

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Principal's Conference Room
8:30am

DRAFT

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Member Megan Anderson, Business Administrator Amy Tierney, Principal John Stevens, Assistant Superintendent Matt D'Andrea, Guidance Counselor Deb DeBettencourt, Deanna Laird, Noli Taylor and Melinda Rabbit-Defeo

I. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2014 and revised minutes of September 9

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the revised minutes of September 9, 2014. Ms. Anderson abstained from approving the November 5th minutes as she was not present for that meeting so they will be approved next meeting.

II. Parent Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

III. Finance Report

Ms. Tierney distributed a copy of the November expenditure report, noting the professional increments line at \$89,842.20 and the deficit accounts of Kindergarten teacher, general supplies, textbooks and computer equipment. The bottom line shows 9.52% of the site budget remaining until the end of the fiscal year.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Criminal History Check Policy-Final Reading

Mr. D'Andrea indicated there was one change in the policy "chaperones on overnight trips need to be fingerprinted". This fee will be paid by the volunteer. Discussion followed regarding school paying this fee for volunteers. Mr. Stevens recommended the school pay for this fee. Mr. D'Andrea will amend the policy to say "the school will reimburse the fee upon successful completion". On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the committee agreed to accept the 3rd reading as amended.

B. Leave of Absense

Mr. D'Andrea presented a leave of absence request by Rich Pease to extend his leave from November 5th to January 5th. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the committee agreed to accept the request.

V. Principal's Report

A. Library Construction Update-Anne Fligor

Anne Fligor reported that the roofing materials have arrived as well as the windows. The building will be well insulated. There have been no complaints regarding noise. The road opening on nights and weekends has been well received.

B. Energy Audit

Anne Fligor contacted Cape Light about replacing the outside lighting. This would save us approximately \$8000/year. It would cost \$39000 but Cape Light would pay. The time frame would be to hopefully have it done in December. Discussion followed regarding the change the new LED bulbs will make, using less power and lasting longer.

C. Island Grown Initiative and School Garden Update

Noli Taylor and Melinda Rabbitt Defeo described the program they have brought to the school. They have worked the core curriculum into the gardening program. The program was broken down by grade level into a power point that showed the changes in the program every year and how the program spirals so students are able to build off of the previous year. They work closely with teachers to reinforce what students are working on in the classroom. The program began as a blank

slate but now goes through the whole school, this year incorporating the Bridge Program into it. Melinda's stipend allows for 15 hours per week, but this position requires many more hours. Ms. Taylor emphasized the importance of supporting Melinda and the possibility of parent volunteers. Megan Anderson commented that the program has become an integral part of our student's education. Mr. D'Andrea commented that the program is hitting many of the common cores and definitely hitting the spirit of it with the critical thinking required.

D. Student transfers detail from 2013-2014

Deb DeBettencourt handed out a report on student data regarding, enter, exit, transfer information from last year. Her report gives final numbers of student movement in each grade level. Mrs. Mercier commented that she was interested in reasons students were leaving and if there was a trend in a certain grade level over the years. Info gathered is from a conversation guidance has with parents and students when they leave. Mrs. DeBettencourt said in general 6th grade is higher exit year due to students trying Falmouth Academy but this changes year to year. Mr. Stevens pointed out there is also the transient issue as families move around due to housing issues.

E. Fincom Meeting November 19 at 4pm

The committee reviewed the third draft of the FY16 budget. This draft included the detail from the superintendent's office. Ms. Mercier requested that it include a note saying "pending approval 11/20/2014 by the all island school committee". Mr. D'Andrea asked if this budget was likely to change and the answer was yes, if the ELL director was increased from .3 to .5 it would then increase the budget to over 7%. Discussion followed and was agreed upon that the budget should be changed prior to presenting it to the Fincom in an effort to be as transparent as possible. Ms. Tierney indicated that this draft removed the floating primary teacher and added \$5000 to the power and light line item which brought the budget increase to 6.94%. Ms. Mercier pointed out that some of the increase was due to moving some of the items from school choice to the budget, which the Fincom requested. Last year the school choice budget ended very low. This does not leave a safety net for unexpected issues. Discussion followed and it was agreed that Mr. Stevens would electronically send the budget to the Fincom prior to the meeting. Ms. Mercier commented that she was comfortable at this point with the request but there is still an unknown with the number of incoming Kindergarten students. Mr. Stevens will present the draft to the faculty at the Dec faculty meeting and Ms. Mercier is hopeful that the staff will understand that the committee has their best interest but also needs to be fiscally responsible. Mr. Stevens has two articles for the town meeting, the gym floor and the salary for Deb Grant as the third Kindergarten teacher.

VI. Old Business/New Business

Mr. Stevens has a conference request for 11 teachers to attend a math training with Cathy Fosnot on January 13-14. The cost would be \$7906, which is covered by Title One other than the subs. Mr. Stevens supports this request as it continues a training our teachers have been using. Ms. Mercier hopes that our teachers will be able to share this information with teachers from other schools. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the committee approved this request.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting

The Committee scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, December 17 at 8:30am. The Committee agreed to adjourn at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Parece
Secretary to the Committee

