



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 16, 2020– 8:30am – via Zoom
AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2020**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. All Island School Committee
 - B. Policy Discussion
 - 1. Health & Safety
 - a. Mask Policy
 - 2. Fundraising
 - C. Transportation
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Enrollment
 - B. Communication
 - 1. Edgartown School's Remote Learning Landing Pages
 - 2. Guidelines and Procedures for the Reopening of The Edgartown School
 - C. Personnel
 - 1. New Hires
- 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:

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/83848889787?pwd=bWNGbHBWdEJUNGpLSFRqeUIrSWRjQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 4888 9787

Passcode: 799190

Phone dial-in: +1-646-558-8656

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – 8:30am – Via Zoom

Those present were; Chairperson Megan Anderson, Member Kimberly Kirk, Member Kelly McCracken, Matt D'Andrea (Superintendent), Richie Smith (Asst. Superintendent), Shelley Einbinder (Principal), Anne Fligor (Asst. Principal), Mark Friedman (Interim School Business Administrator), Nancy Dugan (Director of Student Support Services – Pre K-Gr.7), Kim Andrade, Dr. Lorna Andrade, Nicole Barlett, Darren Belisle, Kerry Branca, Joanne Cassidy, Nancy Cole, Sue Costello, Sienna Crowell, Nedine Cunningham, Robin Davies, Gina Debettencourt, Melinda De Feo, Jennifer Fournier, Justen Foster, Gail Gardner, Debra Grant, Elaine Graves, Mary Ellen Guyther, Renee Habekost, Penny Hageanon, Stephanie Immelt, Bill Jacob, Katie Kelly, Alicia Knight, Laura Knight, Brooke Leahy, Kara Leandro, Ryan Leandro, Connie Leuenberger, Josh Levy, Martha MacGillivray, Maria Mackenty, Megan McDonald, Mary Beth Meehan, Bridget Mello, Skylar Menton, Meaghan Morris, Laurie Pereira, Denise Searle, Nichole Shank, Joan Shemit, Erin Simmons, Tara Sykes, Theresa Temple, Martina Thornton, Sarah Vail, and Ellen Wannamaker.

I. Approval of minutes of August 25, 2020

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. PTA Report

The first PTA meeting of the year was on September 15, 2020. This year's focus will be on membership. All families, in person and remote, as well as staff are encouraged to join. The school will be mailing out the PTA newsletter, which will include a direct link to their new website. Joining the PTA will be done remotely this year through the new website. They are in the process of rewriting the Teacher Grant applications. When ready, they will be added to their website. The next meeting will be on October 13, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom. Announced at the August 25, 2020 School Committee meeting, Ms. Leahy reiterated that the PTA awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,200 to the Edgartown School to provide a tool kit for each student, whether remote or in-person learning, so that they do not have to share supplies like pencils, sharpeners, markers, glue sticks, and highlighters. The idea was brought to them by Pam Hurley (Gr. K) and Nichole Shank (K-8 Art).

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report

The report this month is very quiet with only a couple of variances: salary lines, due to new hires, and utilities. Because it is early in the year, there are no significant variances.

Mr. Friedman explained that he is working on additional unanticipated unbudgeted items related to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), tent rentals, etc. These are slated to be paid from Federal grants and are not shown in the General Fund reports.

The Fund Balance report, once rolled over from last year, will show School Choice at \$113,511 and Revolving Lunch at \$68,553.

In response to Chairperson Anderson's question on how grant-related expenditures will be reflected in the reports, Mr. Friedman explained that these grants are normally planned out in advance. The grant funds were passed with unprecedented flexibility. He went on to say that we may need to start to encumber funds and pay out of the General Fund if the grants are not in place. The temporary negative balances will be relieved once the grant funds are received. He is waiting on one grant, the FC102 Grant (Reopening of Schools Grant), and has been checking with DESE daily for the approval.

When asked if there were any grants towards the Revolving Lunch program, Mr. Friedman replied that they are limited. It is his understanding that the State is continuing to operate under the SSO (Summer Seamless Option), which began in March 2020, allowing students to continue to get meals.

All meals are being reimbursed from the USDA through DESE at the free level through December 31, 2020. Gina Debettencourt added that there are stipulations to the SSO: all meals need to be made available to children from 0-18 years of age, or up to age 22 if they are still in school; and that the delivery of meals is available to everyone. There are no changes to the procedures and requirements that were in place in March.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

The next meeting of the AISC is on September 17, 2020 at 5pm. On the agenda: testing proposal per Dr. Zack, learning pod opportunities, and the implementation of some of the health and safety measures.

B. Policy Discussion

a. Health & Safety

a. Mask Policy

Dr. D'Andrea presented a general overview of the Mask Policy to be considered by the School Committee. This new policy requires three readings. It outlines that masks must be worn by all individuals on school grounds and on the bus in addition to social distancing. The State requires that masks are to be worn by all staff and students to provide a safe environment in the school. A mask should cover your nose and mouth and loops behind your ears or head. Bandanas, gaiters, or buffs, are not acceptable. Training must be provided to staff and students on how to properly wear, remove, and dispose of masks. Although it is a recommendation of the State that students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade wear masks, it will be a requirement of the policy that they do so. There are circumstances where there will be exemptions and exceptions. The masks may be removed during mask breaks, PE class, eating, or when a staff member is alone in a classroom.

A face shield is considered eye protection and is not in place of a mask. It is being asked that masks be provided by family of the student and that staff provide for themselves. There will be disposable masks available in the school for those who forget to bring one or are unable to provide one of their own. Violation of this policy could result in a student being excluded from school. They would then be required to participate in remote learning. Any visitors in violation would not be permitted in the building.

Nurse Barlett added that all staff have been trained on the "do's and don'ts" of the mitigation strategies. She reiterated that there are supplies if people forget or if one gets soiled during the day. Clear masks have been distributed to the ELL and younger grade teachers so that the child can see the expressions of their teachers.

On a motion by Kimberly Kirk, seconded by Kelly McCracken, the committee approved the first reading of the Mask Policy by way of roll call vote.

b. Fundraising

This is the initial discussion regarding the creation of a policy on how funds are allocated when fundraised, and what happens when those funds are not used for their intended purpose. It is unknown what is taking place in the other schools.

Dr. D'Andrea advised that he take the current policy and revise it to add language that addresses steps to be taken should they encounter a similar situation in the future.

Ms. Kirk and Gail Gardner said that they would assist Dr. D'Andrea with the plan. Ms. Gardner went on to say that the sooner the better seeing as the current 8th Grade parents are trying to plan but that their hands are tied because there isn't a policy in place.

In regard to when a decision will be made on this years' 8th grade trip, Dr. Einbinder replied that they need to wait and see what the regulations are and what it looks like state to state before a decision can be made whether to safely travel out of the state. It was suggested that the Health & Safety Committee be involved to share guidance for all schools and not just Edgartown. Nurse Barlett added that there are many protocols in place including a daily self-checklist which has a link to an advisory of travel in Massachusetts.

C. Transportation

Many families have completed the transportation registration. They are addressing the transportation schedule in a phased-in approach, much like the beginning of the school year. A plan is in place for those students beginning tomorrow, September 17. They are putting plans together to address the Kindergarten and 1st Grade students who begin on September 29, Grades 2 & 3 on October 13, Grade 4 on October 27, and Grades 5-8 on October 30. Dr. D'Andrea found that doing it piecemeal is more manageable. He feels that they are in a good place and that there won't be any issues regarding spacing on the buses or having enough buses and drivers. He's confident that they will be able to provide the transportation as they need to.

There will be budgetary implications. With the safety measures that need to be in place on all buses, it is unrealistic to ask the driver to monitor all the new measures and to drive the bus. One of the recommendations of the State is to have a monitor on each bus. This means that they will need approximately 15-20 monitors, each at a cost of \$100/day. They will use contingency funds, grant monies, as well as savings from within the transportation budget (not having on or off island field trips) to cover the deficit. They will go over budget but are confident that they have it covered.

V. **Principal's Report**

A. Enrollment

At the end of the FY20 school year, the enrollment was 402 students. As of September 15, 2020, there are 374 with 4 pending. Of this amount, 317 have chosen in-person learning, 55 are fully remote, and 2 are out of the district.

B. Communication

1. Edgartown School's Remote Learning Landing Pages

One of the new ways that information is being delivered to families is via landing pages found on the home page of the school's website. Bridget Mello shared her screen to walk everyone through. Here is the link to these landing pages:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZjaRgwoq0Nx_7gl3KQMAkRARk8wcJw6yn4dYcOHGxC4/edit#slide=id.g8748dcdec7_2_0

The first place that families and students should go is to their teachers landing page. Other resources are linked through these pages. Dr. Einbinder thanked Dr. Smith for arranging the training that Modern Teacher provided so that these landing pages could be created.

2. Guidelines and Procedures for the Reopening of The Edgartown School

Information regarding the guidelines and procedures for the reopening of school can be found on the Edgartown School website home page:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uLCfMXJukOJyJlSHh2v5091x7JYZ1--2TL_05L1-GSc/edit#slide=id.p

Everything is in the process of being translated. Sarah Vail suggested that a google translation be added in the meantime until the official translation is received.

In response to Nichole Shank's question about how parents are to know about the navigation of landing pages, Dr. Einbinder replied that letters were sent home and that it was also posted on the home page of the Edgartown School website.

C. Personnel

1. New Hires

Dr. Einbinder announced more new employees for FY21:

Chelsea Georgi Zusan (Gr. 5 Math/Science), Noel Sylvester (ESP Kindergarten/Hurley), and Robert Culbert (Gr. 2 ESP/DeSouza).

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. New/Old Business

None

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 8:30am. The location is TBD. There was a request from multiple teachers that the time is changed to later in the day so that it doesn't conflict with classroom time. Chairperson Anderson will take that into consideration for future meetings.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee