

# EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007  
Edgartown School Community Room  
7:00 PM

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Members Les Baynes and David Rossi, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Business Manager Amy Tierney, Acting Principal Anne Fligor, Acting Assistant Principal Mike Joyce, Curriculum Coordinator Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Director of Student Support Services Dan Seklecki, Early Learning Coordinator Annie Palches, PTO Representative Deirdre Morris, and several teachers and parents.

## I. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2007

On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Les Baynes, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of April 4, 2007, with one correction. Under Section VII, Old/New Business, the last sentence should read "Mr. Baynes and Mrs. Mercier will remain as representatives to the MVRHS School Committee."

## II. Parent Groups and Community Input

Mrs. Morris asked the Superintendent what the policy and procedure for being CORI'd. Dr. Weiss explained that all employees of the school system must pass a nation-wide CORI or background check for any criminal record. All volunteers are CORI'd through a minimal, statewide check. These CORIs are valid for three years. Mrs. Morris asked about referrals on any of these people. Dr. Weiss said that he gladly and confidentially will follow-up on any questionable backgrounds of volunteers from concerned public sources.

## III. Finance Report

Mrs. Tierney announced that the School Choice Fund is holding \$157,622.12. Of this amount, \$53,000 is earmarked for FY07. An additional \$18,000 is supposed to be received by the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Seklecki and Mrs. Tierney also said that the Circuit Breaker Fund has \$5710.30. Mr. Seklecki said that the occurrence of a residential placement at the beginning of FY08 is very likely, and additional Circuit Breaker funds should be expected next year to help fund this expense. Although the school has removed the residential tuition line from its budget for FY08, the Town has assured the school that it will help to complement the expense if the need arises.

Mrs. Tierney also reported that the School Choice Fund now has a total of \$157,622.12. Of this amount, \$53,000 is being held for the remainder of the FY07. Mrs. Tierney expects an additional \$18,000 by the end of the school year.

## IV. Superintendent's Report

### A. Principal Search Update

Dr. Weiss and the Committee announced that NESDEC (New England School Development Council) of Marlborough, MA, has been hired to provide the following services: develop a schedule for a principal search, publicize the vacancy, recruit candidates, and administer certain search details. The fee will be applied to the Reserve line of the budget. Dr. Weiss said that the agency finds 8 to 15 suitable candidates on average. The Committee will assume the open interview-process again.

### B. 8th Grade Algebra Program

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt gave an overview of the new math program to the Committee. She reported that the math committee selected Houghton-Mifflin Math as the math curriculum for grades K-5. The committee felt that this program met or exceeded the criteria needed to satisfy the MCAS and Massachusetts State Frameworks grade level demands. The program is activity based, encouraging students to change the way they think about math. Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt also said that grades 6-8 are reviewing math programs that align with the Houghton-Mifflin Expressions.

- C. SAC SIP Goals  
Mrs. Fligor reported on the School Improvement Plan goals established by the Staff Advisory Committee for the 2007-2008 school year. These goals included to improve communication between staff, parents, school and community; to continue to focus on exemplary teaching practices; to continue technology improvements; to find new ways to manage the facility; to continue training and implementing the Responsive Classroom K-4 and the Responsive Design 5-8; and to work on implementing the new math program and also focus on non-fiction writing across the curriculum. Mr. Baynes suggested that it would help to "date" the items and phase out those items that have been on the list for an extended period of time.
- D. Project Headway – Request for Extra Classroom  
Mr. Seklecki and Ms. Palches gave an overview of the current program for young pre-school children with disabilities, Project Headway. It has been a very successful program since 1981, and is currently housed in a classroom within the Edgartown School building. Recently, a number of very young children with significant needs have been identified through Early Intervention and parent/provider referrals who require placement at Project Headway. The current space for this program will exceed its capacity. The program is requesting an additional classroom in the Edgartown School building to assure that Project Headway stay together under one roof. Mr. Baynes said the program needs a long term solution. Mr. Seklecki said that it may not be a long term or permanent adjustment, noting that this increase in needy students may just be a 2 year "bubble". On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Les Baynes, the Committee agreed to grant the use of an additional room for Project Headway in the building for the 2007-2008 school year and revisit this issue later next year.

## VI. **Old/New Business**

- A. Cleaning Contract Bid  
Mrs. Tierney reported that Zach White of "Sparkle Cleaning (SWC, Inc.) won the Cleaning Contract for FY08 with a bid of \$48,000. The contract will run from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The FY08 school budget has allowed \$34,000 this contract. The balance, or \$14,000, will either be absorbed by the budget or will have to be requested on the Town Meeting floor. Accepting a contractual service will save the Town \$24,000 in employee benefits. Town Administrator Pamela Dolby had said to wait until the end of the FY08 and review the issue and how to better finance the need, with a letter from Mrs. Tierney and Mrs. Fligor or the new principal at that time. On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept and award the contract to "Sparkle Cleaning". Mrs. Tierney then immediately returned the \$2400 bid deposit to Mr. White.
- B. RFP Enrichment  
Dr. Weiss reported on the request for proposal for the enrichment program. He said that the enrichment coordinator's position must be advertised annually. A discussion followed and the Committee agreed that the position will go out to bid for the next school year.
- C. Leave Requests  
Dr. Weiss reported to the Committee a request by Assistant Teacher Debra Grant to extend her family illness leave to care for her seven year old daughter who is stricken with cancer. Teacher and MVEA Chairperson Sandy Joyce said that several members of the staff have offered to donate sick days on behalf of Ms. Grant to help her continue receiving a salary, thus being able to continue her medical benefit deductions. This proposal was submitted to Dr. Weiss for approval. Dr. Weiss has recommended to the Committee to allow this one time only proposal. On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the proposal to allow staff members the ability to donate available sick days to Ms. Grant.

Dr. Weiss reported that he received a letter of resignation by Spanish Teacher Maria Parker. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Les Baynes, the Committee agreed to accept Ms. Parker's resignation, with regrets and thanks for years of service.

With no further business to discuss, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy  
Secretary to the Committee