ed Jerome
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**



## **EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021– 5:00pm**

**Edgartown School Library**

**Present:** Co Chairs: Kimberly Kirk and Kelly McCracken, and Louis Paciello,  
**Others:** Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, Supt., Dr. Matthew D'Andrea,  
Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instr., Dr. Richie Smith  
School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman  
Dir. Student Support, Hope McLeod  
Nedine Cunningham, Jennifer Fournier, Deb Debettencourt, Justen Foster, Darren  
Belisle, Brooke Leahy  
Recorder, MaryAnn Bartlett, AP,

**Call to Order:** The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) Meeting was called to order at 5:01PM  
by Kimberly Kirk, co chair

### **I. Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2021 (agenda item #1)**

Kelly McCracken made a motion to approve the minutes and Louis Paciello  
seconded

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

### **II. PTA Report (agenda item #2)**

Brooke Leahy, PTA President The PTA is creating a welcome event on Tuesday,  
September 14, at 3:00 for parents and students at the recreation area to help  
people learn about and join the PTA. Remind everyone that membership needs to  
be renewed each year. The PTA would especially like staff to join. The PTA had  
distributed a welcome back gift to teachers on the first days of school and handed  
out samples.

### **III. Finance Report (agenda item #3)**

#### **A. Finance Report**

Overall things look good. Not anything concerning. There are a few overages, i.e.  
Kindergarten teacher salary due to the new hire being at a higher level and step  
than the person they replaced, but there are other new-hire savings that more than  
make up for those. More positions are being hired so there will be more  
information with the filled vacancies. By the next meeting in October after hires  
have taken place there will be more information on how we are doing.

School Revolving Fund and School Choice , both are in good shape. The  
Revolving Fund has a good balance.

Our reimbursement rates from the State for every meal this last year has been at  
the highest rate. The School Choice fund is starting the year at \$135,000 which is

a good place to be at the beginning of the year.

There is an ESSER III grant that is in process through the State Department of ESE. This is COVID money from Washington DC. The total amount is \$226,000. The approval for how to spend the money is still in process. One primary purpose of the grant is to address learning loss during the COVID year and the grant is going to be used to pay the salary of 1 teacher. Due to the timing issue of the grant approval process for now, the general fund will be used. The intent is to move the salary for this teacher to the grant. This is an unusual process due to COVID and the grant approval process. There may be some overages until the grant is approved. The amount for the teacher position will be approximately half of the grant.

#### **B. Donation**

There is a donation. Mark Friedman deferred to Shelley Einbinder to present the donation for acceptance.

Through the generosity of Technology Administrator Darren Belisle's brother, Townsend Belisle, and his company, Haystack Needle, and Dunovan Belisle, Mr. Belisle's son who is also an Edgartown graduate, the Edgartown School has a brand new updated website. Townsend Belisle and Dunovan Belisle donated their time and the resources from the company to create the website. Elissa Coup was also acknowledged for the work done on the website. It is a fabulous new website. Darren Belisle demonstrated the website.

- The website was launched on Friday, September 3.
- The former platform was very old so the work was manual to transfer all the pieces.
- Teachers are beginning to work on their pages and to create links.
- There are new features for teachers such as sliders at the top of the page. It is mobile friendly and search-engine friendly.

Before taking the vote Kelly McCracken stated how important it is to show appreciation to Darren Belisle as there has been so much to tend to and the school could not do this all without him. Kelly wondered if there are stipends available to recognize Mr. Belisle but she did not want to put anyone on the spot but wanted to state in a public forum that Darren Belisle needs to be appreciated. Kimberly Kirk expressed gratitude to Mr. Belisle as well and said we would be remiss to not express gratitude and thanked everyone involved.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the donation with gratitude, Louis Paciello seconded.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report (agenda item #4)**

##### **A. School Reopening**

It was a good day and really good to be in person.

Mask wearing is a State requirement until at least Oct 1st.

The MA Commissioner said changes in the State masking requirement will be



learned late in September.

Testing is getting organized. There is a glitch due to demand on the company (CIC).

Parents will also be asked to give consent and a notice is being sent.

A surveillance test similar to Mirimus test that was used by MVYPS last year will be used to test weekly

Test-and-Stay - so students can be in school with a test if they are identified as a close contact

Molly Houghton, and the workers she has hired to work on the testing, as well as the supplies, and the online platform are all paid for by CIC. The process is slower than Matt D'Andrea would like but it is getting there.

A question was asked if the schools will use Mirimus surveillance and the answer is no, the surveillance test will be similar but is not the Mirimus test.

A question was asked if a student can stay in school if they are positive and the answer is no, students can stay in if they are a close contact and participate in the test and stay daily testing and produce a negative test each day of that protocol.

This is the Binex Now rapid test and can only be used for unvaccinated students.

A question was asked if the surveillance test uses the same methodology as the saliva test. The answer is yes, they had to decide between nasal swabs and a saliva test and they decided on the saliva since the schools are familiar with the process.

This is something that Health and Safety has been working on.

The superintendent said that with the masking and these tests the most important thing is that we are keeping students in school.

A question was asked if Sonya Stevens was the school physician for just the High School or for the entire district. The answer is that she is for the entire district.

#### **B. Revised Mask Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

There is one additional change in red on the copies of the mask policy.

“On school grounds” is crossed out on page 1. Then added “and when individuals are outside the school building”. Which means that when students are outside they do not need to wear a mask.

On the second page Matt D'Andrea wanted to strike the line that said, “or a student may be removed from the school building for remote learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.” We do not have remote learning so that line was removed from the policy.

Matt D'Andrea asked for a vote for a second reading.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to approve the second reading and Louis Paciello seconded

During the discussion Kelly McCracken asked if there will be a reassessment of the mask requirement around October 1st. and the answer was yes, as soon as DESE reevaluates the Superintendent will reevaluate.

Louis Paciello asked if the mask requirement remaining in place is dependent on an 80% of the school vaccination status. The answer was yes that the

commissioner did say that. The requirement will be in place until at least October 1 and he did mention that possibly if the school was 80% vaccinated it may change but it was not really clear and he mentioned that the percentage may change.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

**C. Student Transportation Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

This is a policy that was made by the transportation subcommittee, it has been approved by the MVY High School. Matt D'Andrea asked the School Committee to review and ask questions if they have not had a chance to do so. Kimberly Kirk acknowledged the amount of work that Hope McLeod did on the policy. The School Committee tabled voting on the policy until they have a chance to read the policy.

**V. Principal's Report (agenda item #5)**

**A. Opening Day**

Successful day. Nice to have more normal things in place such as Unified Arts classes and Enrichment opportunities for Middle School Students such as drumming. Everyone was pleased to eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Dr. Einbinder publicly thanked Head Custodian Dwight Kaeka and the custodial staff for the tremendous amount of work they did getting ready, Kitchen Manager and Head Cook Gina deBettencourt and the food service workers who prepared delicious meals, Nurses, IT Administrator, AP, School Office Staff and Teachers, and ESPs, who all worked incredibly hard to get everything ready for our students.

**B. Enrollment**

Large number of new students; some are brand new to Edgartown and some are returning after being fully remote. There are close to 40 not including entering Kindergarten and about half are ELL students. The numbers are constantly changing but on opening day there were 381 students. There are 20 pending enrollment - this will equal over 400 students when they are fully enrolled which is the largest number since Dr. Einbinder has been here.

**C. Personnel**

There are a large number of New Hires  
The new hires (in no particular order) are:  
Mary Beth Naron, ASP, replacing Paulee Davies  
Kate Curelli, Nurse  
Bill Jacob, new Grade 3 Teacher  
Celia Mercier, 7th and 8th Math Teacher  
Sharon Engler, Math and Literacy Intervention and 5th/6th Math Teacher  
Lorena Crespo, ELD Teacher  
Ian Lisi, Band Teacher shared with OB  
Fabian Garcia, Spanish Teacher 4-8

Lindsay Morgan, Special Education Teacher 5-8  
Lorna Schenck, K-4 ESP  
Linda Wanamaker, ESP Kindergarten  
Amy Koenig Da Silva, ESP 5-8  
Jesse Iskra, ESP 5-8  
Doug Pease, ESP 5-8  
Renee Habekost, ESP grade 1  
Amy Wood, Strings Teacher, (.2)  
There is a new Bridge Kindergarten at the school taught by Sue Conlan and Susan Tenerowicz is the ESP  
There are ESP positions and an ELD/SEI position still open. The ELD/SEI candidate withdrew due to a family emergency  
The school is happy to have all these new people in the building.

### **1. Leave of Absences**

Nicole Barlett requested a leave from December 1 to the remainder of the school year.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to accept the LOA and Louis Paciello seconded

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Bill Jacob requested to leave the position of ESP this year to take on the role of Grade 3 teacher.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to accept the LOA and Louis Paciello seconded

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Judy Maynard requested a leave due to medical reasons from Sept 1-November 1.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to accept the LOA and Louis Paciello seconded

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

### **2. Retirements**

Elizabeth Stobart requested to revoke her leave of absence request effective immediately and that she is retiring. Liz Stobart thanked everyone for the opportunity to work at the Edgartown School for the last 16 years.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to accept the retirement and Louis Paciello seconded

Kimberly Kirk acknowledged much gratitude to Liz Stobart

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Resignations were presented for the following:

- Bryann Allan Rickstad, ESP
- Diana Guimaraes, ESP Interpreter
- Kiely Rigali, Special Education Teacher



Kelly McCracken made a motion to accept the resignations and Louis Paciello seconded

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Kimberly Kirk gave best wishes to all

**D. Celebrate the Art of Teaching Project Grant Recipients**

Several Edgartown teachers are grant recipients of the *Celebrate the Art of Teaching Project Grants*

Justen Foster, 7th and 8th grade Science Teacher

Gail Gardner Technology Teacher and Sarah Vail F.A.C.S. Teacher. together they received a technology grant

Laura Walton, Choral and General Music Teacher, to purchase Brazilian instruments

**E. Dedication Ceremony in Memory of Ed Jerome**

There will be a special ceremony in dedication to former principal, Ed Jerome, Saturday September 18, 10AM An engraved granite bench will be installed and presented.

The public is invited to attend.

Kimberly Kirk asked if the ceremony was on the website and asked for it to be featured. Darren Belisle confirmed that it was.

**VI. Public Comment (agenda item #6)**

There was none.

**VII. New/Old Business (agenda item #7)**

Louis Paciello asked for an update on the garden as he was wondering what happened after the summer. Shelley Einbinder said the garden was maintained during the summer. The school has an agreement with Island Grown Initiative to maintain the garden, and to have a fully dedicated person to teach classes. All this information will be sent to the teachers so that the classes can start. It is a joint effort with the school and IGI paying for the budget. It is a similar arrangement as with all the other schools. Kimberly Kirk asked and Dr. Einbinder confirmed that this position was posted and this was the only quote received. Shelley Einbinder stated that more information will be presented at a future meeting.

**VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s) (agenda item #8)**

October 6, 2021 8AM in the Staff Dining Room

**IX. Adjournment**

Kelly thanked the teachers present for all the work they do.

Everyone agreed it is good to be back in-person.

Kimberly Kirk expressed gratitude for all the good things she saw this morning when she was at school. It was inspiring to see and she thanked everyone.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to adjourn and Louis Paciello seconded

The motion to adjourn was approved at 5:42: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays