



**EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 8:30am  
Via Zoom**

**AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2022**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
  - A. Finance Report
  - B. Donation
  - C. FY22 End of Year Budget Transfers (Additional Request) - Vote
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
  - A. General Update
  - B. AISC
  - C. Special Education Update – Hope MacLeod
- V. Principal's Report**
  - A. Hiring of Special Education Teacher – Possible Vote
  - B. Discussion of Class Sizes & Staffing – Possible Vote
  - C. Request to Declare Surplus Regarding School Property
  - D. Personnel
    - 1. New Hires
    - 2. Resignations
    - 3. Leave of Absence
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

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## EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 8:30am  
Via Zoom

Present: Chair, Kimberly Kirk and members Louis Paciello, Laura Seguin,  
Others: Supt. Dr. Richie Smith, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, Hope McLeod Director of Student Services, Brooke Leahy, PTA President, Deb Grant Kindergarten teacher, Tara Sykes Educational Support Personnel, Pam Hurley 3rd Grade Teacher, Robin Davies Educational Support Professional, Ken Romero Administrative Support Personnel, Skylar Menton Educational Support Professional, Gina Debettencourt Food Services Director, Deb DeBettencourt School Counselor, Jennifer Fournier 2nd Grade teacher, Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett, Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order at 8:33.

### **Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2022 (agenda Item I)**

Louis Paciello made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022 and Laura Seguin seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

### **PTA Report (agenda Item II)**

Still looking for a PTA secretary. The dunk tank was very successful and Brooke thanked Dr. Einbinder and Dr. Smith for participating. It may become an annual tradition. The Drive-In movie weekend was not as well attended as they hoped. They look forward to the Kindergarten picnic in September. Next meeting- Tuesday, September 13 at 8:30 at the school.

### **Finance Report (agenda Item III)**

#### **A. Finance Report**

In Mark Friedman's absence Shelley Einbinder presented the finance report which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

#### **B. Donation**

\$500 donation from the Education Alliance Program

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the \$500 donation and Laura Seguin seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### **C. FY22 End of Year Budget Transfers (Additional Request) - Vote**

There is the need for two small budget transfers: \$1,096.35 and a second transfer of \$252.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the two budget transfers and Louis Paciello seconded.

Kimberly Kirk shared her screen to provide the view of budget lines and the general fund balance report in order to give people time to ask questions about the year-end closeout.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Aycs, 0 Nays

### **Superintendent's Report (agenda Item IV)**

A. General Update - Very grateful to all the work staff is doing.

COVID still affects us greatly with staffing etc.

Contract agreements have been reached with Custodians and Food Service Workers. Getting close to completion for ASPs and ESPs

Still working with the teachers.

Dr. Smith would like to move forward with the bump for administrators that was proposed in June by former superintendent Dr. D'Andrea.

Dr. Smith would like to present non-union administrator contract proposals for the admin staff to the School Committee.

As with the other units, whatever increase is decided upon would be retroactive to July 1.

A question was asked if Dr. Smith is going to propose something different from what Dr. D'Andrea proposed. The answer is that it is possible and that Dr. Smith hopes to speak to administrators in order to inform them about what will be brought forward to school committees. Kimberly Kirk said that with negotiations going on it makes it difficult to have these conversations at this time. The amount of extra work that everyone has done makes it a monumental task. Kimberly Kirk asked that communication be maintained. Dr. Smith confirmed that the school committee will be informed before any increases are proposed.

Louis Paciello said that he is not going to approve any increases for administration until the teacher unit contracts are secured. Dr. Smith confirmed that he understands the sensitivity and a plan was made for the School Committee and Dr. Smith to communicate.

A cabinet retreat will be held August 1-3. Administrators will use the 3 days to work through the central office reorganization and the meetings will take place at the Martha's Vineyard Museum which generously offered their space.

### **B. AISC**

There are two upcoming meetings: July 14 and July 21.

### **C. Special Education Update – Hope MacLeod**

Moving forward to closing out the year. One new hire is coming to completion for a Speech and Language pathologist. Also, a new hire for Sue Smith, who is retiring, has been hired but another opening for a school psychologist is still vacant

and they are still actively looking for a candidate.  
Hope asked if there were any questions regarding the information that was shared about the IEP needs at the Edgartown School.

**Principal's Report** (agenda Item V)

**A. Hiring of Special Education Teacher – Possible Vote**

Edgartown School is now at 113 students with IEPs.

In prior years there were 83 students

A request was made for a vote to use Circuit Breaker funds \$213,000 of which is in the budget to pay for a 5th Special Education teacher. It must be spent during the coming year.

A question was asked if the position would be built into the budget. Shelley said she would have to as this money is only available this year. Hope McLeod said that the goal is to meet the needs of the students and that possibly there will not be a need in coming years. With the number of referrals it is needed this year.

A question was asked about the ratio compared to other schools. The answer was that most schools look similar to Edgartown School. The increases were mostly in K-2. Across the island there are high rates. The State rate is around 18% and in general MVY is at 23% and Edgartown School is around 25/26%.

A question was asked if there is State guidance regarding the ratio of teachers. The answer was that there is not a formula because it has to do with individual needs and the intensity level. This is what Hope and Shelley reviewed and decided at the current level of needs a 5th teacher is warranted. When you have more teachers there are other initiatives that could be implemented such as co-teaching. These kinds of initiatives benefit all students and are considered best practices being more universal in nature.

Louis Paciello made a motion to approve hiring a 5th Special Education Teacher and Laura Seguin seconded.

A question was asked about how referrals could be reduced in the future? One reason could be that COVID created interrupted learning and it could result in less concerns. And the other way to bring referrals down is to supply supports more universally.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

**B. Discussion of Class Sizes & Staffing – Possible Vote**

Dr. Einbinder provided an update on student numbers. Enrollment decreased from 407 to 395. Numbers will be watched closely. Grade 4 was reduced from 45 to 41 and it is anticipated that there will be two sections of Grade 4.

A handout was presented on the grade level numbers and section numbers for the school.

Dr. Einbinder asked the school committee to approve hiring a possible third kindergarten

teacher if the numbers warrant it as the summer progresses. There is 187K in the School Choice Fund which is a larger amount than ever before.

Louis Paciello made a motion to approve the possible hiring of a third kindergarten teacher using the School Choice funds if the enrollment numbers rise and Laura Seguin seconded.

A question was asked about what the numbers would be that could cause a new classroom. If another couple of students enter then it could indicate the need for a new Kindergarten. Shelley agreed to keep the school committee informed.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### **C. Request to Declare Surplus Regarding School Property**

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to declare the items in a previously distributed document as surplus and Louis Paciello seconded.

A question was asked about what are the next steps.

There was no further discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### **D. Personnel**

1. New Hires

2. Resignations

Laura Ramos resigned to move onto a new position and Ken Romero resigned to move onto another Edgartown position. They were presented with much regret.

Kimberly Kirk expressed gratitude for both their service.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the resignations and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

3. Leave of Absence

Lorna Schenck requested a FMLA leave for 3 months.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the FMLA leave request and Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### **Public Comment (agenda Item VI)**

#### **New/Old Business (agenda Item VII)**

Kimberly Kirk thanked everyone who put together the 8th grade graduation. It was so well done and it was so nice to be back in the Old Whaling Church. Louis Paciello said it was amazing.

Dr. Einbinder also mentioned that summer school is under way. Eric Butler is supervising

the program and there are teachers who are providing the services.

Two classrooms will be used next week for an ELL 5-day summer program.

The elevator repairs were started on July 5 and they anticipate they will finish the work in August.

Kimberly Kirk mentioned the collaboration between the Boys and Girls Club and the Edgartown School and that she appreciates that collaboration and hopes it will continue to grow.

Kimberly Kirk asked Gina Debettencourt, Food Services Director, if there is any news on the school lunches for the coming school year. The answer was that the Edgartown School should be eligible for reduced or free lunches because our numbers are at 48%.

In addition Gina Debettencourt announced two new upgrades for the kitchen. The 3-bay sink will be installed over the summer and the steamer that was purchased via a grant will be installed. There is still \$6,000 due to pay for the steamer.

#### **Schedule Next Meeting (Agenda item VIII)**

The next meeting will be Wednesday September 7, 2022 at 5:30 in the Edgartown School library.