



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – 5:30 pm
Edgartown School Library and Via Zoom**

AGENDA

Please note: Some business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2024**
- II. PTA Report, Brooke Leahy, PTA President**
- III. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. General Update
 - B. Student Support Services Update
- IV. Principal's Report**
 - A. Outdoor Learning Campus Update; Mike Owen, OPM, CHA
 - B. October 1 Enrollment Census
 - C. MCAS Report; Eric Butler, Test Coordinator
 - D. Good News; Deborah DeBettencourt, Assistant Principal
 - E. Climate Surveys; Kim Garrison, MV Schools Behavioral Health Coordinator
 - F. Upcoming Events
- V. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports
 - B. ATM Calendar
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyvs.zoom.us/j/86414018397?pwd=SNmAndwtxtzqfjzszCXU5yDtiD9hdU.1>

Meeting ID: 864 1401 8397

Passcode: 709744

Phone dial-in: 1-646-558-8656

Edgartown School Committee
5:30 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
Edgartown School Library

ESC Members Present:

Chair Kelly Scott via zoom
Member Kristen Brown
Member Sara Murphy

Staff:

John Steven -Principal
Deb Debettencourt -Assistant Principal
Dr.Richard Smith -Superintendent
Mark Friedman -Business Administrator
Hope MacCleod -Student Support
Gina Debettencourt- Cafeteria Manager
Bridget Mello-Reading Specialist
Eric Butler-Guidance Counselor, Testing Coordinator
Kim Garrison-All Island Behavioral Health Coordinator

Others:

Mike Owen, OPM, CHA
Brooke Leahy PTA President
Les Baines- Town of Edgartown Finance Committee

The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) was called to order at 5:35pm.
(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

I. Outdoor Learning Campus Update; Mike Owen, OPM, CHA via Zoom

Successfully awarded Parks and Recreation project which is adjacent to the school playground project.

In the process of negotiating contracts and going before the select board in 2 weeks. Designer selection cannot happen until we have a contract.

Need to get designers on board for parks projects for reconciliation of both projects. We have an opportunity to collaborate with the town as discussed at past meetings.

Chair: How will this affect the original timeline? When will we break ground and when will it be completed?

Mike: Possible start in the winter if weather cooperates. Spring of the 25th is likely to start.

We should have a new playground this time next year. Caveat is the budget for the recreation project.

Member Murphy asks for frequent updates-Mike willing to come to meetings monthly.

II. PTA Report-Brook Leahy via Zoom

First meeting in September had a great turn out.

Discussed possible fundraisers, outdoor learning campus, possible assemblies
PTA would also like to be updated on the playground project.

Next meeting Tuesday at 2:45pm -Kim Garrison to present health and wellness initiatives to be implemented district wide.

Angela Welch -new secretary

Looking for someone to understudy for treasurer

May move the meeting to the faculty dining room due to turnout.

III. Approval Of Past Meeting Minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS KELLY SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS KRISTEN BROWN AND MS SARA MURPHY THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 2024 EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

IV. Superintendent's Report-Dr. Richard Smith, Superintendent

A. General update-Dr. Richard Smith

Results of climate survey given to staff and parents -Kim Garrison will report later in the meeting.

MCAS results, Edgartown made substantial progress- Eric Butler will report later in the meeting. Dr Smith applauds the efforts of staff and students.

B. Student Support Services Update-Hope McLeod

Report based on last year's data

a. First part is participation of Edgartown Students in shared service programs. (Edgartown Bridge Program, West Tisbury Bridge Program, Oak Bluffs Compass Program)

b. Second part is a survey that goes out to parents after every IEP meeting-small response.

Top three areas of disabilities receiving services: Specific learning disabilities, communication, and health. At state top three are Specific learning disabilities, autism, and health.

Inclusion of Edgartown students on IEPs is higher than the state percentages.

We are fully hired across shared services

Inclusion specialist position filled -specialist provides support to teachers when they have a student who is struggling in the classroom. Helps to keep students

in the classroom, helping them to access curriculum without going to shared services. This year we are proactively addressing larger behaviors in all kindergartens across the district.

V. Principal's Report- John Stevens

A. MCAS Report 2024; Eric Butler, Test Coordinator

We are our own district-Edgartown School, pre-k – 8 coastal school receiving title 1 funding

State formula shows we are not requiring assistance or intervention from the state. We do not want to be designated as requiring assistance or intervention.

Designation of substantial progress towards state set targets.

Formula scored us at 58 percent which can be measured against other schools in the states.

Edgartown awarded points for growth and English language proficiency. Another criterion of chronic absenteeism also added to our formula.

18 absence (10 percent of 180 days) is chronically absent and counts against us.

Achievement is how students score on tests. Our students take 3 different tests.

This year Social Studies will be added. Social Studies was taken last year as a developmental test. It will go live this year.

Students take an ELA test in two sections. All grades, 3-8 take this test.

Two columns (see slide) All Students, and Lowest performing Students. This is a sub group

Last year we could all earn 4 possible points. We earned all possible points except in science.

Science is only tested in 5th and 8th grade. Not all like ELA and Math. We do not have year to year data for Science.

4 =exceeded 3=made 2=made improvement 1=stay the same 0=decline in score

Growth= only in ELA and math, not in science because it is spread across 5th and 8th grade.

ELA we exceeded our targets grades 3-8

Math we met our targets grades 3-8

Sub category of lowest performing students, we exceeded in both Math and ELA
ELL Proficiency -decline- we did not get any of the points for this category.

Additional indicators of attendance we exceed, except for subgroups of chronically absent students.

0/4 science 0/4 ELA results if looked at in isolation looks like something went wrong, but we want to look at more than one year's data. If you Exceeded the

year before, there is not a lot of room for improvement, which could result in the 0 rating.

Exited a lot of students from ELL which would be an example of us exceeding and then showing low the following year.

2023 Data. Big difference in performance. We declined in every category that prior year. Only points we received were lowest performing students in ELA.

John: This is one test. We give several tests throughout the year. We can share as much data as you like. MCAS is one indicator of success. We will provide whatever information you like.

Brown: Can we access the test info? John: no we need to provide but would need to redact names, etc.

Brown requests a paragraph explanation about what the different tests are.

Scott acknowledges improvement. Ask what strategies helped make the difference? Are we still coming out of Covid?

Eric: Post covid we have gotten back to having remedial teachers. We have 3 reading specialists in our building. During covid all of our remedial specialists were pulled to become classroom teachers in order to keep the classes small. Post covid there was a push to make sure kids social /emotional well being was first and foremost. Standardized testing was not a priority. We are now balancing rigorous academics with social/emotional well being.

Student attitudes have improved. After covid the students dismissed the importance of the tests. We also moved to an all computer test which allowed students to rush through the test. Students were finishing in 15 or 20 minutes when it should have taken an hour or two.

Dr. Richard Smith shares island schools' MCAS report

Edgartown went from little to no progress to substantial progress

Island wide we are returning to a positive culture for testing.

B. October 1 Enrollment Census; John Stevens-Principal

In house school attendance report (handout)

Report broken down by gender, age, grade, bridge. Total number 353 students in building. Class size-Teacher student ratio very optimistic.

State census report similar to in house (handout) Has breakdown of students not living in Edgartown attending our school (school choice)

John will continue to bring the inhouse report to each meeting showing trends.

C. Good News; Deborah DeBettencourt, Assistant Principal

The Boys Football team won 40-0 against Hollbrook.

Inspirational speakers being invited to present to 8th grade. First speaker was Chris Miller, a parent of an 8th grade student. shared life story, career path, etc. Students were excited to hear from him.

We increased the number of people trained in safety care. All bridge staff are trained.

18 staff trained in the first month in de-escalation.

Professional development on Friday for staff. Training being offered by remedial specialists. Teachers are teaching each other and learning in online classes.

D. Climate Surveys; Kim Garrison, MV Schools Behavioral Health Coordinator

Edgartown specific results (slides)

Three categories surveyed. Engagement, Safety, and Environment.

3rd year of doing a climate survey. Data collected from staff, caregivers, and students across three different platforms, but surveys are the same.

Data was collected in May.

Data is reported in "means" using 3 part scale >2.5(less favorable), =2.5(favorable), <2.5(more favorable). (slide)

Only item less favorable overall was discipline.

Survey results "glows" and "grows"

Edgartown "grows" in line with system wide results.

Chair Kelly states this survey is a way to have your voice heard, and was disappointed in results because we were the lowest turnout despite everything that has happened. Does it need to be explained better? Was access the problem?

Richie-bilingual instructional videos were made, but will continue to try to reach more families.

Richie believes that once families witness the district reacting to the results, more will participate.

These surveys are a strong value of the school system.

Richie wants to highlight John and Debbie for their response to these surveys before the beginning of the year.

Kim Garrison: Caregiver results have common themes to staff results.

Member Murphy concerned that staff results show teachers being "burnt out".

Ms Murphy will be keeping an eye on this area in future surveys.

Student survey shows a 3 point difference from state which is meaningful and will be watched.

E. Upcoming Events

F.

Oct 11 PD Day 8:00-11:00 , afternoon is teacher directed time.

Oct 15 PTA 2:45 pm

New speed limit signs on West Tisbury road

Oct 17 Children's day

Debbie: Celebration started by an ELL teacher. Includes food, games, music, community meetings held in Portuguese and translated to English.

Oct 22,24, 28 Conference Days. Noon dismissal on this day.

Oct 24 UN Day

Oct 23-25 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom

Oct 29 Evacuation Drill 1:15 School committee members encouraged to attend.

Nov 5 End of quarter

VI. Finance Report-Mark Friedman; Business Administrator

A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports

Two funds we watch at all schools:

Revolving lunch fund(400)

School choice fund(401)

Financial activity hasn't started yet for these funds.

State and Federal reimbursements come in in October and November.

Reimbursements will come in monthly until the end of the year.

500 funds (outdoor learning campus) are in a lull until we get further along.

Expense Report: School's direct expense lines only

Nicole reconciled a lot of the salary lines.

Largest variances on line one teacher salary, projected overage of \$79,000

Specialist teacher salary has a projected underage salary of \$183,000.

Teacher was reclassified as a math teacher.

Salaries net projected surplus of \$40,000.

Line items we are keeping an eye on.....ELL translations projection based on last year expenses-we are over budget

Subs line item-Last year we over extended here.

Special education expenses-hard to predict and last year over extended.

Custodial and maintenance line items are also being monitored.

Residential tuition line - in contact with the town manager. We are applying for a state extraordinary relief fund. Can't apply until February with results known in April.

Discussing with the town manager how to manage that debt.

Likely will be making requests at special town meetings in spring for help with what the state won't cover.

We have school choice money to fall back on . Mark is always looking ahead.

Overall budget is tight but is o.k.

December 20th town looking for Schools to have their budget requests in for next year. Mark and John meet and in November present to the school board and Finance Committee and then to town in December.

Public Comment

Gina DeBettencourt -Cafeteria Manager

Thank you to guidance-They are everywhere ready to assist students

Represented our school lunch to the USDA and how a \$3000 grant was being spent here on the island.

The Island Grown Initiative brought Nantucket's IGI over to use our program as a model.

No new or old business

VII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday, November 13

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:18 PM. 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.