

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
Conference Room
12:00 Noon

APPROVED

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Member Megan Anderson, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Halt, Business Administrator Amy Tierney, and Principal John Stevens. Member David Rossi was absent.

I. Approval of Minutes of January 16 and February 1, 2013

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of January 16 and February 1, 2013.

II. Parent Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

III. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report

Mrs. Tierney shared the current expenditure report, noting the overage in some lines such as professional development and supervision.

B. FY14 Budget

Mrs. Tierney presented the 3rd draft of the FY14 Budget, adjusted to reflect the results of the new teachers' contract, ratified on February 6th, and the anticipated changes to the other three union contracts, now in negotiation proceedings. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to recertify the FY14 Budget, totalling \$6,653,748.44.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignation

Dr. Weiss announced that he received a letter of resignation from custodian Kevin Donovan. Mr. Donovan has accepted another job elsewhere. His last day of work was February 7, 2013. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept Kevin Donovan's resignation, with regrets and good luck.

B. Legislative bulletin

Dr. Weiss shared a legislative bulletin, sent to all Massachusetts school committees and superintendent of schools. The subject of the bulletin was in regards to the senate ways and means budget. It states that the Governor has proposed increasing Chapter 70 funds, ensuring that all districts will receive at least an increase of \$25 per pupil.

C. Enrollment projections

Dr. Weiss also shared the latest enrollment projection results from NESDEC (New England School Development Council). With statistics calculated from new housing starts and live births, the report predicts enrollment figures are expected to steadily grow over the next several years.

D. Selection of Personnel Representative

Dr. Weiss and the Committee unanimously agreed for Member Megan Anderson to assume the role of representative from Edgartown on the Personnel Committee of the All-Island School Committee.

E. Policies

1. English Language Fluency - 3rd Reading

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the third and final reading of the English Language Fluency Policy.

2. Immunization - 1st Reading

Dr. Weiss introduced the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Immunization Policy, which states "No child shall be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized." Proof of immunizations must be received prior to entrance to school. However, the final statement in the policy states that students medically or religiously exempt from immunizations, parents and guardians will be given a copy of this policy and guidelines for exclusion in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the first reading of the Immunization Policy.

V. **Principal's Report**

A. Student Achievement: Math Enrichment Program – Louis Smadbeck

Mr. Stevens introduced Accelerated Math Teacher Louis Smadbeck to the Committee who gave a presentation on his high ability math program for select students in grades 5, 6, 7. This is a pilot program for the other public schools on the Island. One other school is serious about adding a similar program in its school. Mrs. Halt said she was impressed with the excellent curriculum and plans created by Mr. Smadbeck. The MVRHS will need to prepare to accommodate these future math students with a challenging curriculum.

B. School Choice and Charter School Reports – Amy Tierney

Mrs. Tierney shared the School Choice Fund Report for FY13 to date. The report shows an estimated ending balance by year's end to be \$101,333.96. Additional reports show 33 Edgartown students attend the Charter School. Edgartown sends 35 students to the other three public, elementary schools through the School Choice program and, in return, Edgartown receives 15 students from those same schools. As of December 2012, Edgartown has a loss in tuition by \$99,922 as a result; however, it is an improvement over the losses recorded over the last 5 years.

C. Plans for Public Library parking

Mr. Stevens shared the latest reports regarding the new public library to be built at the site of the old elementary school. He reports that there have been some problems with the public parking plans around the library, and these proposed plans will affect current parking sites for staff and parents. The Committee and Mr. Stevens will meet with the planning committee for the library on March 11th at 10:00 AM.

D. Kindergarten/preschool data

Mr. Stevens said that the new incoming kindergarten class will be coming predominately from preschools, approximately 70%, 2.5% attending daycare, and the remaining 27.5% attending neither one.

E. School security

Mr. Stevens proposed that the school add another layer of security with the purchase of 3 "panic" buttons. Buttons will be placed with a guidance counselor and the receptionist, with the last button used as a portable device to be taken to assemblies, outside events, etc. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to the purchase of the panic buttons at a cost of \$1200 to be paid out of School Choice Funds.

F. Out of state conference request

Mr. Stevens announced that Music Teacher Kelly Sullivan has requested to attend a 3-day, out-of-state conference in Hartford, CT, in April. On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to allow the conference for Ms. Sullivan.

VII. Old/New Business

Mr. Stevens said that Nurse Nicole Barlett will give a presentation on wellness at the next meeting. The Committee agreed to meet again on Wednesday, March 19, 2013, at 12:00 Noon.

With no further business to discuss, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy
Secretary to the Committee