

# EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 21, 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., and Curriculum Coordinator Donna Lowell-Bettencourt.

## **I. Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2007**

On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of January 18, 2007.

## **II. Parents Groups**

No report was given.

## **III. Financial Report**

Mrs. Tierney gave the Committee a list of account lines that show significant deficit balances, which reflected a considerable overage in the areas of energy and general maintenance.

Mrs Tierney reported on the search for a cleaning service beginning July 1. Invitations to bid were given out to interested parties, which included one cleaning company and three individuals. The scope of work provided was nearly equal to the responsibilities of a full time custodian. Bids will be due and opened at 12:00 Noon on Friday, February 23, 2007.

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

Dr. Weiss reported that he attended an All-Island Selectmen's Meeting with Edgartown Town Selectpersons Arthur Smadbeck and Margaret Serpa. The meeting focused considerably on Islandwide collaboration.

Dr. Weiss said that the Principal Search interviews and visits went smoothly and were well attended. The three finalists were Oak Bluffs Assistant Principal Carlin Hart, Clinical Director of Hampshire Educational Collaborative Elena Aitkin, and Educational Consultant Lisa Scheffield. Mr. Hart visited the school on Wednesday, February 14; Ms. Aitkin visited on Friday, February 16; Ms. Scheffield visited on Wednesday, February 21. All visits included meeting with the administration, parents and the community, staff, students, and parent groups. Everyone attending was encouraged to fill out a comment/recommendation form or to email the Superintendent. Mrs. Fligor thanked the School Committee for being present and participating at all the interviews and visits. Mr. Baynes said he liked the format and enjoyed sitting and watching the candidates interact with the faculty. He found the questions and answers exchanged very informative. Mrs. Mercier was pleased with the input the Committee received and felt everyone was comfortable and willing to participate in this process. Mr. Joyce said the open format felt honest and genuine.

## **V. Principal**

### **A. Math Update**

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt began a long discussion regarding the new updated math program and philosophy. She said the Oak Bluff's Principal Laurie Binney and Math Coordinator Jean Holenko came to the Edgartown School to share their math program with the staff. Also, Responsive Classroom Everyday Math Consultant Joanne Berndt came to visit the school today to share ideas and games for the K-5 classrooms.

B. Responsive Design Update

The Responsive Design Company will come to the school on April 11th to do a presentation for the Island-wide school staff. The representative will meet with the Superintendent and the Principals. There will be a discussion regarding the "flex passport" program, monitoring students behavior, homework, etc. Students will set goals for themselves, share hopes and dreams, and be taught how to be responsible for their own learning and achievement. Teachers will ask them questions, i.e., Did you achieve the goal you aimed for? What will you do to achieve it? Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt also discussed the non-fiction writing program that will begin.

C. Energy Audit

Mrs. Fligor gave copies of the energy audit report to Former Building Committee Member Larry Mercier and Finance Committee Representative Fred Condon. They plan to meet to address some of the concerns raised in the report and to discuss options in regards to the use of the remaining building funds, totaling \$38,000, on some of the upgrades and repairs suggested from the energy audit. Cape Light will give a rebate on some repairs.

D. Out of State Conference

Mrs. Fligor reported to the Committee that they have received an out of state conference request from Sidney Morris to make a visit and attend a conference at a school in Minnesota. This will occur on March 6, 2007, during school vacation. Mr. Morris will be traveling on vacation and will not need travel expenses, however, he will need a substitute and the cost of the conference. On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to allow Mr. Morris to attend the conference.

**VI. Old/New Business**

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt informed the Committee that the present 6th grade are organizing a fundraiser this July to benefit their 7th grade ski trip and their 8th grade trip to Washington DC. They will be hosting the Circus Smirkus event on July 27, 28, 29.

Mr. Baynes wished to praise the music department's middle school musical "Beauty and the Beast" that performed last week. Mr. Baynes also said that he and the patrons were impressed with the much improved sound system, arranged and engineered by Bob Brown, school custodian and audio/visual specialist.

The Committee agreed to meet again on March 14, at 7:00 PM, in the Community Room. With no further business to discuss, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy  
Secretary to the Committee