

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Teacher's Conference Room

5:00pm Building Tour

5:30 Meeting

DRAFT

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Member Megan Anderson, Member David Rossi, Business Administrator Amy Tierney, Principal John Stevens, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Vice Principal Anne Fligor, Assistant Superintendent Matt D'Andrea

I. Approval of minutes of February 18

On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of February 18, 2015.

II. Parent Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

III. PTA Report

No report was given.

IV. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report

Ms. Tierney distributed a copy of the current expenditure report. She noted the continued negative balance in the revolving lunch account, and that it was being closely monitored. There is currently \$13,652 outstanding in monies owed by students and staff. Ms. Mercier wanted to know if this amount was high for this time of year, Mr. Stevens reported that it was. Ms. Mercier questioned if some of these students should be applying for free and reduced lunch, but Mr. Stevens felt that the majority of the students from this list would not qualify. Mr. Stevens said the school is actively working towards getting these bills paid and by the end of the year this debt is down to a few students. Ms. Tierney continued with the expenditure report. There was a reduction in the professional increments of \$38,000 this month as money that had come out of a special teacher encumbrance line was placed there, but when the teacher returned from leave, it was transferred back. There are still deficits in the Kindergarten line, due to the extra teacher and the cut mid-year to the Kindergarten grant from the Governor's budget. This should be resolved after the Town Meeting. Mr. Stevens has placed a freeze on general supplies, textbooks and substitutes for teaching assistants. Ms. Mercier would like to be proactive with the possibility of the loss of the Kindergarten grant for next year. The 766 line is in deficit, partly due to the school's share of the extended day programs. Mr. Stevens reported that there were 2 classrooms today with no heat, which would result in additional repair charges. Ms. Tierney reported that there was 2.5% left in the budget, and it would be closely monitored. Ms. Tierney handed out a detailed report of extra expenses that came up throughout the year that affected the budget such as unexpected salaries due to teacher's leaves of absence, testing for ACCESS, long term subs and assistant extra duty coverage. She suggested we plan for these unexpected expenses when preparing the FY17 budget.

B. School Choice Report

The last page of the report was the School Choice Fund Report. This showed an estimated ending balance for FY15 of \$64,859.62. Some of these funds may be needed for maintenance bills, which would need to go through the warrant process.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Building Tour

The committee toured the building, led by Mr. Stevens. Mr. Stevens explained that the building is inspected monthly and a detailed feedback is given to each custodian regarding their section,

including the area that is cleaned through a contracted cleaning service. The committee viewed many sections of the school, including several classrooms, restrooms, the shop area and the boiler room. There was a high praise for the custodial staff and the cleanliness of the building.

B. Upcoming Policies

Dr. Weiss notified the committee that over the next 3 months there would be four new policies from the Commonwealth coming up. These include a change of the maternity leave policy to a parental leave policy, a domestic violence leave policy, a physical restraint policy and a student activity fund policy. Mr. Rossi asked how the state law worked and Dr. Weiss explained that it covers employers with 50 or more employees.

VI. Principal's Report

A. Library Construction Update-Anne Fligor, Asst. Principal

Ms. Fligor reported that the library brick work will be done next week. They will be putting in an underground conduit later this week. The gutter system will go on next and then the seamed roof goes on. The electrical and mechanical work is almost completed and then the sheetrock will be installed. They are anticipating completion late summer. Mr. Stevens questioned the drainage, wanted to be sure the sitting water is not leaching into the school building. Ms. Fligor also reported that the new outside lights will be coming over April vacation.

B. Storm Damage Report

Mr. Stevens reported that he has presented the town with the bills related to the recent storms which caused damage throughout the building, including to the cafeteria roof. The Town is submitting it to MEMA for possible reimbursement. Mr. Stevens is also pursuing insurance to cover repairs necessary for the roof.

C. PARCC Testing Update

Mr. Stevens reported that the testing is underway. The State has declared the testing to be mandatory however there is a clause that says if students refuse or are disruptive they can be removed and given alternative work to do. So far 12 students have refused. He has been meeting with parents and found that most are opting out because they feel there is too much testing, testing anxiety in their child or that this is a hold harmless year. Dr. Weiss said this is also occurring in other schools but with fewer students. Ms. Mercier questioned what we can do for the community in terms of positive public response. Mr. D'Andrea suggested that as the testing goes on, we can invite parents to see the test, get a better understanding of it. He agreed that the test is challenging, but mentioned that students on IEPs or 504 plans still receive their accommodations.

D. Personnel

1. Retirement: Mr. Stevens presented a retirement plan from Sally Mitchell as of October 31, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Ms. Mercier, the school committee voted to acknowledge the retirement with regret.
2. Leave of Absence Request: Mr. Stevens presented a medical leave of absence request from Michael Lynch, head custodian, effective immediately through May 16th to recover from knee surgery. On a motion by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Ms. Mercier, the school committee voted to approve the request.

VII. Old Business/New Business

Mr. Stevens handed out a copy of the articles and a copy of the budget to be presented at the Town Meeting on April 14.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 15th at 5 pm.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Parece
Secretary to the Committee

