



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, May 6, 2020– 9:00 am – via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2020**
- II. Parent and Community Input**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. PTA Report-Deanna Laird, PTA President**
- V. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure Report
 - B. Discussion of 8th Grade Fundraising
- VI. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. All Island School Committee
 - B. Budget Update
- VII. Principal's Report**
 - A. Update on School Lunch Program
 - B. Guidance Update
- VIII. New/Old Business**
- IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- X. Adjournment**

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 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), Eric Butler (Guidance), Deb Debettencourt (Guidance), Darren Belisle (Network Administrator), Gina Debettencourt (Head Cook/Manager), Denise Searle (Gr. K), Megan McDonald (Gr. 1), Jennifer Fournier (Gr. 2), Diane Smadbeck (Gr. K-2 Special Needs), Alicia Knight (Gr. 3), Connie Leuenberger (Gr. K-3 Remedial Reading), Robin Davies (ESP – 3K), Teresa Temple (ESP – 4L), Sarah Vail (Gr. 5-8 Family Consumer), Nedine Cunningham (Gr. 7/8 Social Studies), Nichole Shank (Gr. K-8 Art), Laura Walton (Gr. K-8 Vocal Music), Debra Grant (English Language Learning), Sue Costello (Health & Enrichment Coordinator), Elizabeth Barnes, Dan Cassidy, Katherine Coogan, and Donna Swift.

I. Approval of minutes of April 15, 2020

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. Parent and Community Input

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. PTA Report

None

V. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report

Mr. Friedman explained that the variances are mostly what we've been seeing over the last few months. The overall total is approximately \$51,000 in deficit, which does not include General Maintenance. There is approximately \$63,000 or more in savings across various lines. Overall the budget is in good shape. He will need to do some budget transfers at next month's meeting.

At the recent High School School Committee meeting, they voted to modify the remaining billings to the Elementary Schools for their bus transportation; they will only be billed for the days they were provided service. This amounts to a savings of just over \$30,000 to the Edgartown School budget.

Chairperson Anderson feels that the budget looks the way it normally does at this point in the school year. She is seeing the usual lines in deficit that normally are. The Committee will have quite a few transfers to review at their June meeting.

Mr. Friedman is watching the Revolving Lunch Funds across all schools. With the timing of State reimbursements showing up a month or two after the schools incur the expenses for food services, it makes it tricky to project.

Chairperson Anderson attended a recent meeting with Town officials. As of right now, there is no direction or specific guidance regarding the FY21 budget. She advised that there needs to be awareness when it comes to spending as there will not be a lot of additional funding available. It is possible that changes will need to be made to the proposed budget.

B. Discussion of 8th Grade Fundraising

At the beginning of the year, the class agreed that funds raised would be allocated by time and effort. According to the Students Activities policy, any funds raised by a class is for that class. Once the students graduate, they are legally not part of the Edgartown School. Any funds left over from fundraising cannot remain in the Student Activities account longer than 90 days after graduation; they must be disbursed in some fashion. Various options were presented that included transferring the balance to the current 7th graders, who will be 8th graders next year, because they will not be able to do the normal fundraising for their trip; moving the money to the high school, purchase gift certificates from island business to give to the students, setting up a scholarship fund, or giving the money back to families. Ms. Fligor received correspondence from parents that have a child in both the 7th & 8th grades requesting that the funds earned by the 8th grade student be transferred to the 7th grade student. Ms. McCracken asked if the funds could be transferred to the High School for use towards high school expenses. She feels that the funds should not stay at the Edgartown School. Mr. Friedman informed that if the funds are transferred to the High School, parents would have to go into this approach with some flexibility seeing as the fundraised money is pooled for all students of that class. It would be difficult for them to be earmarked for students of the Edgartown School.

Dr. Einbinder shared that direct-paid payments from parents have been refunded. There is \$19,416.81 remaining in the account. Some of these funds will be used to pay for T-shirts, graduation expenses, carnations, and to provide a gift to the school. Any students that did not fundraise will need to pay for their graduation costs.

Dr. D'Andrea advised that all schools are discussing this as a group and that a resolution has not yet been reached. He advised that they need to follow the law, and that they need to be consistent.

Ms. Kirk expressed that there is a disclosure issue that has to be dealt with before any action is taken.

Chairperson Anderson suggested that they set up a meeting with the class advisors and the 8th grade class parents.

Mr. Friedman explained that there is flexibility but ultimately the responsibility lies with the Committee on what happens to the funds.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

The next AISC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 5:00pm. With the announcement by the Governor that schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year, the Commissioner of Education has added additional guidance on the Remote Learning Plan. The adjustments to this plan will be shared with the Committee for their approval.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Union expired on May 4, 2020. A new MOA will be presented to the Committee for their approval.

B. Budget Update

Dr. D'Andrea and Mr. Friedman have been participating in a number of meetings at the State level trying to get a handle on the financial hardship the closure will have on school budgets. As they go through this process, they want to keep in mind the vision for the school district by always keeping teaching, learning, and the students at the center. Should they have to make any reductions, they will first look to the areas that would be least impactful to students and learning.

Dr. D'Andrea has requested that the Principals freeze their budgets for the remainder of the year so that as much money as possible can be returned to the Towns. These returned funds would then become Free Cash for the Towns and could be used to supplement next year's budgets. They are being careful in whom and when they are hiring, being certain that they are critical positions. The Principals are also looking at their FY20 & FY21 budgets for areas of potential savings.

The Federal Government has released \$13 billion out of a total of \$30 billion for K-12 Education as part of the Cares Act. Our district will receive approximately \$67,000, similar to the amount that is received for Title 1. There will be more flexibility in how these funds are spent than what can be done with Title 1 funds. Dr. D'Andrea understands that these funds can be used in this fiscal year as well as the next.

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School School Committee will have their meeting on May 18, 2020 at 5pm. The only item on the agenda to be discussed is the FY21 budget.

VII. Principal's Report

A. Update on School Lunch Program

Since moving to providing pre-made meals on Monday's & Thursday's, on average more than 1,400 meals are being served each week. The feedback from some parents is that they prefer this system because they only have to come out twice per week. The school will continue to provide meals for the remainder of the school year.

B. Guidance Update

In recent communication to all Edgartown School families, Dr. Einbinder shared that the safety and well being of the students, families, and staff continues to be her top priority. Updated guidance was received from the DOE (Department of Education) which emphasized focus on connectedness, engagement in remote learning, and standards that are most critical to student success in the next school year.

The first priority of the Guidance counselors during the first month of the crisis was reaching out to families and advising of all available resources. They continue to check in on a regular basis with those families who are more in need. Some teachers are having difficulties connecting with their students. Ms. Debettencourt and Mr. Butler are reaching out to both students and parents by phone and Zoom regarding engagement, access to technology, and stress levels. One of the challenges they are finding is that there are multiple people in a household vying for bandwidth. Another challenge is child care; school was the primary child care source, but now kids are going to work with parents since there is currently no other option. Some students are thriving and some are finding it very difficult.

Many parents are out of work and are not able to make their rent payments. Mr. Butler is connecting these families with Susan Mercier at the Island Wide Youth Collaborative.

The guidance counselors from across the island regularly meet once a month. During this time, they are meeting weekly and includes Amy Lilavois and Matt Malowski from the High School. They are learning of services in Edgartown that they were not aware of and making sure that families are advised and are able to access.

Mr. Butler joined a webinar with districts from across the country. Some districts are having trouble reaching 30% of their population. He shared that he hasn't had any trouble connecting with families.

A special thank you was given to Jennifer Abreu for going above and beyond with translating for students and families.

VIII. New/Old Business

IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 9:00am via Zoom.

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee