



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020 – 9:00am – Via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2020**
- II. Parent and Community Input**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. PTA Report-Deanna Laird, PTA President**
- V. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure Report
- VI. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. All Island School Committee
- VII. Principal's Report**
 - A. Communication
 - B. Remote Learning Plan
 - C. School Choice/Circuit Breaker Funds
 - D. Lunch Program Thank You
- VIII. New/Old Business**
- IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- X. 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.

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Password: 076733

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 – 9:00 am – 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), Darren Belisle (Network Administrator), Gina Debettencourt (Head Cook/Manager), Maria Mackenty-Speight (Gr. K), Denise Searle (Gr. K), Jennifer Fournier (Gr. 2), Diane Smadbeck (Gr. K-2 Special Needs), Nedine Cunningham (Gr. 7/8 Social Studies), and Debra Grant (English Language Learning).

I. Approval of minutes of March 11, 2020

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. Parent and Community Input

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. PTA Report

The PTA had their meeting on April 14, 2020 via Zoom. There were 14 in attendance. There was no report given.

V. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report

There are some continued small variances in a few departments. There are pockets of unencumbered and unspent funds that more than cover the projected overages. Mr. Friedman doesn't see any problems in the General Fund that won't be covered by what is being saved.

All Circuit Breaker reimbursements will continue as planned. We have received the 2nd and 3rd quarter deposits.

The only area Mr. Friedman is looking at closely is the Revolving Lunch fund. It currently has a positive balance. Given all the changes over the last month, we wait to see whether the revenue will continue to come in as planned. The State continues to reimburse all meals but there might be overall a reduced number of meals being served. Some relief is coming from the Federal level by way of significant requirements being waived in order to make all meals reimbursable at the free rate. Dr. Smith added that FEMA and the MA Emergency Act have augmented support for those families on free and reduced meals by way of EBT cards.

In response to Chairperson Anderson's question regarding whether or not the State is doing anything additional to support schools in this effort, Dr. D'Andrea confirmed what Mr. Friedman had shared in regards to reimbursement. He added that the State is concerned with revenues and how it impacts the Towns and School districts, and how much of a budget shortfall this will result in. Hopefully the Federal government is able to make up the difference, but that remains to be seen.

A donation from the MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby was received in the amount of \$700. The funds are to be used to help children and families in need, for example glasses, meals, shoes, or a field trip.

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Kelly McCracken, the committee accepted the donation with much gratitude by way of roll call vote.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

There were no new updates since those announced at the April 10 meeting.

VII. Principal's Report

A. Communication

Dr. Einbinder has been keeping the communication going with families and staff via email. She has been sharing the Superintendent's letters as well as posting her own weekly Principal's letter on the school website on Fridays.

B. Remote Learning Plan

Last Wednesday approximately 100 staff members attended the first full staff Zoom meeting. The components of the remote learning plan were reviewed. All members of the school community are working to implement and adhere to the expectations outlined in the plan. They will continue to meet every week as a full staff, in grade levels, and in teams. In a recent communication to parents, Dr. Einbinder explained that this is new learning for all and that there are bound to be mistakes. They are working every week to improve what they do, and she appreciates their understanding and support as they continue to attempt to engage the children in remote learning.

C. School Choice/Circuit Breaker Funds

Dr. Einbinder requested the use of School Choice funds to pay a continued evaluation invoice for March.

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Kelly McCracken, the committee approved the payment of the continued evaluation invoice for March from School Choice via roll call vote.

D. Lunch Program Thank You

Dr. D'Andrea thanked everyone for their outstanding efforts for all that they are doing during the crisis, they have made the best of an unfortunate situation. A special thank you was given to Gina Debettencourt and her food service team for the disbursement of meals. A total of 1,696 meals were served last week: 581 breakfasts and 1,115 lunches. The School Committee agreed that they can't support her enough. She has their support if she is emotionally and/or physically unable to continue. They asked that she communicate her needs so that they can continue to support her.

According to Ms. Debttencourt, there are 130 schools in Massachusetts serving meals, 5 of which are on Martha's Vineyard. Currently there is no State mandate to do so. Ms. Debettencourt added that 30,000 pounds of food was disbursed through other venues on the island last week on top of the meals from the schools. She is concerned with sustainability. She also advised that students from Edgartown who attend the Charter School, as well as pre-school students, are coming for meals seeing as they do not have facilities to make their own meals.

Dr. Smith said that a committee is being created to listen to concerns regarding the support and welfare of the food service workers. This committee will include Ms. Debettencourt, School Committee members, Alicia Nicholson, Island Food Pantry, Good Shepherd Parish, and Noli Taylor. They will meet regularly on Thursdays at 3:30pm where concerns can be aired. If the closure goes beyond May 4, the committee will discuss if they want to continue with the current model.

A special thank you was given to Dan Townes, Anthony Rabeni, and Dwight Kaeka for their

support in making all the meals.

In closing, Ms. Debettencourt shared that there is approximately \$8,000 in overdue lunch bills. She wanted the Committee to be prepared for that expenditure at the end of the year.

VIII. New/Old Business

Ms. Fligor announced that Gail Gardner is putting together this year's yearbook.

Dr. Einbinder shared the current enrollment as of March 18, 2020 at 401 students, which is an all-time high for this school year.

The Edgartown Selectmen and Finance Committee will be holding a Zoom meeting at 4:00pm today.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 9:00am. The location is TBD.

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee