

# EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013  
Staff Lounge  
8:30 AM

## APPROVED

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Members Megan Anderson and David Rossi, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Business Administrator Amy Tierney and Principal John Stevens. Also present was School Resource Officer Joel DeRoche.

### **I. Approval of Minutes of June 19, ,2013**

On a motion by Megan Anderson, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of June 19, 2013.

### **II. Parent Groups and Community Input**

No report was given.

### **III. Finance Report**

Mrs. Tierney shared the Fund Balance Report for FY13 plus a breakdown of the FY13 School Choice Fund. It was noted that among the expenses in the School Choice Fund, the amount of \$79,871.77 was transferred to balance General Funds, which was deficit. Also, it was explained that Teacher Louis Smadbeck's salary, which had been covered by School Choice FY13, will now be absorbed into General Funds FY14 budget. His medical benefits will be paid by the Town of Edgartown.

Three new ESPs were hired for FY14 to service recently identified students with needs requiring one-on-one services. The Superintendent's budget has been finalized and cannot take on these additional expenses now. School Choice will be responsible for these three salaries for one year only, and their benefits will be paid by the Town of Edgartown, also. The Superintendent's shared services will include them in FY15's budget.

Mrs. Tierney also said that ESP Liz Stobart's salary and benefits will continue to be shared between the Kindergarten Grant and the REAP Grant.

Mrs. Mercier, Mr. Stevens and Dr. Weiss will attend the Finance Committee meeting on September 18th. They will stress that the school has been using School Choice funds for many various expenses, as suggested by the Finance Committee in the past, thereby not dramatically increasing the school's budget. However, it had been agreed to try and keep a threshold of \$100,000 in School Choice for emergencies and other extraordinary expenses, and it is becoming more difficult to achieve that state. The Finance Committee will be asked to reassess the needs of the school and its future budget.

### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

#### **A. Resignations**

Dr. Weiss announced that Art Teacher Natalie Thibodeau has retired. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Megan Anderson, the Committee agreed to accept Mrs. Thibodeau's request to retire, with regrets and best wishes for future endeavors. Also, Dr. Weiss said that ESP Justen Walker has given her letter of resignation to accept a teaching job in Westport, MA. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Megan Anderson, the Committee agreed to accept Ms. Walker's resignation, with regret and best wishes.

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

**V. Principal**

- A. Preliminary MCAS data  
Mr. Stevens shared the Preliminary 2013 Accountability Data for the Edgartown School. It has become an increasingly complicated method of measuring achievement. The State continues to push and tighten the gap of acceptable proficiency from year to year. The Edgartown School has been placed as a level 1 school again, and it remains at the 85th percentile of proficiency. Mr. Stevens feels the extra efforts to the curriculum and instruction have been an investment resulting in well-deserved rewards.
- B. Attendance numbers / staff list  
Mr. Stevens shared the school enrollment figures to be 349 Edgartown students, and classroom sizes are stable at around 20 pupils per classroom. He also announced the addition of a new librarian, Nancy Cole, replacing Ashley Lambacher who resigned in June. The only position still to be filled is for an ESP in the 5/6 resource room. Remedial reading teacher Shelley LaSelva will be taking her maternity leave sometime in October. Mr. Stevens also reported that there is a daily police presence in the school. Officer Rossi will be joined by Officers Joel DeRoche and Ryan Ruley, covering the absence of Officer Stephanie Immelt who is out on medical leave. He added that the EMT unit of the Town, particularly Alex Schaeffer, will help assist Nurse Nicole Barlett from time to time with first aid, lice detection, and some outreach services.
- C. Summary of Summer School 2013  
Mr. Stevens said this past summer revealed 51 students participating in the summer school program of the 100 invited to attend. Eight staff members taught all grades. There were two ELL leveled groups and three small individual groups. Summer school began a week later this year due to the demolition of the old school. The cost of the teaching staff was \$13,260.
- D. Transfer report for 2012 - 2013  
The transfer report was unremarkable with movement due to off-island job opportunities or electing School Choice decisions.
- E. Garden Program report  
Mr. Stevens shared a report provided by Garden Coordinator Melinda Rabbitt DeFeo. In the report she posted 214 sessions of garden class time, 21 sessions of garden club participation, numerous trips to the Farm Institute and other island farms, plus a record of the crops yielded by the garden and the number various dishes created and provided by staff and students for the school-wide population. It has become a very popular and rapidly growing activity for the students.

**VII. Old/New Business**

The Committee decided to schedule its next meeting on October 10th at 8:30 AM. The Committee agreed to adjourn at 9:45 AM and proceed to Executive Session without returning to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy  
Secretary to the Committee