

OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

8:00AM, Tuesday, November 15, 2022

At the Oak Bluffs School

Committee Members Present: Kathryn Shertzer (Chair), Rizwan Malik, Kris O'Brien
OB School Staff Present: Dr. Megan Farrell (Principal), Denitsa Alton
Superintendent's Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman
Public: Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:12am by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.

The Committee expressed their excitement at being able to return to in-person meetings. Brief discussion about continuing with a hybrid (zoom) option for future meetings.

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: October 18, 2022.

MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 10/18/22 DRAFT MINUTES; MR. MALIK SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

- **Census Information:**
Mr. Smith reported on updated OB School census information: Currently there are 429 students enrolled in the Oak Bluffs School; an increase of 17 students from the previous year. The elementary school is the largest one on island (Edgartown School has 399 students, Tisbury has 256 students). Dr. Farrell said the increase in students is spread out across different grades and is absorbable. She continued that the majority of growth is amongst the ELL population, which is 26% of the student body in OB. Dr. Farrell said it's important to understand the intervention needs of these students for whom English is not their first language, especially because these students are not generally transient. The Committee discussed the shared services offered through the School.
- **Non-Union Salary Adjustments:**
Mr. Smith explained that there are four individuals, including Ms. Farrell, who are not included with the Union salary adjustments. These administrators require salary adjustments to keep them in line with those in the Union. The bargaining units applied a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) as well as a one-time \$1,000 payment to the updated agreements. Mr. Smith is proposing a 3% adjustment (increase) to the salaries of the non-union employees as teachers (union) also receive an annual step increase, in addition to their COLA. Mr. Smith stated that the OB School is behind on salaries when compared to other schools. He also said that the enormous responsibility of a School Principal should be recognized. His proposed salary adjustment is a 3% raise with an additional \$4,000 added to compensate for the extensive commitment and training that Dr. Farrell has exercised. This adjustment would make her salary more consistent with the Principals in other Cape and Island schools. The Committee discussed how the other towns had responded to Mr. Smith's recommendations, as well as the qualifications, tenures and salaries of other island principals. Ms. Farrell stated that, with her current salary, she makes more money per day as a teacher than she does as a principal. The Committee discussed what the employees of Town Hall received as a COLA. After determining that the proposed adjustment has been budgeted for, the Committee

discussed their concerns that Dr. Farrell was not being adequately compensated (she has earned two master's degrees, a CAGS certificate and a doctorate).

*MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO IMPLEMENT THE SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR DR. FARRELL AS DESCRIBED BY MR. SMITH FOR A TOTAL SALARY OF \$147,000. MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).*

The Committee then discussed the adjustments for the other three non-union employees: 3%, as proposed by Mr. Smith.

*MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO IMPLEMENT A 3% RAISE FOR THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE TECHNOLOGIST. MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).*

Special Education Director's Report

The Committee reviewed the SPED report put together by Ms. MacLeod, who was not present to provide additional information.

Financial Report

- Fund Balance Report:
Dr. Farrell reported that the fund balance continues to be healthy.
- Expenditure Report:
Dr. Farrell informed the Committee that used a \$24,000 Covid grant to purchase new furniture for the lobby, which will arrive in 6 weeks. They will also be upgrading the furniture in the Library.
- Revolving Lunch Report:
Dr. Farrell reported that the School will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch for both students and staff for the next four years. The fund currently sits at \$24,000.

Principal's Report

Dr. Farrell said the boiler design has gone out to bid. The estimated cost of the project has increased from \$600k to \$1.6million, which the Capital Programs Committee is aware of. The project is slated to begin during the summer of 2024. Dr. Farrell said she met with the Green Committee and environmentally conscious design is part of the RFQ but the new system will still require oil. Dr. Farrell said she has applied for MSBA funding twice and both times was denied but she is exploring other grant opportunities to offset the cost of the project. Dr. Farrell said the School's generator will also need to be replaced in the next couple of years. Finally, Dr. Farrell is working on a grant to help with the cost of replacing the Wi-Fi.

Correspondence

The Committee received and reviewed two requests for use of the School. The first request is from MV Travel Hoops for use of the gym to host youth basketball.

MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE MV TRAVEL HOOPS' REQUEST TO USE THE GYM. MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

The second request is from MV United Construction for use of the gym for various adult recreation purposes. The Committee noted that this request is in conflict with the adult basketball schedule and

asked if there was another night that would work for them. Ms. Shertzer decided to table to vote until the next meeting to determine if another evening was an option.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 8:00am. It will be a hybrid meeting held at the OB School with a zoom option.

AT 9:53AM, MR. MALIK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

MALIK – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Documents on File:

- 11/15/22 Financial Reports
- Sped November Update
- Applications for School Use: MV United Construction, MV Travel Hoops

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare