

OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

8:00AM, Tuesday, December 20th, 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*, Hope MacLeod
Public:	Juliet Mulinare (Recorder), Maura McGroarty

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:09am by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Smith provided the Committee with an update on the other towns' School budget processes and said that Oak Bluffs is in great shape as Dr. Farrell is fiscally very responsible. Mr. Smith noted that the All Island School Committee approved the addition of two half days, one in January and one in April, that were implemented based on the updated union contracts.

Special Education Director's Report

Ms. MacLeod did not have much to report but will be giving a presentation on the Shared Services Program in January or February, which will give the Committee a chance to ask questions and share any concerns.

*Mr. Friedman joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: November 15, 2022.

MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 11/15/22 DRAFT MINUTES; MR. MALIK SECONDS. BRIEF DISCUSSION:

Ms. Shertzer clarified the amount the Committee voted on for Dr. Farrell's salary.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Financial Report

Dr. Farrell reported that not much has changed; the budget remains healthy. The Circuit Breaker account is at \$48,000. Residential placement is covered. School Choice (which is used for facility expenses) is at \$154,000. Both Dr. Farrell and the Committee expressed their thanks to Ms. Alton for her work with the breakfast and lunch program, which is being utilized quite a bit. Dr. Farrell and Mr. Friedman went over the budget numbers and explained that although the report shows some deficits due to the new contract wage rates and stipends, the accounts are all in order and will be balanced by February.

Principal's Report

Dr. Farrell shared her Strategic Plan with the Committee. She explained that this is 3-5 year plan that looks backwards in addition to forwards, in 3-5 year intervals. The plan outlines the School's Strategic Goals, of which there are six, and the Objectives for each of those goals. The six Goals are: (1) Social-Emotional Learning; (2) Curriculum Development and Implementation; (3) Instructional Practices; (4) Technology Resources for Teaching/Learning; (5) Support for Struggling Learners; and

(6) Community Connections. Dr. Farrell went through some of the objectives under each of the goals and explained how they were being implemented in various ways.

At this point in the meeting, the 2nd grade students stopped in to sing a couple of Christmas Carols for the Committee, which the Committee very much enjoyed.

Dr. Farrell and Mr. Friedman presented the FY24 proposed budget and explained that the contract negotiations had a big effect on the salaries line. Dr. Farrell stated that, at the request of Town Officials, this budget is the tightest one yet (at a 3.87% increase over FY23), but still healthy. The contract negotiations increased the salaries line by 5.86%, but they were able to slash over 2% in the rest of the budget to keep the increase at 3.87%. The Committee discussed the various mechanisms for off-setting the budget, such as Chapter 70 funds, which are \$1,594,968 in FY23. The Committee discussed how to present the budget to the FinCom and how to ensure funds are being spent appropriately. Dr. Farrell, the Committee and Mr. Smith are all accountable for how Ch. 70 funds are spent. Dr. Farrell said she feels very supported by the Town Administrator and the FinCom when it comes to the budget.

MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MR. MALIK TO APPROVE THE FY24 BUDGET REQUEST; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE: MALIK – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Dr. Farrell said she looked at the school use request from MV United Construction again and with other regular events on the calendar, their request is not possible to grant.

Dr. Farrell is also looking at the Safety and Emergency Procedures and met with Chief Searle. She has requested that all safety agencies come together to review various scenarios, which will happen after the New Year. She would also like to have another drill.

Dr. Farrell encouraged the Committee members to check out the updated website; all school policies have been made available.

Correspondence

Ms. O'Brien distributed a report conducted by Weston & Sampson that analyzes soil samples from the school field and compares them to other fields. The testing is to determine the presence of PFAS and the samples came back high. Ms. O'Brien stated that the Committee should look into what is being applied to the fields and why the results are high. She also suggested that the Committee should work in partnership with the Field Fund to address the issue. The Committee agreed that it would be good to invite Weston & Sampson to a future meeting to further explain the situation. The testing was done at the request of the High School so they can compare their results to other locations.

There were two School Use Requests:

1. MV United: Request to use the field for youth soccer practice and games.
MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MR. MALIK TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM MV UNITED; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE: MALIK – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).
2. MV Running Company: Request to use the gym for finish line gathering place for the MV 20 Miler on 2/18/23.

*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM MV RUNNING COMPANY; MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
MALIK – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (3-0).*

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 8:00am. It will be a hybrid meeting, held at the OB School with a zoom option.

AT 9:50AM, 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:

- OBS_Strategic Plan_2023
- 12.20.22 Meeting Docs (Including FY24 Budget & Applications for School Use)
- Applications for School Use: MV United Construction, MV Travel Hoops

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare