



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021– 8:00am via Zoom
AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2021**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Finance Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. All Island School Committee
 - B. COVID-19 Testing Update
 - C. School Choice Vote
- V. Principal's Report**
 - A. Principal's Advisory Council
 - B. School Advisory Council Update
 - C. Honor Roll/BUG Awards Ceremony
 - D. Enrollment
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/86203783640?pwd=Z0p5NWNrTkdxY1IUSHRIMjd0QIBFUT09>

Meeting ID: 862 0378 3640

Passcode: 886607

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EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 8:00am– 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), Nancy Dugan (Director of Student Support Services – Pre-K - Gr.7), Nedine Cunningham, Summer De Souza, Jennifer Fournier, Gail Gardner, Debra Grant, Alicia Knight, Kate Lefer, Prudence Levy, and Michelle Oteri.

I. Approval of minutes from February 17, 2021

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, the committee approved the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting by way of roll call vote.

II. PTA Report

The last meeting was held on March 9, 2021. They are collaborating with the MV Film Festival to present a drive-in movie. The dates have been scheduled for May 7 (for younger children) and May 8 (for older children). The doors will open at 7:00pm with the movie beginning at 8:00pm. Tickets and concessions for the event will be sold on the PTA Member Hub on the Edgartown School website. The concessions will be handed out on-site seeing as sales are not permitted at the event site.

PTA scholarships are due on March 16, 2021. To date, they have only received two applications from Edgartown School students where normally they receive over a dozen. Chairperson Anderson explained, with confirmation by Dr. Smith, that all scholarship applications are due to the High School by Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

They next PTA meeting will take place in-person under the tent on school grounds on April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm.

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 March 9, 2021, the budget is looking quite good. There are no new or surprising negative variances.

The projected negative variance in the Administrative Salaries area is due to a retirement back in the fall. The budget should be able to absorb the residual expenses. The projected negative variance in the Kindergarten department should more than be covered by the positive variance in Teacher Salaries. There are some small variances showing up in the rest of the report but they are not significant. Overall, there are projected savings in various salary lines to cover these variances.

There is a projected overage in the Utilities area. This is mostly due to electricity. The Phone line is also in the deficit. The Insurance Refund line was paying for the replacement of the phone system that was wiped out by lightning. It is now being paid out of the General Fund seeing as all of the insurance monies have been used. They should be able to absorb these expenses as well through the various maintenance lines or other non-instructional lines.

Mr. Friedman is keeping an eye on the Residential Expense line. The line has been exhausted and is going into the negative. Nancy Dugan is helping with the submission of the application to the State for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief. This is a special program that exists through DESE for school districts that are experiencing unexpectedly large variances in residential expenses. He is optimistic that there are funds at the State level to

cover any of the overages. There is no set formula and there is not always a guaranteed reimbursement in terms of the dollar amount that the school could receive. It depends on how many districts are in the same situation. There is a reserve but it too can vary. In order for a district to apply, participation in training workshops is required. Any relief given would be available for use in the current fiscal year.

The \$28,000+/- deficit in the Health Contract Services line is the encumbrance and expenses of Edgartown's portion for the COVID testing. The budget journal entry from the Contingency line to the Health Contract Services line has not been completed.

The Fund Balance report doesn't show many changes from last month. The Revolving Lunch Fund continues to have a positive balance of \$46,113.61. 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 reimbursement for February is \$14,575.79. The School Choice Fund continues to remain strong with a balance of \$132,975.72.

There are a number of Warrant Articles that still have remaining balances. Mr. Friedman has reviewed these with Amy Tierney (Town Accountant) to see if they can be closed. An update will be given at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Friedman is encouraged financially. He feels that the school is in better shape than they could have been in when they were looking at different scenarios over the summer.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

There are no meetings scheduled at this time but there will be at least one more meeting before the end of the year.

B. COVID Testing Update

Dr. D'Andrea reported that testing continues and is going very well. The goal is to have 900 staff and students tested each week. There are a very low percentage of positive tests coming back. There were no positive tests last week out of 892 that were given. They will utilize testing through the end of the school year seeing as funding has been secured to do so.

On March 11, the COVID vaccine becomes available to teachers and staff in public schools. The Superintendent's office has organized a clinic for the evening of March 11, 2021 for 250 staff members to receive their vaccine. The second dose of the vaccine for these participants will take place three weeks later on April 2, 2021.

The Superintendent's office is working with the Martha's Vineyard Hospital to set up a second vaccine clinic for later this month. Hopefully this second clinic will result in all staff being vaccinated.

Chairperson Anderson gave gratitude and appreciation to the Hospital and to Dr. D'Andrea for organizing the clinics.

C. School Choice Vote

Dr. D'Andrea requested that the Edgartown School continue their participation in School Choice for FY22 which allows students across the island the opportunity to choose a school that better serves their needs.

On a motion by Kelly McCracken, seconded by Kimberly Kirk, the committee approved to continue participation in School Choice for FY22 by way of roll call vote.

***Not on the agenda: Dr. D'Andrea announced that the Governor of Massachusetts was granted authority last week by the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education to mandate schools to return to in-person instruction. On March 9, 2021 guidance on the Governor's Reopening Plan was announced: on April 5, 2021, Kindergarten - Gr. 5 returns to full in-person learning and on April 28, 2021 for Gr. 6-8. There will be more information released in April regarding the return date for high school students. The administration will be meeting to discuss the changes that need to be implemented. Each school has different challenges. There will be adjustments to overcome but nothing that can't be figured out seeing as most of schools are close to full in-person learning. Dr. D'Andrea doesn't anticipate any large changes.

V. **Principal's Report**

A. Principal's Advisory Council

The members of the Principal's Advisory Council and the areas they represent were introduced by Alicia Knight: Shelley Einbinder (Administration), MaryAnn Bartlett (Administration), Eric Butler (Guidance), Nicole Barlett (Nurse), Pam Alwardt (Front Office), Gina deBettencourt (Kitchen), Dwight Kaeka (Custodians), Janet Hurley (Special Education), Deb Grant (ELL), Gail Gardner (Specials), Robin Davies (ESP's), Summer DeSouza (Gr. K-2), Alicia Knight (Gr. 3-4), and Bridget Mello (Gr. 5-8).

Deb Grant joined the council because it was an opportunity to be a part of building positive communication within the building as well as a positive school culture. She finds it important that everyone in the school is represented and that it's a great way to bring all the departments together seeing as they don't often get to communicate as a whole building.

Summer DeSouza explained that the council meets once per month on a Thursday for an hour and have met 3 times so far. The topics covered in their meetings have included the CST process, report cards, parent/teacher conferences, recess, interims, and DCAP (District Curriculum Accommodation Plan). She finds that this is a good way to bring information back to the cohorts.

Gail Gardner wanted to be a part of a constructive group that helps bring good things to the building. She is useful with her tech skills by getting feedback using forms, surveys, and questionnaires.

Dr. Einbinder added that everyone on the council is volunteering their time. She feels that the communication is already making a difference in the school culture.

B. School Advisory Council (SAC) Update

The SAC is an important group of teachers, parents, and community members who met last year to develop a two-year School Improvement Plan. Alicia Knight, who co-chaired with Dr. Einbinder, shared a brief overview (via screen share) of the two-year plan that begins with the philosophy of the SAC and then identifies the broader target areas: re-entry, remote learning, professional collaboration, and equity for all students. A copy of the shared document can be found on the School's website:

https://www.edgartownschool.org/uploads/files/darren_belisle/SIP_2020-2022.pdf

C. Honor Roll/BUG Awards Ceremony

The second quarter awards ceremony was held virtually on Monday, March 8, 2021. There were 35 students who earned honors, 18 with high honors, and 23 who were recognized for bringing up their grades (BUG).

D. Enrollment

The total enrollment is currently at 379 students with one pending. Of this amount, 341 students are in-person, 38 are remote, and 6 are in other programs.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. New/Old Business

The Edgartown Town Meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2021 under the tent on school grounds.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next Edgartown School Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:00pm. Location TBD.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Romero
Secretary to the Committee