



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 – 7:00 pm
Edgartown School Library**

AGENDA

Please note: Some business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action

- I. Vote MVRHS Committee Member**
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2024**
- III. PTA Report**
- IV. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure Report and Fund Balance
 - B. Grants and Donations
- V. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. General Update
- VI. Principal's Report**
 - A. School Choice Discussion
 - B. 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan
 - C. Enrollment
 - D. Personnel
 - 1. Resignations
 - 2. Leave of Absence
 - 3. New Hires
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. New/Old Business**
- IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- X. Adjournment**



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 1, 2024 – 7:00 pm

Edgartown School Library

Minutes

Present: Chair, Louis Paciello and members Kimberly Kirk and Kelly Scott

Others: Supt. Dr. Richie Smith, Assistant Superintendent John Stevens, Principal Dr. Shelley Einbinder, Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator, Hope MacLeod Student Services Director, Darren Belisle Technology Administrator, Brooke Leahy PTA President, Nedine Cunningham 8th grade social studies teacher, Deb Grant Kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Fournier First Grade teacher, Deb DeBettencourt School Counselor, Sarah Vail F.A.C.S. teacher, Gina deBettencourt Food Services Director, Nancy Cole School Librarian, Robin Davies Educational Support Professional, Lindsay Morgan special education teacher, Megan McDonald First Grade teacher, Erin Simmons Fifth Grade Teacher, See also the sign-in list which is being forwarded separately, and a list of virtual attendee's names collected from Zoom meeting at the end of these minutes. Reporter: MaryAnn Bartlett Assistant Principal

The meeting was called to order by Louis Paciello at 7:24 p.m.

I. Vote MVRHS Committee Member

Kelly Scott made a motion that she join the MVRHS Committee and Kimberly Kirk seconded.

There was a brief discussion including information about Mr. Paciello not intending to run again and Kimberly Kirk's current position (replacing a vacancy) ending in the spring, Kimberly Kirk had considered joining the MVRHSC, there were no other comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

II. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2024

Kelly Scott made a motion to approve the Minutes from January 8, 2024

Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 2 ayes, 1 abstention, 0 Nays

III. PTA Report - Brooke Leahy reported that the PTA is participating in a nationwide arts program called Reflection. This is the first time they have participated in this. The PTA is looking for information about assemblies to bring to the school in the spring. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 20, at 5:15 p.m. at the Allied Mortgages office.

IV. Finance Report - Mark Friedman reported on the following:

A. Expenditure Report and Fund Balance

B. Grants and Donations

The Strengthening Family / School Partnerships federal grant is coming to the Edgartown School. For technical assistance and training for administration and staff

regarding family engagement.

Kelly Scott made a motion to accept the \$10,000 Strengthening Family and School Partnerships grant.

Kimberly Kirk seconded.

There was a brief discussion about the requirement of the grant coordinator to report back about how the money was used, there were no further comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Dr. Shelley Einbinder reported that Global Partners gave a \$500 grant to the Edgartown school through the Exxon-Mobile collaboration.

Kimberly Kirk made a motion to accept the \$500 Global Partners grant.

Louis Paciello seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Shelley Einbinder made a statement before the superintendent spoke.

A. General Update

Dr. Smith welcomed input from staff and parents and said he would listen to anyone who wanted to speak in particular in regards to his performance. Dr. Smith asked to have comments about the school, staff, and administration at another venue. He also offered to be available to any parents who want to speak with him at the Edgartown School on Monday, February 5 at 3:30-4:30 and Wednesday February 7, at 4:30-6:15. He also offered to be available on Friday, February 2.

VI. Principal's Report

A. School Choice Discussion

Louis Paciello spoke about this item being on the agenda. Recently he has learned from data about a historical imbalance in the trend of students using school choice to go to other districts.

Dr. Shelley Einbinder presented data from the superintendent's office that spanned 10 years. A chart was shared that presented the information on a spreadsheet. The chart shows a consistent downward trend in the percentage of students using school choice to go out of district with a high of 10.1% in school-year 2017-2018 and a low of 3.6% in 2021-2022.

Dr. Smith said there is a public records request that was made recently asking how many students made a request to leave Edgartown and were or were not accepted and the reverse. It takes a while to get the information about these requests for school choice. The information can be made available to the school committee.

Louis Paciello asked if we can see further details about which schools students go to and if certain grades have more students leaving. Dr. Smith explained that the 6 districts create a superintendency of separate districts that fall under one public school system. Each year school districts vote on continuing the school choice option. Dr. Smith

explained that the superintendency tries to accommodate the school choice program such as the offering of transportation for some students due to the building project in Tisbury this year.

Edgartown's cap is 18 students and is the only MVY school with a cap. It is a policy that the school has.

There was discussion about how the Edgartown School can use data and surveys to learn more about why some families use school choice to enter the school and who use school choice to exit. The discussion included the idea of adding an exit survey for families, a yearly survey to all families and the results from the survey brought to the school committee, and the idea of adding discussion of changes to the school choice policy to a future agenda.

B. 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan -this was tabled for the next meeting.

C. Enrollment:

Dr. Einbinder reported that the total enrollment is 373 students with 3-5 students pending.

Dr. Smith answered questions and a discussion took place including the following. A question was asked if the enrollment data shows how many students are EL students. Richie Smith said that the Edgartown School has 39.6% students who are not first language English (State is 26%). English Language learner percentage is 19.4%. (State average is 13.1%). 43.5% economically disadvantaged (State is 42.2%).

The highest percentage of English Language Learners is at the Tisbury school. The Oak Bluffs school and Edgartown have the highest number of ELL students.

All the schools are implementing methodologies to address and respond to the needs of all students. Examples such as co-teaching and Think:Kids Collaborative problem solving were described.

D. Personnel

1. Resignations

Kim Hathaway and Spencer Schofield -2 ESPs and Nicole Miranda, an ELD teacher resigned.

Louis Paciello made a motion to accept the resignations of Kim Hathaway, and Spencer Schofield and Nicole Miranda.

Kimberly Kirk seconded with gratitude.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

2. Leave of Absence

Marcia de Castro Borges requested a leave of absence from her ESP Interpreter position in order to take over the role of ELD teacher resulting from Nicole Miranda's resignation.

Louis Paciello made a motion to accept the leave of absence for Marcia de Castro Borges.

Kimberly Kirk seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

3. New Hires

Marcia Borges. Long Term Substitute English Language Development Teacher

Debbie Scarlett, additional ESP in Kindergarten

Emily Callahan an ESP in grades 5-8

Louis Paciello made a motion to accept the hires of Marcia Borges, Debbie Scarlett, and Emily Callahan.

Kimberly Kirk seconded.

There was no discussion, comments or changes.

The motion passed: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

VII. Public Comment

Mr. Paciello made a comment before the public comment was opened asking each person to keep to 2 minutes and that there would not be discussion but this was an opportunity for everyone to speak.

A question was asked if teachers are given exit interviews and could the data be collected. The answer was that Louis Paciello said the school committee will consider this and add it to the agenda.

A parent mentioned that she was glad to see parents attending the meeting, it is difficult to hear in the room, and that criticism can be hard to hear. Parents would like to see an Action Plan created with measurable goals, timeline, and accountability including in the superintendent's goals.

A request was made for the school committee to communicate what the needs of the school are in order for the community to be able to help.

A comment was made that students who are high achievers are not getting their needs met due to the meeting of students with either special education or ELD needs.

A question was asked about when the next school meeting will be and when could an action plan be seen. The next meeting will be in March and the superintendent will also meet the parents in the school next week.

A question was asked if the school committee can meet to work on this more often in between the scheduled meetings. Louis Paciello said that the committee would be reviewing these requests at the next meeting. Dr. Smith also replied that some items can be easily/quickly remedied but making the actionable plan would take time to gather information and create long-term surveys, and look at the issues.

A comment was made by Kim Hathaway, a former staff member, who said they would fill out an exit interview if there was one.

A question was asked about the budget and if there were requests made for more teachers being added to the budget. Dr. Smith said at this point there are not asks per the budget that have been denied. However, the audience member said that the Edgartown community would support the needs of the school if needed.

A question was asked by a parent who wrote a letter to the school committee and shared it with school committee members. The question was; would there be a response to the letter that was written and brought to the attention of the school committee? Would there be a summary of the solutions etc.? Kimberly Kirk thanked the parent and said that the letter was impactful and important and appreciated the information shared and she committed to supporting the school community in making changes.

Former SC member Kelly McCracken asked that the superintendent share conversations with teachers as well as the parents and also report to the school committee on what improvements are needed.

A parent mentioned that she thought there was a problem with the culture at the school and communication needs to be improved. She does not want to send her next student to the school next year.

Nichole Shank commented that children are thriving in the school every day and the teachers work so hard to make that happen.

VIII. New/Old Business

Kimberly Kirk proposed a standard policy to create all school committee meetings as hybrid meetings in-person and virtual and through Zoom. Mr. Paciello and Ms. Scott agreed and said that from now on the meetings will be held on Zoom too.

Louis Paciello asked Shelley to report at the next meeting on why there is not a school musical scheduled in the spring.

Louis Paciello asked if parents could come to lunch. The answer is yes, if they would sign in to get a visitor pass then parents can attend lunch.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting is on March 13 at 5:30 in the Edgartown School library and with a zoom link.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23.

Attendance list from Zoom

Name (Original Name)

User Email

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19788958407

774-487-0775's iPhone

A Sylvia

Alessandra Hagerty

Alex Morrison

Alicia

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Amanda

Amanda

Amy Da Silva

Amy Heil

andrewkahl

andrewkahl

B. Mello

Becky Bonds

Becky Minnich

bonnie kingsbury

Brooke Kushwaha

Bryan

Bryan

Burr, Keith

Caitlin's iPad (2)

Caitlyn

Calvin Kaeka

cameronstanton

cameronstanton

Carol Immelt

Celia Mercier

chris dolby

chris dolby

Chyenne Ward

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Colin Murphy

Collette Jordan

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cp

Cutrer

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Doug Heil's iPhone

EBT - Erin Ready

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Elyce's iPhone

[Emilia giordano@merrimack.edu](mailto:Emilia.giordano@merrimack.edu)

Eri Seguin

Ezra Sherman

Fred's iPhone (2)

gaillachapelle

Ginamarie deBettencourt

iPad

iPad

Iphone

Iphone

iPhone

iPhone

iPhone

Iphone

IPhone

iPhone

iPhone

IPhone

iPhone moms

Jakes Phone

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Janet Hurley

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JB Lamont

Jessie Merriam

Jessie Merriam

Joan Shemit

John Giordano

John OHara

Joshua Tucker

justenfoster

k shemeth

Kaitlyn

Kara

Kara

Kara Leandro

Karen Bressler

Karen Bressler

Kate

Kate Curelli

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Kate Lefer

Kate's iPhone

Keith Burr

Kelly McCracken

Ken DeBettencourt

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Kerry Branca

Kim Hathaway

KMG's Phone

Krystle Schaeffer

Kurstin Meehan's iPhone

Landscape, Inc.

lauriepereira

Leah Palmer (she/her/hers)

LeighAnna

Linda Wanamaker

Lindsay

Lindsay

Lisa

Lizzy Ward (Iphone)

LM

LN

Lori

Martina Thornton

Marybeth Meehan

Matthew's iPad

mbrailard

Meghan Brown

Michelle's iPad (2)

Molly's iPhone

Nicholas Prescott

Nichole Shank

Nicole Gullotta

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Pamela Dolby

Paulo C. DeOliveira, Register of Deeds

Priscilla Tremblay

Rebecca

ricardo

Sal

Sara Dario

Sarah Banks

Sarah Knight

Skylar Menton

Summer DeSouza

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Susan Sanford

Susan Stevens

suzanna crowell

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William C. Bishop, IV

Zoe