



**EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022 – 5:30pm  
Edgartown School Library**

**AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2022**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
  - A. Finance Report
  - B. School Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grant Award
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
  - A. School Choice Vote for 2022-2023
  - B. General Update
  - C. Special Education Update
- V. Principal's Report**
  - A. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Ski Trip Highlights – Michelle Pikor
  - B. School Garden Updates – Helen Rhines - IGI School Garden Coordinator
  - C. Enrollment
  - D. Personnel
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**



## **EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022 – 5:30pm**

**Edgartown School Library**

Present: Co Chairs: Kimberly Kirk and Kelly McCracken, and Louis Paciello

Others: Asst. Supt., Dr. Richie Smith, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman, Dir. Student Support, Hope MacLeod, Nedine Cunningham Social Studies Teacher, Helen Rhines, Garden Coordinator, Michelle Pikor AD and PE Teacher, Deb Debettencort, Guidance Counselor, Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett, Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM

### **I. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2022**

Louis Paciello made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022 and Kelly McCracken seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

### **II. PTA Report**

Notes were sent in by Brooke Leahy and Dr. Einbinder read them

The last meeting was March 8. The PTA is sponsoring a cellist to perform and give lessons at the school on April 1. They voted to offset the costs of the volleyball team t-shirts. The PTA is in the running for the MVY Community Impact grant and they ask for all to support them and vote. The PTA is going to do an outdoor Boosterthon run in May. The theme is Sports Around the World. There are many opportunities for local businesses to help sponsor this event to raise money. The next meeting is April 8.

### **III. Finance Report**

A. Finance Report given by Mark Friedman. He reviewed the Expense Report and the Fund Balance Report. There are some expected overages but they are covered by the current sporadic overages: Kindergarten teacher salaries which are due to contractual; the subs for regular ed teachers are at a \$25,000 deficit and this is due to subs being used more than in the past and a pay raise; and the guidance teachers salary is also projected at over budget due to contractual. There was also a small overage in food services but Mr. Friedman didn't drill down into that and another one in routine repairs. He said he has confidence that there is plenty of time and funds elsewhere in the budget to continue to cover that as well as student accident insurance which has been discussed in the past. The residential line is currently not being used but that always has the potential of being used.

Mr. Paciello asked for clarification on the student insurance overage. The cost is being driven by the number of accidents (sports and playground/field trips) students have been having but also by the medical costs incurred. This is expensive on the island since most of the time the students go to the ER which is expensive. The claim costs are driven up by these and therefore the cost goes up - it is not a competitive market.

Kimberly Kirk asked about the boiler insurance and Mr. Friedman explained that that is also not a competitive marketplace. And, Kimberly Kirk asked about a door to the shed being replaced. There were expenses incurred due to the shed door being replaced during the February vacation.



At the last ESC meeting there was a question on the Enrichment Coordinator longevity amount being to the penny. Mr. Friedman noted there is a formula hiccup in the budget and the amount can easily be absorbed.

Mr. Friedman reviewed three items in the fund balance report: The Circuit Breaker line - that revenue is coming from the State based upon a residential placement from last year. Mark Friedman reminded all that the money needs to be used by the end of the year per State regulations. Those will likely be used to offset some general expenses which will help offset the General Fund; the school is in a positive balance of \$86,000 in the Lunch Fund; The School Choice Fund has a balance of \$166,600 and at this point it looks like that amount can be rolled over in the coming year.

A question was asked about the \$13,000 garden donation -where that money can be used and Dr. Einbinder asked to wait until the Garden update presentation.

Dr. Einbinder announced that the school has been awarded a grant of \$19,160 to replace a steamer in the kitchen. It needs to be spent by August 31, 2022. Mark Friedman stated that the grant goes to the superintendent's office and will be accepted by them.

A question was asked who wrote the grant. The answer was Bernadette Cormier collaborated with Gina Debettencourt.

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

Richie Smith gave the report.

A. **School Choice** - Each year the school is required to revalidate the School Choice program. Any child leaving to go to another town the revenues come from the town. It is a unique situation where the schools benefit directly and the towns pay. It is about \$5,000 per student.

A question was asked about how many students attend out of district and the answer is currently 5 and that is typical.

A question was asked if traditionally everyone says yes and the answer is yes. So far this year Oak Bluffs and Tisbury have voted yes.

Richie Smith stated that a committee can rescind a vote but they would have to do so by June 1.

Kelly McCracken made a motion to participate in the School Choice program for school year 2022-2023 and Louis Paciello seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

B. **General Update** - The mask policy is now optional. Some people are still wearing masks and there seems to be acceptance around that. There is still robust testing in place.

A question was asked if there was any end to the testing. There could be due to finances. The Shaw foundation would need to continue funding the testing. It is a State grant and there is no indication from DESE.

A question was asked if testing was voluntary. The answer was yes. That was a guideline from DESE.

A question was asked about requiring testing for sports and the answer is yes, it is mandatory. It is possible to mandate this because the students are participating in something that is not part of the general education.

Making testing mandatory for sports was advised by legal council and it is a way to promote testing.

**C. The Student Opportunity Act.** Pre Pandemic there had been a presentation of the Student Opportunity Act which comes from State Chapter 70 monies. It is targeted to close the achievement gap for students with special needs, low socioeconomic groups, students of minority groups, and ELL students.

The State looks at the income, property taxes and the demographics of the school population. There is a formula for the town to use to know what the town is supposed to provide as a “Foundation Budget”.

There was a look back at the amounts given to the town from the Chapter 70 money. The money this year is \$12,480 and it is earmarked and should be used for those 4 groups. The school system has to look at the data and what students are in need. It was determined that ELL students and students on IEPs needed to be targeted. The school needs to determine interventions and also use data to measure progress. It is not a lot of money but at either the next local school committee or the all-Island meeting it should be presented what has been done.

Richie Smith asked to be put on the agenda for the next ESC meeting so that he can present the information. The ESC needs to review the supports and approve them and be recorded as participating as stakeholders. Dr. Smith will send information to the committee via email before the next meeting.

A question was asked if there are other things being done for enrichment in other areas. The answer was yes, this grant is for those 4 groups and only 37% of the districts in Massachusetts are receiving that money. There are other things that are happening for other students such as ESSER money which is more flexible.

The timing of this grant has changed consistently. The revenue has stalled and that is part of the reason this has been delayed since 2020.

Kimberly Kirk asked what the question would be exactly. The approval that will be needed will be in regards to the programming created. The programming needs to be meeting the needs of the targeted groups. The committee will be able to ask questions about the programming. There are 26 items that could be met for instance; more common planning time, staffing, extended school year.

Hope MaLeod said that the document will have to show how the populations are being serviced. It needs to be clear and concise and based on data. Programming for special education students and ELL students usually also has a positive effect on the whole school. The presentation of information is streamlined and minimized so it is brief.

## **V. Special Education Update**

Hope McLeod presented the March Newsletter. March is Developmental Disabilities Month. The newsletter is focused on developmental disabilities and how they are supported across classrooms at the Edgartown School.

The IPAC is reconvening. The Parent Advisory Council officers met recently and there is a meeting on April 7. This is a great forum for parents to share information and for Hope MacLeod so that she can get information about what is working and what is needed on the island.

The newsletters are posted on the Edgartown School website and they will be translated soon.

The PTA purchased reader pens for the Middle School and everyone is very appreciative. This was done through two teachers applying for grants from the PTA.

## **VI. Principal's Report**



**A. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Ski Trip Highlights** – Michelle Pikor presented a slide show of the trip to Gunstock New Hampshire. The weather was good and it was a very successful trip.

A question was asked about the participation percentage. About 13 students did not go.

The School Committee thanked everyone who participated.

**B. School Garden Updates** – Helen Rhines - IGI School Garden Coordinator

Helen began in October and works for Island Grown Schools which is an Island Grown Initiative organization. There is a Garden educator in every school on the island.

Grades K, 1, and 3 see Ms. Rhines every week for 30-minute lessons. There are 2 Middle School enrichment blocks as well and on average she teaches 150 students each week.

Helen presented a slide with the curriculum goals and highlights from some of the class lessons.

Helen will be growing vegetables for the cafeteria this spring. The Spring Plant Sale will be at the end of May and the After School Garden Club is beginning at the end of March. Field trips will also be organized. As much as possible the classes are involved in tasks that maintain the garden. The kindergarteners will be hatching baby chicks in their classrooms this month. Helen welcomes everyone to contact her if they wish.

Kimberly Kirk thanked Ms. Rhines and expressed gratitude for all she does for the school. Ms. Kirk asked if the same program is in each school and the answer was yes, but there is a lot of flexibility. The curriculum is shared and it is helpful to have the other teachers to work with.

Mr. Friedman asked what happens to the garden in the summer. The IGI has one person who travels from school to school maintaining the gardens.

The biggest thing the IGI is trying to find funds for is for the electrical for the greenhouse. Ms. Rhines has been talking with the PTA about finding funds for this work.

**C. Enrollment** - there are 400 students with 6 pending.

**D. Personnel** - Rose DeAzevedo will start on Monday, March 21 as the ESP Interpreter.

## **VII. Public Comment**

## **VIII. New/Old Business**

In regards to the location for the road to the new Boys and Girls Club Kelly McCracken learned that the road will not go through the fields. The road will go through the tennis courts and in that way it will border the field. There will still be a fence and hopefully there will be a bike path leading to the Club. The new plans were due by the Middle of March.

## **IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 5:30PM in the Edgartown School Library

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47