



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – 5:00pm
Edgartown School Library

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes from ~~April 13~~, 2022
MAY 9
- II. PTA Report
- III. Finance Report
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. End of Year Budget Transfers - Vote
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - A. General Update
 - B. AISC
 - C. Special Education Update – Hope MacLeod
 - D. Non-Union Salary Adjustments
- V. Principal's Report
 - A. School Garden Updates – Emily Armstrong & Helen Rhines (IGI)
 - B. End of Year Activities
 - C. Enrollment
 - D. Personnel
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. New/Old Business
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)
- IX. Adjournment

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – 5:00pm

Edgartown School Library

Minutes

Present: Chair, Kimberly Kirk and member Laura Seguin,
Others: Supt., Dr. Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instr., Dr. Richie Smith, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator, Hope McLeod Director of Student Services, Brooke Leahy, PTA President, Gina DeBettencourt Food Services Manager, Deb DeBettencourt School Counselor, Jennifer Fournier 2nd Grade Teacher, Helen Rhines - IGI Garden instructor, Emily, IGI Education Director, Eric Butler, School Counselor, Megan McDonald 1st Grade Teacher, Connie Leuenberger K-2 Literacy Specialist, Denise Searle 1st Grade teacher, Katie Kelly 1st Grade teacher, Bridget Mello 3-5th Literacy Specialist, Nedine Cunningham Social Studies teacher, Deb Grant Kindergarten teacher, Lindsay Morgan Special Education teacher, Erin Simmons ELA and Social Studies teacher, Ellen Wannamaker Math Specialist, Janet Hurley Special Education teacher, Nancy Cole School Librarian, Gail Gardner Technology Teacher, Nichole Shank Art Teacher, Sarah Vail FACS teacher,
Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett, Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order at 5:12.

I. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2022

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022 and Laura Seguin seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

II. PTA Report

Brooke Leahy -an outdoor Boosterthon Fun Run was held on May 31. It was successful. 27 students earned community service.

PTA will sponsor a drive-in movie on Saturday June 25 at the drive-in. The movie is *Night at the Movie*. It is \$25 per car and tickets will be sold on the PTA web site.

The PTA will also sponsor a dunk tank at Field Day and many students earned dunking opportunities through the Fun Run.

The PTA is looking for 2 executive officers and their next meeting is Tuesday, June 14 at 2:45.

III. Finance Report

A. **Finance Report** – Mark Friedman gave the report on the Fund Balance Report. The Fund Balance Report shows \$82,184 in the revolving lunch fund.

The lunches are free for all students through to the end of June and the decision for next year is unknown.

School Choice \$178,096 which is up from the beginning of the year.

Circuit Breaker and Fund 200 money are for residential placement costs and are based on the prior year's costs. There is currently \$164,691 and can be rolled over for next year.

A question was asked about what happens to the \$8,000 COVID prevention money. The answer was that it depends on the State's decision regarding grant continuation and /or if it needs to be spent before June 30. It can be used for expenses that align with COVID exigencies. This can be used to offset general fund expenses that are aligned with COVID related expenses.

The Budget Transfers report identified line items in a summary that are, or will be, in deficit by June 30. Mr. Friedman thanked Ken Romero for his help with the report. He noted the larger deficit line items:

- Kindergarten teacher salaries due to contractual salary scales
- Teacher sub pay due to increased pay rates which was not budgeted for this year. In this report there is probably an overestimate for the month of June. If that is the case then any overages will flow back to the town. This also covers the differentials that employees get for providing coverage.
- Computer lab upgrade also includes the security system upgrades that were approved earlier. There is an extra buffer to accommodate shipping costs.
- Food Services Program expenses show the extra help needed this year.
- Fuel costs represent the raise in prices for heating oil. This was not increased significantly for next year and should be looked at closely next year.
- Routine expenses for repairs
- Student Insurance

There are ways to offset these amounts. For instance in the salary line items there are funds to offset the substitute pay. There are a variety of line items that could be used to cover the overages.

A question was asked about what the custodial contract services were and the answer was that this is the outside service that was hired.

A question was asked about the what work the line item for building repairs represented and the answer was it combined expenses for the overage for the elevator repair, parking lot lights, and some small maintenance projects.

B. End of Year Budget Transfers -

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve the transfer 270,220.93 set forth on the spreadsheet to offset the deficits on the spreadsheet and Laura Seguin seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. General Update – HS graduation is this weekend and next week is all the 8th grade graduations. Edgartown is Friday June 17 at 5:00

COVID numbers are down and the testing program will end at the end of the year. The State provided test kits for the summer programming.

B. AISC – a meeting needs to be scheduled and it is tentatively scheduled for June 23. Negotiations and salary adjustments need to be discussed

C. Special Education Update – Hope MacLeod apologized for not attending in May. An Island Parent Advisory meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 5:30. A flier will be sent out for all schools to post.

A parent training survey was sent out to all parents in order to create parent trainings for the coming school year.

There have been many transition meetings at the high school.

There is a higher level of IEP referrals in the State and across the country in general. And, in Edgartown it has risen significantly from about 80 students to currently at 114 students. Usually there are 8-10 initial referrals in a year but this year Edgartown had 28. COVID could be a partial influence with learning gaps. It is heavier in the earlier grades.

D. Non-Union Salary Adjustments

There are 3 positions that fall under this category; principals and technology directors in specific. The technology administrators were already approved for a salary addition earlier in the year. Dr. D'Andrea is asking all the School Committees to provide an "extra bump" to all school principals due to the principals working through COVID especially during the summer of 2020. He reminded the committee of the extra bump for the technology coordinator. All the monies were planned for in the amount.

Kimberly Kirk clarified that this was not a prior discussion. This was new information being presented. A question was asked if a vote needed to take place at this meeting and the answer was that it could be retroactive if voted later in the summer.

The school committee members tabled the vote given that the teacher negotiations are still ongoing.

V. Principal's Report

A. School Garden Updates – Emily Armstrong & Helen Rhines (IGI)

Dr. Einbinder introduced Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Rhines

Ms. Armstrong stated that they have been working at the Edgartown School garden for about one year and Helen Rhines, a new hire, has worked as the Garden Coordinator. Ms. Armstrong reiterated that she understands that getting fresh local produce to the cafeteria is important to the school. Also important was the plant sale and that also happened this year. Each school is different and Ms. Armstrong is open to learning more about what the Edgartown School wants to have happen in their garden.

Helen Rhines presented for the 2nd time this year. This was a spring update with highlights on the garden lessons and plant sale. The focus in the garden is learning more than production but the garden does produce a lot of food: Tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, garlic, kale, strawberries, and flowers. These are direct-seeded by students. The students raised about \$1,000 for the garden during the plant sale.

Both Kindergarten classes raised chicks from eggs. They also visited Slough Farm.

Ms. Armstrong announced that she has hired someone to maintain the garden in the summer and she announced that Helen is going to move on to a food justice program. They will hire a new person to teach in the school garden in September.

A question was asked if the curriculum is standardized and the answer was that yes, the curriculum is posted on their web site and will be passed on to the next person.

Kimberly Kirk asked if there are any plans to expand the scope of the programming. She noted that there was a transition this year and that the community would like to see more programming. The answer was yes, there is a lot of room for collaboration with the older grades.

A question was asked about why the seeds are sprouted off site at the IGI greenhouse and the answer is that it is safer that way because the greenhouse is not hardwired. The electricity is currently run off of extension cords.

A question was asked if there were other possibilities for sourcing fresh produce. Gina deBettencourt said that the school participates in many programs to source food. But, she said that there is a better connection when the kids have planted the foods themselves. She said that was a huge part of the garden program. Kimberly Kirk said that there are hopes that there could be more of that in the coming year and reminded Emily Armstrong that Gina D. is a good resource for all those ideas.

Kimberly Kirk extended gratitude to Helen Rhines for all she did with the school garden program this year and wished her well on her next venture.

B. End of Year Activities

The book fair is going on right now. It is the first time to have one at the end of the year. The Talent Show was last night and very well done and well attended.

Graduation celebrations are next week and the highlight will be having it at the Old Whaling Church for the first time in 3 years.

There is a field day and a teacher-student softball game during the half day for the last day of school.

A question was asked if the turn out for the book fair was good and the answer was that it was good but not as big a fund-raiser as it has been in the past.

C. Enrollment

As of June 3rd the enrollment remained at 406 students and one more student is scheduled to join June 9.

D. Personnel

There were 2 requests for FMLA: Robin Davies from May 9 to the remainder of the year and Lorna Schenck from June 3 to the end of the year.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to approve FMLA leave requests and Laura Seguin seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays,

VI. Public Comment

Nedine Cunningham read an announcement regarding the role of the school committee and regarding communication between the school committee and the school staff. The recent vote regarding the hiring of Richie Smith as the new 2-year superintendent was mentioned as an example where communication did not seem to reflect support of the school.

Kimberly Kirk replied that she respects everyone in the room and every voice beyond the room which includes voters and are many.

Richie Smith thanked people for their support. He stated that he feels the school committee does support him and that there are many things that not everyone knows about that goes on. He stated that he thinks that the 14 members will work together and will accomplish things together.

Kimberly Kirk also reminded people that she welcomes people to speak with her directly to hear all voices. She welcomed more communication and reminded everyone that the committee emails are listed on the superintendent's website.

VII. New/Old Business

The elevator project is estimated to begin the week of July 8 and should take about 8-10 weeks. This later start date puts the project behind. A temporary stair lift could be installed on the main staircase and it would cost \$9,000. It would be 2 lifts due to the curve in the stair. There would be an additional charge of \$450 per month for each. The building inspector would need to approve this plan. Dr. Einbinder thanked Ken Romero for working with the elevator company and the chairlift company to prepare this information.

A question was asked if there was a delay penalty in the elevator company contract. The answer was that Ken Romero would look up the information and report back to the committee. Mark Friedman said that it is the right of a town to put in a delay of project penalty but, when the delay is due to supplies it can be difficult. It might not have been added to the bid.

Nichole Shank asked if there is a way to give a salary bump to the custodians who have worked with one member less than usual. And, there have not been subs for the custodians when there is one absent. Efforts have been made to get subs. Kimberly Kirk

agreed that the custodians are valuable members of the community and there are efforts to get other companies or individuals to fill in.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 5:00PM in the Edgartown School Library.

Nedine Cunningham mentioned that some people requested a Zoom component. Kimberly Kirk said that could be accommodated.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22