



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 5:00pm
Via Zoom

REVISED **AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. Elevator Bid – Budget and Possible Vote**
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. Updates
 - B. Student Transportation Policy –3rd Reading
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Boys & Girls Club Project Update
 - B. Project 351 Ambassador
 - C. Enrollment
 - D. Personnel
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Participation in the School Committee meeting is available via Zoom. You will have to download the Zoom app if you don't already have it on your computer or Smartphone.

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 5:00pm Via Zoom
Minutes**

Present: Co Chairs: Kimberly Kirk and Kelly McCracken, and Louis Paciello
Others: Supt., Dr. Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instr., Dr. Richie Smith, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman, Dir. Student Support, Hope MacLeod, Deb DeBettencourt - guidance counselor, Abigail Williamson, ELD Teacher, Brooke Leahy, PTA President, Highly Marsh, 8th Grade Student, Amy Heil, Brooke Ward, and other members of the community, Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett, Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order at 5:02

I. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2021

Louis Paciello made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021 and Kelly McCracken seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays (vote taken before Kimberly Kirk arrived)

II. PTA Report:

The PTA had their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan 11. They hope to have an in-school event for parents in the spring, especially for new parents to learn more about the PTA. They also hope to have an event in support of Staff before the February break.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb 8 at 5PM at the offices of Allied Mortgage or on Zoom.

Kelly McCracken took the opportunity to address the parents in attendance who attended in response to an email sent out alerting parents to a presentation of information about the Boys and Girls Club building project and the road that is proposed for accessing the new site. She thanked the Parks Department for alerting the School Committee to the scope of the effects on the road on the school's fields.

For now the School Committee has been in touch with the town and the town is working to make the road or the new project to have the least amount of impact on the school. Kelly McCracken and Matt D'Andrea met with the abutters but the road will not go in front of their houses. Matt D'Andrea said, yes, he is not happy with the original plan and he hopes that a compromise can be reached.

Kelly McCracken thanked Brooke Leahy for raising awareness within the community and letting parents know the topic would be addressed at this meeting.

At the end of the meeting Kelly McCracken clarified that a proposed bike path along the edge of the field would be a good thing since it would have less impact than a road and provide a safer way for students, pedestrians and bikers to access the club.

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report:

Mark Friedman began with a review of the Fund Balance Report.

Fund #200, the Special Education Circuit Breaker is at a positive balance of \$108,000 and is expected to grow this year. These are payments from the State for last year's residential placements.

There is \$66,000 in the Revolving Lunch Fund. The expenses equal the revenue. Meals are all still being reimbursed so this is not a concern. The federal government has boosted the refund so this should remain in financial good shape.

#401, the School Choice Fund, is at a balance of \$159,000. Right now there is not a pressing need for those funds.

Fund #507 is the fund approved last spring through a warrant article to renovate the elevators.

Mark Friedman also reviewed the Expenditure Report:

There are no significant negative variances being projected.

There are projected variances in the Secretary and Kindergarten teacher salaries but they are offset by various other salaries not being spent due to vacancies. Student accident insurance went up across all schools island-wide.

A question was asked about the Enrichment Teacher longevity amount which was at 166% and Mark Friedman said that it looked like an allocation across more than one line and that he would get back to the School Committee with that information.

B. Elevator Bid – Budget and Possible Vote:

The total elevator renovation project budget of \$200,948 approval was voted on last spring. This project was put out to bid. A bid came in from Associated Elevator Company at \$232,776. This is over by \$31, 228 which would need to be found within the budget before pursuing this bid and entering into a contract. There are places within the budget, with the approval of the School Committee, where money can be taken. Shelley Einbinder said there are 2 options: ask the school committee to approve use of the School Choice Fund or to use money from the School Improvement line items.

A question was asked about what School Improvement projects are planned and are any of them urgent. The answer was that all the projects are important.

A question was asked about where the School Choice funds go. The answer was that the school receives a modest amount of money from the State every time a student

enters from another town. The School Choice money is able to be used in a variety of ways. A question was asked about how the monies were used in the past. The answer was that in general these monies are often used to help supplement salaries, stipends, or supplies but it is not required to use the funds that way.

Louis Pasciello said he was not familiar with the use of the School Choice fund monies and also worries about taking money away from maintenance of the building.

The balance in the Facilities Upgrade account is \$26,600 and all of that is still available. And, in the Building Improvements expense line is a \$45,000 annual budget and \$30,160 is still available. There are other line items that show balances left but they are less desirable to take from. For instance, the residential program line item. Mark Friedman said he is confident that there are enough projected savings in a variety of places to wait until the end of the year to move the monies from these line items to reconcile the elevator project bid overages so the School Committee could leave the options open.

Kelly McCracken asked if there seems to be plans for using the residential placement account balance at this point of the year. Hope McLeod answered that, no, there are no plans at this time and that since it would be prorated at this point in the year, there would be enough money to cover a placement.

Kimberly Kirk asked about waiting before identifying the line items where the money could come from, how is that possible. The answer is that, while it is unusual, it is possible this year to do that if the School Committee takes a vote to approve that.

Kimberly Kirk asked if the proposal for the bid can be entertained if the specific line items are not identified and the answer was yes, if the vote is from the General Fund.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to take \$31, 828 out of the General Fund to accommodate the proposal for renovating the elevator.

Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Updates

There is a sharp rise in COVID numbers and high absentee numbers.

Dr. Andrea thanked the nurses for the long hours they are working, their commitment and dedication. He also thanked all staff for helping keep the buildings open.

MVYPS has been working with CIC, the testing company. They got behind in their turnaround time and have apologized and said they would remedy this. Matt D'Andrea said the school would take further actions if the issue is not resolved.

The mask mandate has been extended until the end of February.

The hope is that the rise in numbers will subside and there can be some normalcy.

There are 6 budgets across the island and all but 1 have passed. After that they all go to town meetings for final approval.

A question was asked if there was any talk about asynchronous work in schools. The answer was that the State will not count remote instruction as a school day. Both Governor Baker and The Education Director, Jeff Riley, feel very strongly that remote instruction is inferior. Any district that feels they need to shut down, would need to contact a DESE team first to work with the district to problem-solve before they can close. If after that consultation it is determined the district would close the closing would be temporary.

A question was asked about how the teachers are feeling. The answer was that the teachers feel very stressed and overwhelmed. Dr. Andrea said he appreciates all that the teachers are doing.

Kimberly Kirk also offered the School Committee's gratitude to the Edgartown School teachers. She mentioned that some children need to go to school but some children have anxiety about going to school in these conditions. Kimberly Kirk said there is stress everywhere and wished the State could be more flexible in allowing choices for ways to handle this surge.

B. Student Transportation Policy –3rd Reading

Dr. D'Andrea said there have been no changes to the Policy since the second reading.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve the third reading of the transportation policy and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

V. Principal's Report

A. Boys & Girls Club Project Update

Kelly McCracken gave the update earlier in the meeting.

B. Project 351 Ambassador

Shelley Einbinder presented Highly Marsh as the 2022 Project 351 Ambassador. She will participate in a virtual event with other student ambassadors from throughout the State and represent the Edgartown School. The School Committee offered their congratulations.

C. Enrollment

As of January 3rd there were 397 students. Some students unenrolled due to travelling and several of them will most likely return. 3 other students are pending.

D. Personnel

Abigail Williamson requested an additional 5 days of unpaid leave in order to take the

LOA that was previously approved. This is due to Indonesia, where she is traveling to, requiring travelers to quarantine for 10 days. January 24 to the end of the school year.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve the extension of the LOA from January 24th to the end of the school year and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Kelly McCracken asked how the school is dealing with students who are stressed as well as the teachers. The answer is that a strain has been put on everyone. In the past two staff meetings the teachers have discussed these issues on how best to address this together consistently. Shelley Einbinder recently participated in a virtual school leader workshop with leaders from throughout the State and learned techniques for improving school culture. Students have lost so much in the last year and a half. She also learned that this phenomenon is common among all schools across the State. Students have been severely affected socially, emotionally and academically. Students are very stressed and it has not been a normal year.

Kelly McCracken asked if parents have been directed by the administration to the discipline policy in the handbook in order to remind students of consequences for negative behaviors and that there is a rule of law and boundaries. The answer was that there are people working on updating the handbook in order to share with parents. Also, ESSER funds can be used for parent workshops in order to support parents with their student learning. And, parents are contacted for individual behaviors for example on the bus, if students are not behaving appropriately they could lose bus privileges.

VI. Public Comment

There was none.

VII. New/Old Business

There was none.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5:30PM by Zoom but it might change if possible.

There is also an Edgartown Town budget hearing on February 2, 2022 from 3:00-4:00PM by Zoom and if anyone can make that it would be good to sit in the gallery to answer questions.

Kimberly Kirk mentioned that Zoom makes it more accessible.

IX. Adjournment

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59