

EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2007
Edgartown School Library
7:00 PM

Those present were Chairperson David Rossi, Members Les Baynes and Susan Mercier, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Business Manager Amy Tierney, Acting Principal Anne Fligor, Acting Assistant Principal Michael Joyce, Jr., Curriculum Coordinator Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Robert A. Brown, and several parents and staff members.

VII. Executive Session

On a vote of David Rossi, yea; Les Baynes, yea; Susan Mercier; the Committee agreed at 7:01 PM to go into executive session under bylaw Chapter 39, Sec 23B # 8, for the consideration and selection of candidates in the preliminary screening phase of the process of choosing a new principal.

I. Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2006

On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes.

II. Parents Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

III. Finance Report

A. Expenditure Report – FY07

Mrs. Tierney shared with the Committee the latest expenditure report for the FY07. She stated that deficits in specific lines will be corrected in the new FY08 budget to create more realistic lines.

B. Final Budget – FY08

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt (who is also a member of the Finance Committee) said the Finance Committee recommends the \$38,000 in the building fund be placed as a line item for painting in the school's general budget for FY08 and continue to include this line item in future budgets for painting upkeep. As per a letter from Town Administrator Pam Dolby to Principal Paul Dulac, the Town recommended that \$15,000 be taken from the \$38,000 construction fund for painting the trim on one side of the building next year. This recommendation has been eliminated. The Town also determined that it will cost \$53,000 to hire a fifth custodian. The Town recommends that the school advertise again for bids for the contractual custodial service. Dr. Weiss questioned what the Finance Committee will suggest if there is no response to our ads again. Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt said that the Finance Committee does not want the school to hire a year-round custodian, especially not an extra custodian during the summer months. The Town also does not want to carry additional benefit obligations.

The Finance Committee said it will approve a one-year-only, K-5 remedial math teacher with benefits, as proposed. It also questions if other schools have this position on staff.

Mr. Baynes suggested that the Finance Committee and the School Committee meet yearly and on a regular basis to discuss pre-budget plans, especially since only the School Committee can address any questions they may have regarding educational expenses.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Transition Report

Dr. Weiss announce the leadership team for the remaining of the school year. Anne Fligor will be the Interim Principal, in charge of day to day operations and resuming her discipline duties. Former Guidance Counselor Michael Joyce, Jr., has agreed to assume the position of Interim Assistant Principal. He will work on curriculum and instruction with Donna Lowell-Bettencourt (school librarian) who will assume the position of Curriculum Coordinator. Mr. Joyce and Mrs.

Lowell-Bettencourt will report directly to Mrs. Fligor and attend school related meetings along with Mrs. Fligor. Chairperson David Rossi and the Committee thanked Mr. Joyce and Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt for "stepping up" and providing their services. The Committee also wished to express their gratitude to Mrs. Fligor for taking on this leadership position during this transition period.

Dr. Weiss also shared the NESDEC projections of the future populations of the school. The yearly enrollment projections appear to stay the same, notwithstanding new housing developments or an increased birth rate.

V. Principal's Report

A. Math/Scheduling Update

Mrs. Fligor announced that the staff has updated the schedules allowing for additional math sessions. Edgartown is working on an all-island math program. Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt said that a morning math program before school has been scheduled on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays for students to partake in math games. There will also be Family Fun Math Nights.

B. Out of State Conference – grades 1-3 math

On a motion by Susan Mercier, seconded by Les Baynes, the Committee agreed to allow out of state travel to Teachers Becky Dulac, Alicia Knight, Cindy Douglas, Gail Lachapelle, and Chip Story to attend a conference entitled "Making Teaching Math Fun" in Nashua, New Hampshire, on February 1. The Committee also voted to allow out of state travel to Teacher Beth Carr to attend a MENC Conference in Hartford, CT, on March 8-11.

C. School Improvement Plan

The SAC will be addressing this issue at their next meeting.

D. Systematic Approach to Teaching and Learning

All the teachers who instruct students in grades 5-8 voted to adopt the Responsive Design to begin the 2007-08 school year. Mr. Joyce is continuing to arrange training.

E. Solar Panel Agreements – NSTAR

The School Committee was asked to sign a Power Purchase Agreement between the Commonwealth Electric Company (NSTAR) and the Edgartown School to install a photovoltaic system, an alternative energy source.

F. Bond Issue

No decision was made.

VI. Old/New Business

A. Review of Principal Applications/Selection of Candidates for Interview

Dr. Weiss announced that fifteen applications were received for the position of principal of the Edgartown School, beginning July 1, 2007. Four applicants were from off-island. During the Executive Session earlier this evening, the Committee agreed on the following seven (7) applicants chosen for interview:

Elana Aitken	-	Clinical Director, Hampshire Educational Collaborative
Carlos Colley	-	Assistant Superintendent, Nantucket Schools
Carlin Hart	-	Assistant Principal, Oak Bluffs School
Robert Lane	-	Assistant Principal, West Tisbury School
Lisa Sheffield	-	Educational Consultant
Richard Smith	-	Assistant Principal, Tisbury School
Joseph Thibodeau	-	Physical Education Teacher, Edgartown School

Interviews will be held in the school library on Wednesday and Thursday, February 7 & 8, beginning at 5 PM.

B. Presentation of Theater/Stage Project by Bob Brown

Robert Brown is an Edgartown School custodian and the audio/visual coordinator. Mr. Brown gave an extensive power-point presentation on a concept he has to extend the theater/stage area of the school's gymnasium to allow for a more elaborate theater experience for the children and, in doing so, create additional and much needed storage space for the school and theater program. His goal is to raise privately donated funds from various sources including prominent entertainment personalities who reside year-round or seasonally on the Island plus many businesses and donations from other contractors related to the needs of this venture. Mr. Brown requested to make this presentation to the Edgartown School Committee to ask for their approval before he continues this project. The Committee was impressed with the concept and wished Mr. Brown success.

With no further business to discuss, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy
Secretary to the Committee