



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, November 13, 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 October 9, 2024**
- II. PTA Report, Brooke Leahy, PTA President**
- III. Superintendent's Report**
 - A. General Update
 - B. Principal's Search Process
 - C. Student Support Services Update
- IV. Principal's Report**
 - A. Outdoor Learning Campus Update; Mike Owen, OPM, CHA
 - B. Good News; Deborah DeBettencourt, Assistant Principal
 - C. Personnel
 - a. Retirements
 - D. Upcoming Events
- V. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports
 - B. Draft FY26 School Budget
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvvps.zoom.us/j/89779321188?pwd=JDUAwKt2nlWea32H54uOV7aCaj1G21.1>

Meeting ID: 897 7932 1188

Passcode: 977874

Phone dial-in:

1-301-715-8592

Edgartown School Committee
5:30 Wednesday, November 13, 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
Nedine Cunningham - Social Studies Teacher
Deb Grant-Kindergarten Teacher
Nancy Cole-School Librarian

Others:

Mike Owen, OPM, CHA-Via Zoom
Brooke Leahy PTA President

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. PTA Report

Thursday is Pizza Bingo annual event
Scholastic book fair. Purchased Items from teacher wish lists
Significant amount of staff have joined PTA
Next wednesday next meeting Meeting will be held at Slough Farm Classroom

II. Principal's report

Outdoor learning campus- Mike Owen, via Zoom
Making progress
Outdoor learning campus on temporary hold as Parks and Rec comes to select a designer to see what can be shared with the school.
Hope to have proposals in a few weeks. We can then begin the collaborative process.
Trying to mitigate costs and overlap with the collaboration.

There are no island designers There are over 20 designers interested. Two out of the 20 came to the island.

There are two island rooted designers

Citizen question: How will this affect timeline

Mike: we will move forward in the springContracts need to be adjusted to correct the work scope.

Anticipate a facility in the fall.

These are two separate projects and have to remain so due to Massachusetts law.

John: Mike can you talk more about the synergy that will be created in the area of cost savings. How is combining the two projects going to correct our money shortfall.

Mike: We can share the field and share the cost. We do not need two playgrounds for the same age group on the same field

Richie: Having the workforce working on both sites will save money on travel when bringing workers from off island.

Mike: Field is on clay and clay is not permeable by water. We can plan around remediation, and the cost of doing business on the island. We need to get a designer on board for Parks so we can do the same due diligence you did.

Sara Murphy: Wary of cost savings shouldn't be in reducing features. We had an unforeseen issue with the clay. Will we know our shortfall in time to go to town meetings?

Mike: We need to follow the law and get a designer first. We need to follow the design process. We will then bring two designers together and do our due diligence. The goal is to have an answer about the shortfall by town meeting

Mark Friedman Cautious about saying we have a \$340,000 shortfall.

It depends on how we structure the bid.

We have the ability to fundraise. We can make up some of all of whatever the shortfall is.

Town's deadline for money articles is december 16

Citizen: Would have preferred we went to the town for the shortfall so we could begin to see results. We haven't seen any results

Brown: This particular hangup wasn't known about. There may not have been an opportunity to ask for more money.

Richie: \$350,000 is a lot of money to ask for, and the school committee decided not to go to the town for more money, and decided to go this route.

Chair: I don't feel comfortable asking for an arbitrary number without understanding the flexibility we might have in design and potential cost savings.

Mark We can not sign a contract without having the funds in place. We need to go out to bid to know what the shortfall may be. Structuring the bid where some of the items may be optional is one way to approach it.

Mike: We need to follow the law. We can not proceed until the spring.

Citizen Feasibility of designer bid timeline for December town meeting.

Answer is no.

Brown: School project is set. During the process we found out about the clay. This is what is causing the shortfall. We can remediate that by combining our efforts with Parks and Rec. We can still start our project but we want to see their design so as not to duplicate and eliminate wasn't needed to help offset the drainage costs.

Mike: We have to have a set of documents that a bidding contractor can address. We have that with the school. We could go out to bid tomorrow, but we made a conscious decision to see what Parks is doing. In order for that to happen we have to have a design firm on board. In order to have a design firm we have to follow the procurement process. We will then collaborate with the school plan.

Citizen: It is concerning that the taxpayers were presented a plan and now things will be taken away from that plan.

Chair Scott: We are not planning on cutting anything out of our project. We are just being thoughtful and intentional about what is happening next door. Do we want to do the exact same thing?

III. Superintendent's Report

A) Policy sub committee tomorrow. Working through policy. We should have some areas of policy we can act on and have the all island school committee review. The All Island School committee will meet November 21. Final presentation of the shared services budget. Evaluation of Superintendent position Goals of district improvement plan.

B) Principal search process. Dr. Smith met with the school advisory council.
Natural place to start a search

Dr. Smith presented a timeline These are guidelines/ Not written in stone
Create a search committee... Members of the tribe, NAACP, community organizations, parent from SAC Parent from PTA, town board representative, representatives from the staff. Edgartown School committee. MVPS principal group, Superintendent office.

Richie will be at the Dec 4 staff meeting to explain the process to staff, and Dec 10 SAC meeting. Creating the advertisement for the position.

NESDC will help with the search as they have in the past. They will create the advertisement. Will advertise nationally, Principal's organization, etc Current Superintendents, etc.

Post over the holidays and through January

NESDC (New England School Development Council) has a very large footprint. Advertise in school spring, indeed, Ed week Online, National Association of Elementary School Principals, , School Leadership 2.0, Association of Educational Service Agencies and direct email to current school administrators. Applications will only be posted to that platform. Only complete applications will be shared but we can request to see incomplete applications 1st round of interviews in January via zoom.

Second round will occur with 2-3 finalists in person. 3rd week of February

Finalists will come to the school for a day-long visit. Visit staff, community, parents, etc. Full faculty meeting to "interview" candidates.

Visit candidates' schools.

Decision late March

Chair Scott: Do they guarantee hire? Will they continue to help until we find a principal?

We will do the screening of complete applications.

Dr Smith expresses gratitude for John and Debbie stepping up to fill the administrative roles

C) Student Support Services Update

Hope: follow up from prior meeting. Slow start Special education Parent advisory council. Put in to participate in the Federation of Special needs. Helps districts and parents get back on track. . Been meeting with them First meeting with five parents , Hope; Kristen, and federation for special needs. Long and short term goals for a more robust speed advisory council.

Kim Garrison reached out for more money for collaborative problem solving and was able to procure that money.

IV. Principal's report

A) Good news-Deb Debettencourt

Community meeting on children's day, October 18. Staff spoke Portuguese, led the meeting and then translated to English.

6th graders went to Nature's classroom led by Eric, Gina ,Justin ,Soraya

Fall field trips: K-4 , Felix Neck, museum cranberry acres polly hill ,fishing derby

Just ended the first quarter

Nancy Cole: UN Day-Parent speaker

Scholastic book fair Over \$10,000 in sales we get 25% of that.

B) Retirements

Mary Beth Meehan

Debbie Grant

Nancy Cole

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE RETIREMENTS OF MS MEEHAN, MS GRANT, AND MS COLE. 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

C) Upcoming Events

Tomorrow is Pizza Bingo

PTA Meeting November 19 at Slough Farm

November 26 Turkey Trot followed by Community Meeting

SAC Meeting Tuesday December 3, Followed by a special meeting on December 10 to talk about the principal search.

December 16 holiday show Still working on logistics of times

V. Approval of minutes:

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2024 EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

November 25 James haggerty initial budget brief to board of selectmen via Zoom Link will be on the town website.

VI. Finance report-Mark Friedman

A) Fund balance report:

School choice fund \$226,761

Everything looks stable

Don't expect to see any big changes

Outdoor learning campus funds or \$100,000. \$800,000 available from town. Third source of funds not including fundraising. These are funds available to us when we are ready to move forward.

B) Expense report

Variances are stable

Salaries projected over budget but have 2 other Esp Salaries under budget

Overall we are in good shape

Other contracted services - projected to be over by \$24,000.

Residential placement

Going to town at a special town meeting in the spring to cover projected expenses.

Extraordinary relief fund We plan to apply for those funds. State (DESE) has a reserve for this type of situation. We don't know how many schools have this type of situation.

Trying to come up with a reasonable projection. Should be north of \$220,000, but We can't project precisely. The residual we are projecting is \$120,000.00 Which is what we will ask the town for at the

special town meeting- If for some reason not approved, we will need to use school choice monies.

December 16 submission deadline for special town meeting.

This is a multi year placement. If we get more money than we need this year, it will be used in the following years.

State has a normal circuit breaker fund we can continue to apply for now that this is anticipated.

Overall the budget is tight but doable.

Krisitn Brown-ELL translations is a negative percentage

Mark : Translation is an increasing trend and will be addressed in future budgets.

C) FY'26 Budget

Projected increase is 9.81%

Shared services are not yet in this budget. Right now the overall budget for shared services is 13.8% higher.

Also not in this budget is an increase or change for transportation. Still working with the Transportation Subcommittee on the budget. Expected to increase 13% as well.

Enrollment Census currently 315 students in the building.

Salaries 11.18% over last year.

Chapter 70 monies what the town receives, and the state has announced that Edgartown is getting \$1.78 million to help the town support Elementary school. Only a small increase from last year. About \$13,000.

Contractual placeholder \$570,000 and change. To address all salary related items.

ELL translations-Demand driven so we can't fully project.

IT items need to be relabeled. \$12,000 increase.

Residential tuition expenses -Net expense after circuit breaker relief.

Percentage increase over FY'25 1.90%

Chair: If we need more money should we ask for it now.

Can we be proactive instead of reacting?

Hope: trying to use our positions and funds we have now to be more proactive.

Residential placement \$350,000 -\$450,00+ we are trying to strike a balance.

We are going to request at the next town meeting, Permission to establish stabilization fund.

School committee vote and select board vote to take money out.

Board recommends that we schedule meeting for special town meeting

VII: Public comment: None

VIII: New/Old Business

Next meeting Tuesday, December 10 5:30 PM

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN
THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:32 PM. 3 AYES, 0
NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**