



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021– 7:30am via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
 - B. FY22 Budget Discussion and Possible Vote
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition
 - B. All Island School Committee
 - C. COVID-19 Testing Update
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. School Wide "Author" Visit, COVID Style - Nancy Cole
 - B. Personnel
 - 1. New Hire
 - 2. Retirement
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Ken Romero is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – 7:30am– 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), MaryAnn Bartlett (Asst. Principal), Mark Friedman (School Business Administrator), Lyuba Avramova, Nancy Cole, Nedine Cunningham, Gina Debettencourt, Summer De Souza, Kara Leandro, Tara Sykes, and Jocelyn Walton.

I. Approval of minutes from January 27, 2021

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. PTA Report

None

III. Finance Report

A. Finance Report

The monthly expenditure and fund balance reports were shared with the Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Friedman reported that through February 16, 2021, the budget is in decent shape and continues to be the same as what he's been seeing over the past few months.

He acknowledged that residential care seems to be an issue and suggests the encumbrance of funds under the Residential Expenses line for the unbudgeted and unanticipated placements in the amount of approximately \$100,000. Mr. Friedman explained that Dr. Einbinder is scrutinizing every expense in order to save money where appropriate. At the end of the month, with the help of Nancy Dugan, they will be applying for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief, which is a program for public schools in the state that are experiencing significant unanticipated increases. This is not always a guaranteed reimbursement in terms of the dollar amount that the school could receive. It depends on what is happening with other schools around the state and what they are experiencing.

There are additional funds (Esser #2 Grant) that they will be applying for. This is a non-competitive grant. These funds will be available before the end of the year in order to help balance the budget. The state allocation for Edgartown would be \$107,213.00

The Revolving Lunch Fund looks good with a balance of \$60,635.87. Under the continued SSO (Seamless Summer Option), every student meal that is served is free and is reimbursed to the school at the free rate.

The School Choice Fund also looks good with a balance of \$131,985.72.

B. FY22 Budget Discussion and Possible Vote

Mr. Friedman reported that due to the decrease in the FY22 Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) health insurance rates, the Edgartown portion of the Shared Services budget decreased by \$20,754.76. The new total for Edgartown's portion of the Shared Services budget is \$1,830,966.90. The new total of the proposed FY22 Edgartown School Budget is \$9,775,690.21, or a 5.16% increase over FY21 compared to Draft #4 at 5.38%. Ms. McCracken noted that CCMHG actually increased their rates, but that they gave a pension (insurance) holiday.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee accepted the revised proposed FY22 Edgartown School budget at \$9,775,690.21 conditional to approval by the AISC for the Shared Services health insurance rate reduction of \$20,754.76 by way of roll call vote.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) - <https://www.mvdiversitycoalition.org/>
Jocelyn Walton and Lisa Pimentel recently presented at the AISC. Dr. Smith reached out to each School Committee's chairperson asking if they could come to their local meeting as a resource and to extend the conversation on diversity. He believes that change happens from the inside first. He will meet with the cabinet regarding their interest in putting a cohort together.

The MVDC's (Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition) mission is to lay the groundwork to eradicate racism. In 2017, Sandy Pimentel, Paul Bracy, Dr. Walter Collier, Ruth deWilde Major, Rex Jarrell, and Dr. Robert Tankard came together to form an organization to effectively and ultimately eliminate inequality and injustice.

There are over 230 people from across the country in the MVDC database who meets weekly – some are facilitators, some are actively working on committees, some work on projects as they come up, and others who just want to be kept informed. They believe in the mission and exist to learn more about their own biases and to share experiences and perceptions. They feel that it is important to confront racism, xenophobia, and bias now and that it happens within a systemic society. They believe in a culturally and racially diverse democratic society and want to live that way. They also believe that it is important to prepare their children to live and participate in a diverse society.

There are currently four on-going committees:

1. Criminal Justice – collaboration with the Island police departments to identify resources to help officers work on conscious and unconscious bias. Edgartown Police Chief, Bruce McNamee, is coordinating this effort for the whole Island.
2. Faith-Based – supported a 10-week program designed by the Episcopal Church called 'Sacred Grounds'. There were 110 island residents who participated in workshops to discuss racism and their after effects.
3. Health & Equity – BCBS (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) of MA is working with a number of Island organizations to find programs and support for healthcare disparities for people of color on the Island.
4. Education – co-chairs of this committee are Lisa Pimentel, Jocelyn Walton, and Maddie McDougal, a high school senior from Providence, RI. This group became so large (over 65 people), that they decided to break into two subcommittees; School and Arts.

They are currently working on the following projects:

*A library program to provide schools and libraries age-appropriate books that deal with racism. They are in the process of developing the forms and procedures.

*The Library Reader Program where volunteers go in to the schools (via zoom) to read to children. They are particularly interested in having people of color represented so that children get to see role models who they don't often get the opportunity to see.

*A list of anti-racist resources ranging from books to podcasts to films that are being shared with the libraries. It is an on-going process to upgrade these lists.

*The Racial Literacy Programs

1. Pollyanna
2. Teaching Tolerance
3. Journeys in Film - popular films are used to develop lesson plans and resources around. They are geared toward the middle school to high school students. It was founded and developed by one of the MVDC Education Committee members.

No one curriculum is perfect nor will it satisfy every school.

*Borders to Bridges - developed by Lynn Ditchfield, supported by Richie Smith, both MVDC members of the Education Committee, to promote a dialogue in schools and communities by creating a deeper understanding and discussion about the issue of immigration that negatively affects learning institutions.

*A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth - an anti-racism activation experience designed by Kyle Williams who took his anger and channeled it into making a difference. (A short video was shown -<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qddebuous4mpz8nr/A%20Long%20Talk%20V8.mp4?dl=0>).

The program itself is 1.5 hrs/day for 3 days. Participants will learn protocols for being an anti-racist, have opportunities to interact in large and small group settings, and engage in discussions on what might be holding them back. The program is not one that you can just join, there is pre-work involved. Before you get accepted or admitted to the program, you have to watch the video called "The History of Race in America" by Jeffrey Robinson. Since June of 2020, there have been over 1,000 participants in the program across 36 states.

Mr. Williams has offered to run the program for the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools and possibly the Charter School. Any interest by the administrative cabinet or the School Committee is to contact Dr. Smith. Once there is a cohort, they will decide on a schedule.

Ms. McCracken inquired about the process of the bringing of books into the school. Dr. Smith explained that any resources and/or curriculum are vetted before being adopted. The process begins with the cabinet first with an explanation of resources available. The Principal will then share the information with the staff where it will go through an additional vetting process to make sure that what is being offered is unique and appropriate for the Edgartown School.

B. All Island School Committee (AISC)

The next AISC meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 6pm. The agenda will include the Shared Services budget and the reduction in the health insurance portion, as well as the continuation of personnel issues carried over from their last meeting. The AISC will then meet at 7pm with the Commission to discuss the tracks.

C. COVID Testing Update

Dr. D'Andrea reported that testing, in its seventh week, is going very well and with high participation. There have been over 4,500 tests given. In the past three weeks, there have been no positive tests. There will no testing during the February vacation.

V. Principal's Report

A. School Wide "Author" Visit, COVID Style – Nancy Cole

Nancy Cole, Edgartown School Librarian, tries to bring in an author every year to present to the whole student body. Last year arrangements were made to bring in storyteller Antonio Rocha, originally from Brazil but lives in Maine. Due to the pandemic, the visit had to be postponed. Seeing as an in-person visit was not possible, he has filmed himself telling the stories going back and forth in both English and Portuguese. There are 3 different videos: two for the elementary ages and one for the middle school (which is also good for Gr. 3 and up). The links to the videos were shared with all teachers so that they could be shown in school. Ms. Cole requested that they not be shown on a remote day so that there could be in-person discussions. The links to the videos were emailed to parents as well as posted on the school website so that families could watch and share in the experience.

B. Personnel

1. New Hire

Jean Zdankowski – Assistant Cook – effective January 19, 2021

2. Retirement

Paulee Davies – Receptionist – effective September 8, 2021

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee accepted Ms. Davies retirement with gratitude for her 17 years at the Edgartown School by way of roll call vote.

At the School Committee meeting on January 27, 2021, the committee approved the extended leave for Amy Baldino through the end of the school year. Ms. Baldino advised that she is available to continue through the first 12 days of March. Ms. Baldino requested that she stay on as an ESP to support Mr. Jacobs through the transition when he assumes the Gr. 4 teaching position on March 1, 2021.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee approved by way of roll call vote Ms. Baldino's request to stay on as an ESP in Gr. 4 for the first 12 days of March 2021.

VI. Public Comment

Gina deBettencourt shared that the school has received donated foods from various island farms including Slough Cove Farm, Island Grown Initiative, and Morning Glory. She is still using food grown in the school garden. With Ken Romero's help, she applied to the government's DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and is now receiving fruit and vegetables for free.

VII. New/Old Business

Mark Friedman announced the receipt of two donations:

1. Mr. Eric Hammarlund – 100 high quality KN95 masks
2. Mr. Jack Taylor (1800 Shields) – 100 face shields

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the Committee accepted the donations with great gratitude by way of roll call vote.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next Edgartown School Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee