



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Edgartown School Library and via Zoom

AGENDA

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

- I. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2025**
- II. PTA Report, Brooke Leahy, PTA President**
- III. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. General Update
 - B. Principal's Search Process Update
 - C. Student Support Services Update
 - D. Grievance Discussion – Use of School Choice funds and vote
- IV. Principal's Report**
 - A. Outdoor Learning and Playground Project update
 - B. Good News; Deborah DeBettencourt, Assistant Principal
 - C. Personnel; resignation
 - D. Upcoming Events
 - E. School Choice vote
- V. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- VIII. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/84034052703?pwd=wpBlc0jkM44mLu65U3qiJX53TagaZw.1>

Phone dial-in: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 840 3405 2703

Passcode: 261132

Edgartown School Committee Minutes
5:30pm Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Edgartown School Library and via Zoom

ESC Members Present:

Chair Kelly Scott
Member Kristin Brown
Member Sara Murphy-Via Zoom

Staff:

John Stevens-Principal
Deb Debettencourt - Assistant Principal
Dr Richard Smith-Superintendent
Mark Friedman-Business Administrator
Hope MacCleod-Student Support
Nedine Cunningham-Social Studies Teacher/Edgartown Finance Committee
Justen Foster-Science Teacher

Others:

Justine DeOliveira- Assistant Principal MVRHS

The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) was called to order 5:33pm.
(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

I. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2025

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2025 EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

II. PTA Report, Brooke Leahy, PTA President-Via Zoom

9 entries reflections art competition-4 went on to State
Maeve Leahy
Maya Wallace
John Curelli
Bianca Nunes
Approved and issued a grant for Kara Gelinas-Skeleton
Next Meeting Tue March 25, 2025 8:15 am Location TBD
Discussing spring fundraising and annual field day dunk tank.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. General Update

All island SC March 20 5:30 pm
We have a tentative agreement with teacher unit
Will be ratified March 17 by teachers
Will move ahead with other units Monday, March 24
Negotiating six new contracts with transportation included.
Personnel Policy sub committee- Have been working on policy handbook.
will be first time MVYPS has policy handbook

B. Principal's Search Process Update

We are in the visit days. Debbie just completed her visit yesterday.
Publicly thank:
Mary Beth Naron, Gina DeBettencourt, Pam Alwardt.
We have a 20 member committee-this group shows up- dedicated group.
There are members helping us:
Lori Ford, Sara Murphy, Julia Tarka, Jeanette Teta, Bridget Mello, Brooke Leahy, Chris Greene, Denise Searle, Gail Gardner, Soraya Miri, Tony Coffman.
Next candidate is Kate Campbell. Will be here tomorrow.
Objective and comprehensive feedback
March 18 Justine DeOliveira
Will visit finalists schools and decision will be made middle of April

C. Student Support Services Update

Highlight professional development day.
Special education attorney came and spoke about special education law.
Going to each of the schools in the next month.
Training with bridge team
Assisted technology in preschool at OB
Special education parent advisory council up and running(trying)Working with special needs foundation to get advisory council going.
Events in the spring

D. Grievance Discussion-Use of School Choice Funds and Vote

Essentially a breach of contract-when administration doesn't follow, the union will bring grievance. Grievance goes to principal, Superintendent, and then School Committee.
In the fall, a teacher here was not credited for time he worked part time, therefore not credited longevity. They were correct, and I asked them to file the grievance .
Essentially in the last round of negotiations we were bargaining with the teacher unit, and did not ratify contract until November 2022.
New contract had wording that in old contract said you needed to be at top step. New contract that language was missing.
Longevity pay \$3500 dollars should have been paid to this employee.

Asking to use school choice money.
Legitimate grievance. We owe this employee \$3500.
Motion to use school choice in the amount of \$3500
Chair Kelly Moves to use school choice monies to pay this employee
\$3500. Seconded by members Murphy and Brown. 3 aye 0 Nays, 0
Abstentions

IV Principal's Report

A. Outdoor Learning and Playground Project Update

Last Thursday had hybrid meeting to present our and recreation project to the community.
John and Andy presented.
Essence of presentation ground breaking mid to late august. Will be finished december 2025
We won't have access to the playgrounds during that time. We will have to be creative to get the kids outside.
Procurement already started, equipment being ordered.

B. Good News; Deborah DeBettencourt, Assistant Principal

Matilda Jr. Friday and Saturday
Nedine: Reminder of how important musical theater is in school
So much talent on the stage
Former students coming back to help
First year teacher taking on directing.
The Yard: Visiting artist Brazilian tap dancer presented in our 4th grade
Shamrock fun run and community meeting on Monday
Friday 8th graders going to visit HS CTE visit. Midway through their registration at the HS
Today we had CPR training led by Kate Curelli
MCAS
All Island spelling bee next Friday.
John: Feeder patterns
Several activities and sports in the feeder pattern. Drama is considered a feeder pattern for the drama program at the high school.

C. Personnel; Resignation

Sarah Trudel 1:1 ESP Feb 18
ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN, THE RESIGNATION OF SARAH TRUDEL IS ACCEPTED WITH GRATITUDE. 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS

Upcoming Events

Musical Friday and Saturday- All staff have been given a gratis ticket.
Shamrock run on Monday-possible rain date
PTA moved from the 18th to the 25th 8:15
Vineyard Smiles dental services will be at school on 18th and 19th
Island wide spelling Bee-Juliet 5th grader
Fire drill March 26th
MCAS ELA April 7-11
Make up tests the following week

D. School Choice Vote

Each year all of our districts have to
Ask that Edgartown continue membership in the school choice program.
Advantage for out students
Chair Kelly Motion to continue in school choice. Seconded by Murphy and Brown.
3 aye 0 Nay 0 Abstentions

V. Finance Report

A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports-Mark Friedman

Standard fund balance and expenditure report
Three different funds in this report
We still have 1.4 million dollars available for the larger phase of the playground construction.
PTA has generously gotten us some outside donations
School choice fund 401-\$233,000 balance
Healthy balance/additional 11, 000 expected
Revolving lunch fund balance currently at \$141,000 very healthy balance. With Gina's help we will spend some of that down.
Expense Report: lots of variances
Focusing on salaries alone- all together when you add together projected surpluses and deficits we still have \$37,000 projected savings.
Will caution one of the lines we do not encumber monies is on page 2 salary surplus will be eaten up by subs

Variances -staff last year moved into different positions. Reflective of people newly hired or moved after budget finalized.

Towards end of report custodial overages -unanticipated position- covered in what I just mentioned

Page 5 -activity and maintenance area-deficit. Will look to cover that at the end of the year.

Overall the budget is in good shape.

Page 5 very bottom residential another residential line on page 3

Page three \$199,000 spent- unbudgeted. Reminder that the strategy is we are applying to the state for circuit breaker for extraordinary relief. Application in- We won't hear for a while.

Our expectation is that the state will come back with significant relief for us. Will not cover 100%

April 8 is also special town meeting

School has request for stabilization fund as well as \$120,000 to be deposited into that fund.

Should any of the budget assumptions end up short, we have the school choice fund to address any variances

Won't hear from state until April or May

Brown has question Page 5 playground equipment \$2000 that hasn't been spent. Not donation. That represents maintenance that happens every year. We have delayed as best we can but kept equipment safe.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

April 16 6:00 pm

VIII. Adjournment

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN AT 6:26 PM.