

# EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, June 13, 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, Acting Curriculum Coordinator Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, and Teachers Sandy Joyce, Patricia Herr, and Jennifer Fournier.

## I. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2007

The minutes were tabled for the next meeting.

## II. Parents Groups and Community Input

### A. Playground Update

Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt reported that the PTO is helping to provide several playground items including goal posts and Frisbees golf. The PTO and gifts from the 8th grade classes will help to purchase a new swing set. Parent Paul Pertile will work with the PTO and Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt to provide the school with a new basketball court. The PTO also notes that they are interested in shingling the shed and painting the door. The PTO will be asked about their plans for the 1st day of school "back to school stations" for parents and the date of their first PTO meeting.

## III. Finance Report

### A. Expenditure Report

Mrs. Tierney gave the Committee copies of the most recent expenditure and fund balance report and budget line transfers. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Les Baynes, the Committee agreed to allow the transfers. Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt has purchased a new math program out of the FY07 budget to allow the new K-4 math coordinator to review before September. Mrs. Fligor also ordered cubbies for grades 3 & 4, similar to the ones in grades K-2, for coats and belongings. She ordered 16 for now and will buy more next year. She also chose to purchase dehumidifiers for the lower wing classrooms for this summer to help eliminate the mold that occurs in the classrooms that had been constructed on concrete slabs. The amount of \$145476.43 was transferred from several lines to provide for these items and to balance out various other lines.

## IV. Policy

### A. School Choice Policy Changes

Dr. Weiss provided to the Committee a revised copy of the School Choice Policy. On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept the 1st reading of the School Choice Policy. The maximum number of students for all classes is determined by each school, and Mr. Baynes maintains that the ceiling should be 18 students per classroom. The original policy will be examined to determine what was said in regard to class size.

## V. Superintendent's Report

### A. Principal Search Update

Dr. Weiss said that 24 applications were submitted for the new principal position. It was noted that all the candidates met the necessary requirements, some were from out of state, and 3 or 4 had Island connections. The Committee told Dr. Weiss that they wished to proceed immediately. They agreed to arrange for public interviews in mid-July.

- B. Resignations  
Dr. Weiss reported that the following teachers have resigned: Spanish Teacher Vanessa Vento has taken a job in Oak Bluffs, Computer Teacher Sidney Morris will return to the Charter School, and Kindergarten Teacher Connie Leuenberger will be moving to Colorado with her family. On a motion by Les Baynes, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to accept these resignations with regrets. The Committee also agreed to accept the leave of absence for Teacher Assistant Donna Bishop from September through December to perform her student teaching requirements. Dr. Weiss commented that there are eleven Spanish teacher positions open Islandwide. All the Island schools have been experiencing grand scale shifting in personnel.
- C. Pease Scholarship  
Dr. Weiss said that the Pease Scholarship Fund has approximately \$10,000. The Edgartown School chose not to award a scholarship this June. The Committee plans to award scholarships to two students each year, beginning in June 2008, until the fund is depleted.

## VI. **Principal's Report**

- A. Spanish and Other Positions  
With the resignation of both Spanish teachers, and the shortage of candidates for that position, the Committee may decide to streamline the program and hire only one teacher. Mrs. Fligor said that three candidates applied for the grade 6-8 SPED teacher position, and the chosen candidate ended up refusing the offer. She said that Computer Teacher Anne Caldwell also resigned to take a job in Oak Bluffs. With the resignation of both computer teachers, that program will also be examined closely. This may possibly result in one teacher covering all K-8 classes plus some technology duties, but ideally, having a k-4 teacher and a 5-8 teacher would allow for greater flexibility for students and staff. Teacher Alicia Knight, who served as a one-year-only in FY07, has accepted a full time job in 3rd grade. Returning from a child-rearing leave of absence, Teacher Bridget Mello will take over the 4th grade position from retiring Teacher Donna Gazaille. Mrs. Megan Laman McDonald, former teacher assistant, has been awarded a one-year-only position as 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Ellen Wannamaker has been given a one-year-only position as K-4 math coordinator, a new position. Mrs. Deborah Mello has been hired as the new .6 FTE, grade 5-8 remedial reading teacher, taking over those duties held by Barbara Reynolds, who will focus on ELL exclusively.
- B. Summer Staff Workshops  
1. David Faber – Science  
Mr. Faber will lead a K-5 science program this summer for teachers.
- C. Math Programs  
Mrs. Lowell-Bettencourt summarized the proposed four year implementation pathway for the 6-8 math programs. The new math program for the K-6 math teachers was also discussed.
- D. MCAS Celebration – Ice Cream Social  
Mrs. Fligor reported that the school treated the students to a make-your-own-sundae event in the courtyard as a celebration for all the hard work by our students who took the MCAS exams.
- E. 8th Grade Graduation  
Mrs. Fligor announced that the 8th Grade will graduate on June 15, at the Old Whaling Church, at 7:00 PM. MVRHS Class of 2007 Valedictorian and former Edgartown School student Samantha Rabin will be the guest speaker.

**VI. Old/New Business**

A. Gym Roof

Mrs. Fligor said that the school will proposed an article at the special town meeting on June 28th to request \$75,000 to repair the roof on the gymnasium.

B. Energy Audit

Mrs. Fligor will focus on the project this summer.

C. Schedule Next ESC Meeting

To be announced.

With no further business to discuss, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy  
Secretary to the Committee