



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021– 8:00am
Staff Dining Room**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. School Reopening
 - B. Revised Mask Policy – 3rd Reading
 - C. Student Transportation Policy – 1st Reading
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. October Events
 - B. Enrollment
 - C. Personnel
 - 1. New Hires
 - 2. Leave of Absences
 - 3. Stipend Request
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021– 8:00AM

Edgartown School Staff Dining Room

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
Brooke Leahy, PTA President, Justen Foster, Grade 8 Science teacher, Sarah
Hughes and Jessica Townes representing Martha's Vineyard Insurance, Sandy
Joyce, former Edgartown teacher and Ed Jerome Memorial Ceremony committee
member.*Kimberly Kirk arrived a few minutes after the start
Recorder, MaryAnn Bartlett, AP,

Call to Order: The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) Meeting was called to order at
8:06AM by Kelly McCracken, co chair

I. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2021 (agenda item #1)

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

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

II. PTA Report (agenda item #2)

Brooke Leahy, PTA president reported. The welcome event / meeting last month was sparsely
attended. The PTA is considering disbanding due to lack of participation. There is now a push to
raise membership. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 12 at 8:15AM, in the tent outside the link.
Membership materials were made available to the ESC. Richie Smith spoke and offered gratitude
to the PTA and expressed his hope that the PTA could continue as it would be a loss. Kelly
McCracken agreed and thanked the PTA for all they do and offered to support them in any way
the ESC can.

Presentation of Awards (not on the agenda)

Dr. Shelley Einbinder introduced Jessica Townes and Sarah Hughes representing Martha's
Vineyard Insurance awarding an MVY 2021 Teacher Grant - these are given to exemplary
teachers who go above and beyond to make a difference for our youth. Awards were presented to
Sharon Engler, remote 3rd grade teacher, and Deb Grant, a Kindergarten teacher. Appreciation
for the work they do was expressed and congratulations were offered to the teachers and to
everyone at the Edgartown School.

Kelly McCracken offered her gratitude to MVY Insurance for the awards and the recognition. Deb Grant offered her appreciation for the town of Edgartown supporting teachers and the community supporting the school. A photo was taken and Kelly McCracken requested it to be posted on the web site.

III. Finance Report (agenda item #3)

A. Finance Report

School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman reported. Most of the hiring is done at this point. There are projected savings overall. Kindergarten salary is a little higher but those are offset by teacher salaries. Due to the federal grant we have some of the specialist teacher budgets covered and there are projected savings there. Dr. Einbinder stated that the school is still doing some hiring. There is still more ESP hiring going on.

In the Special Education department the line item shows savings but those are expected to go away as the hiring continues and becomes completed. There don't seem to be issues in the supplies or the facilities line items but it is still early in the year. There is a projected variance in the custodial budget (page 4) that will be covered elsewhere in the budget. This is due to a shift in the night custodial work that will be added into the budget next year.

In the Fund Balance Report the School Choice and School Lunch Revolving lines reflect the free lunch this year. This will delay the revenue coming in because they are State reimbursements after the fact. This may show a delay in revenue by a month or so. There could be some timing issues but they are not showing yet. The other benefit is that students do not run up debts because there is no cost to meals. In other years that normally takes time to reconcile and we won't need to cover this year.

One fund not listed yet is the elevator project. This project was approved in the warrant article last spring. It is not set up in the budget because the work has to be done when the school is closed in the summer. This will show up in one of the next reports but the money will not be spent until the summer.

Kelly McCracken asked how procured money and the costs, which are rising, will be covered if the money is not spent this year. The answer is that the contract is a State contract so the project cost is set. There is also wording such as "labor can be up to 50,000" and the hope is that the labor costs comes in within that and it will work. If not we would have to create our own projects.

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

A. School Reopening

School reopening has gone smoothly, children are engaged and learning. The same is across the island. The Commissioner extended the mask mandate through November 1st. Later in October the Commissioner will let schools know if that is extended. On October 15, if a school has 80% of the staff and students vaccinated, the school committee of that school would have to make that decision. The only school that could potentially qualify would be the high school so they will talk about that soon.

The surveillance testing began this week. Symptomatic testing is used and Binex-Now is used. The Test-and-Stay program is used in school for close contacts if the parents consent. It is used

instead of quarantining and takes place for 5 days as long as the student tests negative each morning.

This year the schools are not using the saliva test and are using the nasal swab. This is done in school and not sent home. The hope is that more tests will be conducted. CIC has been a good partner and very supportive. Administration met with the president of the company and he is very supportive.

Kelly McCracken asked a question: how are people chosen. The answer is that we cannot mandate testing. MVYPS needs to follow the State regulations and we need an educational option if students said they were not going to test. Since MVYPS has no remote option it is not possible.

Louis P asked if there is something in place for students who are quarantined. The answer is that students will have to access the school work remotely asynchronously. Richie Smith answered that last year many teachers created Landing Pages so students can access the work. The hybrid model was very difficult to maintain for a variety of reasons one being that a large percentage of the schedule needs to be the same as the in-person schedule.

450 staff and students were tested and 70 were tested at Edgartown. All with consent. A question was asked about how many people provided consent. The answer is about 50% of all students and staff have given consent. Each time a request has been sent out there is an uptick in consents so the plan is to continue to ask. Leah Palmer is also making a video to help communicate with Brazilian families about the consent.

A question was asked about the breakdown of who consented. A significant number of the staff has consented.

MVYPS is working with Dr. Stoto to determine an appropriate number of people that need to consent that make sense for our district, right now it seems like the number is 600.

A question was asked about the turnaround time for the weekly testing. The answer is around 24 hours. The weekly samples are overnighted.

A question was asked who handles all the testing. The answer is: Molly Houghton. Hired 7 individuals and Norton Education hires workers through CIC. They implement the testing and all the results go to the Superintendent. The nurses are involved to a certain extent but the workload has been lessened this year.

The Test and Stay is working well.

The president of CIC is trying to get a few more workers.

This is all paid for by the State and as of now is for the year.

A question was asked about what happens when there is a positive. The Superintendent contacts the nurse who begins contact tracing and the principal is also notified that this process has begun.

B. Revised Mask Policy – 3rd Reading

This is the 3rd reading of the revised mask policy and there are no changes since the last reading.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to approve and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed: 3 ayes and 0 nays

C. Student Transportation Policy – 1st Reading

This policy was first passed by the high school because technically transportation is part of the high school. It was developed by the transportation subcommittee. A question was asked if the school bus stops being centralized was new. The answer is no. Kimberly Kirk spoke about the large amount of work that went into the policy and that Hope McLeod worked on it. Special Education guidelines were incorporated and those constitute many of the changes. Hope McLeod clarified that the Special Education guidelines may change or be updated and that is why the policy refers to the guidelines.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve the first reading of the, Louis Paciello seconded.

The first reading passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Discussion: Mark Friedman said there is a national bus driver shortage. The transportation department people who normally do work in the office are driving. This is not unique to MVYPS and probably won't change in the near future. If anyone is interested in driving a bus please reach out. The transportation department will work to get this resolved. A question was asked if the problem was the licensing. The answer is that the bus driver population is usually retired people who decline driving working with unvaccinated people. Also other private bus companies are recruiting and the housing market makes it difficult for bus drivers to live here. Licensure is part of it and there is national talk about easing the CDL requirements. It is a part of the problem. A question was asked if MVYPS pays for the licensing and the answer is that the schools need to find a variety of ways to meet the challenges and the subcommittee needs to work on that. Richie Smith said there needs to be more incentives from MVYPS for drivers to join.

There is a Robinson Road planning committee meeting at the highway department. The superintendent will attend today at 4:30.in-person. A question was asked about what it is about. It has to do with the Boys and Girls Club project and the Boys and Girls Club asked for someone from MVYPS to attend. The superintendent will report back.

V. Principal's Report

A. October Events

Last night was the first of two Zoom Curriculum Nights for K-4 and Unified Arts. Tonight it will be on 5-8. They were well attended and a success.

On October 12 there will be a Children's Day Celebration to highlight the Brazilian tradition. There will be special events and the cafeteria will prepare Brazilian food.

Nancy Cole announced that author Jack Gantos will be at the Edgartown School on Monday the 18th and doing 3 presentations. He will also present at the High school and West Tisbury. And, beginning on Monday October 25 there will be an in-person book fair week. The vendor is a new vendor, Follett Books instead of Scholastic Books. Parents will be allowed in and the amount of people in the library at the same time will be limited.

A question was asked if the PTA could help and the answer was with limited numbers it could work.

On Friday, October 22, at 1:15 will be the traditional United Nations Day Celebration outside by the flagpole. The 8th graders each hold a different flag; there are other elements to the ceremony. It is weather dependent.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are on October 26, 28, and November 1st. Grades K-4 are in-person. Grades 5-8 are via Zoom since there are so many appointments and it should be easier for families to attend.

There will be a 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom in Groton, Ma. It is an overnight 2-day trip October 27-29. Eric Butler is spearheading this trip.

On October 29 the monthly fun run will resume with the Pumpkin Run.

This feels like a more typical school year even though everyone is in masks.

B. Enrollment

381 at opening

395 are confirmed as of October 4 and there is one student who begins today so that is not covered in the numbers. Many of the new students are from Brazil and are Newcomers or level 1 ELD students.

C. Personnel

1. New Hire:

Charlotte Hammond joined the Edgartown School as an ESP in grade 3. This is due to the opening of the new 3rd grade classroom.

We are in the final stages of hiring an ESP interpreter and that will be announced in the next meeting. In the meantime we are using a contracted interpreter. We are still hiring until there are 2 interpreters hired.

2. Leave of Absences:

There are 2 LOAs. Sarah Knight requests a 1-year LOA from her Kindergarten ESP position in order to take the One-Year Only Kindergarten Bridge program Kindergarten teacher. We will need to backfill the ESP position created.

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

Jen Abreu requests a one-year LOA from her ESP interpreter role due to immigration difficulties traveling back from Brazil.

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

3. Stipend Request

The stipend request is in regards to Darren Belisle's work on the new website. This is something that everyone is very proud of and in addition Mr. Belisle has gone above and beyond to help everyone in the building. Most recently at

the curriculum nights when 3 interpreters were simultaneously working to interpret on Zoom. The proposal is for a stipend of \$5,000

Kelly McCracken motioned to approve the stipend with gratitude and Louis P seconded with gratitude.

During the discussion Matt D'Andrea expressed his support for the stipend. He is going to propose a significant increase in the pay for the technology administrators. He did some homework comparing the MVYPS salaries to other school districts. It is apparent that it needs to be adjusted to match the level that is appropriate to the responsibilities.

Kelly McCracken also recognized that Mr. Belisle did extra work during the last year and this is owed to him. The job has significantly increased. The responsibilities, such as security, have completely changed.

A member of the public said that a good tech person is critical and having someone who knows what they are doing is needed. It is not surprising that in the last 10-15 years the salaries have gone up.

A roll call vote was called:

The motion was approved: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

A question was asked if Nature's classroom was in state. Yes, it is.

VI. Public Comment (agenda item #6)

Sandy Joyce said that the committee for the ceremony for Ed Jerome was much appreciated. Thanks were given to all who supported the event. Matt D'Andrea expressed his appreciation to the committee. Kelly McCracken agreed and said that the ceremony was wonderful and she also appreciated the committee's work. Kimberly Kirk also expressed her gratitude. Louis P said that Ed Jerome was a huge part of his life. He was not able to attend due to football, but heard it was excellent and thanked the committee.

Kimberly Kirk thanked Brooke Leahy and said she brings positive energy to the job of PTA president. And that she is doing a great job. She said she hoped Brooke will stick with it.

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

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

A question was asked if the meeting times alternate between mornings and afternoons. The answer was yes. A proposal to meet on Wednesday, November 10 at 4:30 was made.

IX. Adjournment

Kelly McCracken made a motion to adjourn and Louis Paciello seconded.

The motion to adjourn was approved at 9:01.

3 Ayes, 0 Nays