

# EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Edgartown School Library

7:00 PM

Those present were Chairperson Susan Mercier, Member David Rossi, Superintendent Jim Weiss, Business Manager Amy Tierney, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Halt, Principal John Stevens, Assistant Principal Anne Fligor, PTO Representative Deirdre Morris, Teachers Donna Lowell-Bettencourt and Sandy Joyce, Michael Joyce and Parent Tom Wallace. ESC Member Les Baynes was not present.

## I. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2008

On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to accept the minutes of January 16, 2008.

## II. Parent Groups and Community Input

No report was given.

## III. Finance Report

### A. Expenditure Report

Ms. Tierney reported that the present budget is in good order, except for the general maintenance lines that are overspent. On the recommendation of John Stevens and on a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to allow Ms. Tierney to transfer \$25,000 from the Professional Increments line to the General Maintenance Line. Ms. Tierney also gave a review of all the Fund Balances. She said that the REAP Grant has a balance remaining of \$17,643. These funds need to be used by September 2008.

## IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Weiss spoke to the Committee regarding a plan to have the SAC and ESC meet jointly. The SAC will be invited to attend the next School Committee Meeting.

## V. Principal's Report

### A. Heating System

Mr. Stevens reported that the school's heating system needs maintenance. To prevent frozen pipes, it is recommended that the heating system receive anti-freeze. The system was tested recently and was found to have 0% anti-freeze. The system will be drained of its 17K gals of water and replaced with 50% anti-freeze. The contractors, BTU Control, estimate this procedure to cost \$14,400. In a related issue, Mr. Stevens recommended that the School Committee transfer funds to the general maintenance lines in the budget to cover expenses. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to transfer \$15,000 from the professional increments line to the general maintenance line.

Mr. Stevens also said the gym roof was recently inspected and found to need re-roofing, including closing off the skylights. The estimated cost would be \$105K, or \$30K more than what was appropriated at the December 4th Special Town Meeting (\$75,000). There will be an article on the March 6th Special Town Meeting to appropriate the additional \$30K needed to complete the job.

### B. Budget Expenses

Mr. Stevens reported that the Town is requesting the school department to reduce its FY09 budget by \$34,344 to bring its increase down to the recommended 2 ½ %. Mr. Stevens gave a few choices to accomplish this: pare down different budget lines, take funds from the School Choice Fund, or transfer the whole amount from the budget and transfer funds from the School

Choice Fund as needed. On a motion by David Rossi, seconded by Susan Mercier, the Committee agreed to cut the FY09 school budget by \$34,344 to avoid an override. Mrs. Mercier agreed to this motion but said she had concerns about this decision.

C. Energy Audit

Mr. Stevens reported that measures are being taken to help reduce the energy use in the building. Automatic light switches will be installed in all the classrooms. The custodians will increase weather-stripping installations. Attached please see the projected needs and repairs for the next 5 years that will be submitted to the Capital Programs Committee. It was noted that a new school bus now will cost \$84K, as opposed to the \$75K projected cost on the report. Mrs. Mercier is requesting to join Mr. Stevens when he presents the Capital Programs report to the Town.

**VI. Old/New Business**

Mr. Stevens reported that the school had the Spelling Bee final contest. The Edgartown School winner was 8th grader Christopher Pitt, his third win in a row. He will compete against other Island winners on March 21st at the MVRHS Performing Arts Center.

Family Math Night was held on February 13 in the gym from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. More than 75 students and their families attended. They played games, took part in "make & take" activities, participated in drawings for board games, and enjoyed juice and cookies. All students received a deck of cards.

Fifty to Sixty parents and their children came to the Family Dance on Friday, February 15th, in the cafeteria, sponsored by the PTO. DJ Paul provided the music.

Student Advisory Council (SAC) met on February 12. Work has begun on the School Improvement Plan, which is due for completion in April. The plan will be brought to the School Committee for approval at the April or May meeting.

The MCAS testing schedule has been finalized.

The Island-wide ELL parent night was hosted by Edgartown last week. (Each school takes a turn hosting.) Topics for discussion focused mostly on high school issues: completion of homework, difficulty that Portuguese speaking students have in mixing with other students, etc. The ELL group proposed that it might be helpful to approach the Brazilian churches on the Island to conduct an ELL meetings to discuss problems and solutions facing this community.

The Junior High Musical/Dinner Theater presentation of "Starmites" was a great success with 427 people in attendance for all three shows. Several pictures of the performance were featured in the local paper.

The Principal's Coffee on February 8 had about 12 people in attendance. Some topics of discussion included revamping the kindergarten report card format and having special lunches, such as grandparents' day.

The K-5 math teachers trained for a half day with the Houghton-Mifflin consultant. The school is in its first year of implementation of a new math series. Teacher assistants also had a half day with the consultant.

The After School Activities Club started this week. Library Teacher Donna Lowell-Bettencourt organized this program. Funds will come out of the enrichment program expenses. This idea was conceived at a Principal's coffee hour.

The regular basketball season will conclude this week. The girls' team is tied with Oak Bluffs for 1st place.

The 7th grade will go on the annual ski trip to Gunstock, NH, on March 5, 6, 7.

The 8th graders are beginning the MVRHS registration process.

Mr. Stevens also announced that Art Teacher Lisa Magnarelli is expecting twins, and she is requesting a reduction of her FTE from .8 to .6, or cutting her work week from 4 days to 3. On a motion by Susan Mercier, seconded by David Rossi, the Committee agreed to Ms. Magnarelli's request and to allow Mr. Stevens to advertise the 20% art position.

Mrs. Mercier praised the art program and the beautiful displays around the school.

The next school committee meeting will be on March 19, 2008, at 7:00 PM.

With no further business to report, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Cassidy  
Secretary to the Committee