



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 5:30pm
Via Zoom**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2022**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. Donation
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. General Update
 - B. Special Education Update
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Green Communities Program – Discussion and Possible Vote
 - B. LED Lighting Options – RISE Engineering
 - C. Announcements
 - D. Request for Out of State Travel
 - E. Enrollment
 - F. 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.

To join the meeting, please click on the link below:

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 5:30pm
Via Zoom

Present: Co Chairs: Kimberly Kirk and Kelly McCracken, and Louis Paciello
Others: Supt., Dr. Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Supt., Dr. Richie Smith, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman, Dir. Student Support, Hope MacLeod, Alan Strahler Chair of the Edgartown Energy Committee, Brooke Leahy, PTA President, Ava Townes, Connie Leuenenberger, Deb DeBettencourt, Dave Ferguson, Debra Grant, Denise Searle, Elsbeth Todd, Emily Crossland, Gail LaChapelle, Jennifer Fournier, Kara Leandro, Katie Kelly, Lizzie Ward, Pamela Alwardt, Megan McDonald, Nancy Cole, Robin Davies, Sarah Knight, Nedine Cunningham, Sean DeBettencourt, Tara Sykes, Teresa Temple, Ryan Leandro, Gina Debettencourt, Spencer D'Agostino, Summer DeSouza, Janet Hurley, Alicia Knight, Unidentified Zoom User, Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett, Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM

I. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2022

Kelly McCracken made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

II. PTA Report

Brooke Leahy reported that their February meeting was held in-person and virtually on Feb 8.

The PTA hopes to sponsor cello master classes through Amy Wood and Rebecca Laird and the Strings program. A cellist will come to give lessons to students at the end of March.

The PTA will sponsor a Boosterthon fundraiser on May 31. They are looking for a sponsor for t-shirts for that. Tuesday, March 8 at 2:45 is the next meeting and they hope to have the meeting in the Staff Dining Room.

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report given by Mark Friedman. He reviewed the Expenditure Report and the Fund Balance Report. There are some expected overages but they are covered by the current vacancies in salary line items. Vacancies are being seen across the island. Hiring is difficult everywhere. The school lunch revolving account still has a good balance. Lunch is still being provided through the state and federal government. The School Choice funds are still at a healthy balance.

B. Donation

A mud kitchen valued at \$565.00 was donated by Loren Evans who owns the Monarch Studio in Edgartown. It is geared towards PK and Kindergarten-aged students and will be made available to those students.

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

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

The School Committee expressed their gratitude for the donation.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. General Update

On February 28 the State is lifting the mask mandate for schools. Feb 28 is during the February break. Students would still need to wear masks on all school buses as well as in the nurse's offices. The steps that need to be taken are:

Dr. D'Andrea will speak with the Health and Safety committee tomorrow, Feb 10. And, the issue of rescinding the current mask policy can be brought to the All Island School Committee meeting next week on Thursday, Feb 17.

After that, there is the potential that the individual school committees could break out to vote to rescind the local mask policies. If so, students would need to wear masks until February 28.

In addition, masks will be needed on buses and in the nurse's offices.

If staff and students feel comfortable wearing masks they may continue to do so.

The once-a-week PCR testing will continue.

In addition students and staff can participate in the take-home rapid tests once per week provided by the State DESE.

The nurses also have BINAX tests in the nurse's offices.

This is a robust testing program and Matt D'Andrea thanked everyone involved for their efforts in managing this difficult situation.

Kelly McCracken asked about the process for certain situations such as driver's ed and/or gym when students need negative tests to participate. She wanted to know if the school can provide letters stating that students tested negative. Matt D'Andrea said he could check with the Department of Education and CIC. Kimberly Kirk asked that the information be shared and suggested checking with a lawyer about sharing/endorsing information.

B. Special Education Update was provided by Hope MacLeod

Laurel Peltier is a consultant and has been working as a consultant regarding where we want special education to go in the future and this has worked well. This training focused on setting goals and using data as well as consistency and the direction for special education within the district.

A readiness assessment has been worked on in collaboration with Think Kids. A focus was on collaborative problem-solving. The summary should be written up and ready to be

presented soon.

Hope asked for feedback on a general newsletter she had created. This version highlights speech and language services and has links that could be put on the Edgartown School website.

V. Principal's Report

A. Green Communities Program – Discussion and Possible Vote

Alan Strahler from the Edgartown Green Communities Project presented information. He is the chair of the energy committee and has been working since 2018.

A slideshow was presented by Mr. Strahler entitled: *The Energy Reduction Plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy for Green Community Application*

These energy saving initiatives are required plans for applying for a Green Community designation and the school participation is a big part of the plan because the building uses the most energy and has the largest costs of all buildings in the town. Five other island towns have applied and being designated a Green Community can result in funding for energy saving projects. The Fuel Efficient Policy is required to be approved by the ESC and the Selectboard even if the school does not currently purchase vehicles.

The details of the plans, requirements, savings, and funding potential are presented in the slides which are available in another document.

Kimberly Kirk asked Mark Friedman about a vote that was taken on energy upgrades and how it intersects with this information. Mr. Friedman confirmed that that vote was part of this process and covered some of the expenses associated with the energy savings projects costs.

Kelly McCracken asked for confirmation that there are no further costs involved in these projects. The answer was that if there are any changes to the costs there are choices for spreading the costs out over a longer time, or considering whether or not to continue with them.

Kimberly Kirk asked who will do the installations. The answer was that Rise Engineering will do the work.

It was clarified that the Town of Edgartown applies for the grant; it would be the Town that is given the Green Community determination. Mark Friedman confirmed that this is a valuable process and other island towns have been through the process.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to adopt the Energy Reduction Plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicle policy and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

The School Committee expressed their gratitude to Mr. Strahler for the presentation.

B. LED Lighting Options – RISE Engineering

A second slideshow entitled: *LED Lighting Solutions for Edgartown Elementary School* from RISE Engineering was presented by Mr. Strahler.

The details of the information about LED lighting at the school are presented in the slides which are available in another document.

Mark Friedman apologized for not sending the information to the ESC before the meeting. There was a question about whether or not to go forward with the presentation because of this. Since there is no vote required regarding this information the decision is made to go forward and have the slides presented. Mark Friedman clarified that this presentation reviews an expansion of the LED lighting project that was voted on earlier in the school year. Two alternatives to replacing the lighting were presented.

Mark Friedman will share the information with the ESC and they will review it.

C. Announcements Dr. Shelley Einbinder shared 2 announcements:

Syus Rivera Rigali, an 8th grade honor roll student and basketball player, has been accepted to perform in the Southeast Regional District Band on March 11 and 12. Ian Lisi the Band Director was very excited to share that information.

Sharon Engler, who teaches 5th and 6th grade ELA and Math is a finalist in an Educator Ambassador Program that will take place over the next two years.

Kimberly Kirk gave her congratulations to Syus Rigali, Ian Lisi, and Sharon Engler.

Dr. Shelley Einbinder requested approval from the ESC for Out of State Travel
The 7th grade will travel out of state to Guilford, New Hampshire for a ski trip to the Gunstock Ski Resort on March 9-11.

Louis Pasciello made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel to New Hampshire for the 7th Grade ski trip and Kimberly Kirk seconded.

Kimberly Kirk asked to have the motion amended to show that the Superintendent has the discretion to make changes to any travel due to public health requirements and the motion was revised.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays (Kelly McCracken had exited the Zoom due to wifi issues)

The School Committee wished the students the best on their trip.

E. Enrollment

Dr. Einbinder stated that the enrollment was 398 with 9 pending.

F. Personnel

Feza DeChiara started on January 26 as a Long Term Substitute ELD teacher replacing Abigail Williamson who is on leave until the end of the year.

With regret the school received a resignation from Penny Hageanon, an ESP at the Edgartown School for many years. She will go to work in another school.

VI. Public Comment

Hope MacLeod put the Special Education flier in the chat for anyone to access.

Robin Davies spoke as a crossing guard who has worked for 17 years. She asked for guidance on how to get a raise for the crossing guards. The crossing guards met recently to ask Shelley for a pay increase. Shelley told them that the budget is set for this year and next. There was a discussion among the participants about the crossing guard pay.

Kimberly Kirk thanked Robin for presenting the question and all the information. Since the School Committee was not prepared for the question, they were not prepared to do anything but the School Committee does share the concerns for safety at the crosswalks that were expressed.

VII. New/Old Business

There was none.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday March 16, at 5:30PM Location was not discussed at the time of the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

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

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.