

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 15, 2014
Staff Lounge
8:30 AM

APPROVED

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Members Megan Anderson and David Rossi, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Assistant Superintendent Matt D'Andrea, Business Administrator Amy Tierney, and Principal John Stevens. Also attending the meeting was Youth Risk Task Force members Teresa Manning and Mike Joyce, Guidance Counselors Barbara Bernstein and Deborah DeBettencourt, Health Teacher Sue Costello and School Nurse Nicole Barlett.

I. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2013

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of December 11, 2013.

II. Parent Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

III. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report

Mrs. Tierney shared the latest expenditure report and said that most of it was holding steady. General supplies, textbooks and ESP substitute lines are over which will result in freezing those until further notice. The general maintenance line is also over, primarily due to extensive repairs to the heating and air circulation systems. It was noted that the building is 12 years old, which means that various components to these systems will need to be replaced in the near future. The Committee suggested that future budgets increase the general maintenance lines by \$10K to compensate for the anticipated expense.

B. School Choice

Mrs. Tierney also shared the School Choice Fund report to date. She noted that the total estimated revenue for FY14 is \$84,492.00, which is less than the anticipated estimate of \$90K. Mr. Stevens mentioned that an Edgartown student in the Social Skills class will be moving to Oak Bluffs. This means that the one-on-one ESP assigned to him will no longer be funded by our School Choice Fund, nor will her benefits be supplied by our Town. The child will still attend this class, but the ESP's salary and benefits will be furnished by Oak Bluffs.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. School bus MOU request by UIRSD Committee

Dr. Weiss shared a Memorandum of Understanding, penned by UIRSD Member Skip Manter, regarding school bus service and liability when UIRSD buses are used by the other Towns under the MVRHS District bus fleet umbrella. The Committee agreed to take no action at this time.

B. BMI Policy – 2nd reading

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the 2nd reading of the BMI Policy.

C. School Choice Policy – 2nd reading

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the 2nd reading of the School Choice Policy.

V. **Principal's Report**

A. Academic: Health Curriculum

Mr. Stevens introduced the staff teaching the Health/Life Skills classes in grades 5-8: Guidance Counselors Deb DeBettencourt and Barbara Bernstein, Health Teacher Sue Costello, and Nurse Nicole Barlett. These instructors teach a variety of issues related to health and development, plus social challenges in life. Their health curriculum aligns with the current Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Frameworks. The students attend this class once a week, and they discuss any one of the main topics or they may focus on an issue facing the class or students at the present time. Small groups or individuals often meet with an instructor when necessary. Some contributing resources include the Edgartown Resources Officers (who are present daily in the school), D.A.R.E. officers, EMT officers, Youth Task Force, to name a few. Mrs. Barlett said that stress was a common issue for students, whether school performance or peer interaction or family related problems come into play. Teaching how to overcome stress or deal with it is a major topic. Youth Risk Task Force members Teresa Manning and Mike Joyce joined the discussion to promote participation by parents. Dinners workshops are offered for parents, their children, and faculty to attend where information is offered and discussions are encouraged. Dr. Lisa Machoian, author of "Disappearing Girl" will speak on March 11. Her book is about the personal and social challenges facing adolescent girls and boys.

B. After School Clubs: Fall report and Winter course selections

Mr. Stevens reported that ESP Debra Grant is the After School Club Coordinator this year. Her Fall session serviced 56 students with various activities, most running 8 weeks long. The Winter session is about to begin which will include a fun club with Officer Rossi and Mrs. Grant, Arts and Crafts at the Senior Center with Mrs. Barlett and Ms. Pereira, Woodworking with Mr. Pattison, and Creating the 2013-2014 Yearbook with Ms. Gardner, to name a few. The Winter session will run in January and February, most afternoons from 2:45 to 4:00.

C. Out of state conference request

Mr. Stevens asked the Committee to approve an out of state conference request by ELL Teacher Nicole Miranda. She wishes to attend the 2014 TESOL workshop on March 26 – 29, in Portland, Oregon. The cost will be shared by the high school. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Megan Anderson, the Committee agreed to the out of state conference.

VI. **Correspondence**

No report was given

VII. **Old/New Business**

A. Reorganization

The Committee agreed to temporarily replace Susan Mercier with Megan Anderson on the high school committee. Mrs. Anderson will take part of this sub-committee with Mr. Rossi.

The Committee decided to go into Executive Session at 9:45 AM, and they will not return to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela L. Cassidy
Secretary to the Committee