

OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 8:30AM
By Zoom Cloud Conference

Present: Chair Lisa Reagan, Kris O'Brien, Kathryn Shertzer,
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton,
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Freidman,
Hope MacLeod,
Staff – Julie Gaffey and 11 kindergarteners,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

* Late arrivals or early departures
of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) was called to order at 8:32AM.

Spotlight on Learning

Ms. Julie Gaffey and her Kindergarten (K) talked about the number 100:

- it was the 100th school day of the year;
- they liked 100 candies to eat;
- they brought in 100 Lego pieces, 100 pasta pieces, 100 fruit loops,
- and didn't like 100 stinky fishes.

They counted by 10s to 100 and everyone cheered. A 100-days-to-drive-my-teacher-nuts t-shirt was modeled.

Minutes: Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2022

Marni Lipke was welcomed back and thanks went to Denitsa Alton for doing the November, December and January Minutes.

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 18, 2022 MINUTES; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION* due to absence: *KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—ABSTAIN, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

Superintendent's Report

• **Discuss School Mask Policy**

Last week the State Governor and Commissioner of Education lifted school mask mandates as of February 28th, however as this was the first day of the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) winter break the change would take effect March 7th.

- The procedure would involve a number of steps.
- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea would send out information on: vaccination rates, consent forms, staff/student percentages who've had Covid, and some whole Martha's Vineyard community data.
- Administration would meet with the Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) union to gauge staff thoughts.
- The Health/Safety Committee would meet and vote their opinions, which Supt D'Andrea would report.
- The All Island School Committee (AISC) (and local School Committees) would have to vote to keep rescind or modify the Mask Policy. A robust conversation was expected.
- Currently all six Towns had indoor mask mandates, which would have to be either rescinded or amended to exempt schools.
- Masks would still be required on school buses and in nurse's/health offices.
- Regardless of these decisions, surveillance, take-home rapid testing, and Binax symptomatic testing would continue to help schools monitor Covid levels.

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- The Island had an 82% vaccination rate, thanks in part to the Vax Bus which was highly effective in serving the entire community—with a big shout-out and accolades to Asst. Supt. Richie Smith, English Language Learner (ELL) Director Leah Palmer, and all others that coordinated the bus.
- For the record: every OBSC member and many administrators received numerous emails from families, staff and community members all in favor of lifting the mask mandate for schools. Staff in particular expressed concern over socio-emotional effects on child development, recognition of facial expressions, etc.
- One member did a little research on endemic (a persistent, regularly spread of a disease) versus pandemic (a global spreading of a disease). Another member noted that Covid numbers rose and dropped despite consistent mask wearing.
- Prin. Farrell preferred to follow the guidance of the Health/Safety Committee for example on possible spikes. She noted children's comfort with mask wearing and the excellent OBS ventilation system with air purifiers in every room.
- The OBSC discussed whether to vote now or after the AISC meeting. Lisa Reagan would not be able to attend but expressed her support for lifting the mandate. As there was no urgency due to the March 7th date Supt. D'Andrea advised waiting for further information, the Health/Safety Committee vote and the AISC discussion.
- All members urged that those choosing to wear masks could continue to do so.

Recently the Collaborative for Educational Services Curriculum and Instruction Specialist gave Professional Development (PD) on Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) protocols for leading team meetings and writing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) from classroom collected data (see documents on file). Student Support Director Hope MacLeod reported on the rich OBS data collection.

- Students met in focus groups at the end of their Think Kids readiness assessments of the OBS, which would be written up and presented. The OBSC praised the amazing help and support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
- The general feedback from consultants, students and parents was that the OBS was particularly impressive in serving all its students.

Financial Report (See documents on file.)

• Fund Balance Report

- The significant Circuit Breaker residential placement negative continued because the Town accounting balances were still not booked. A plan was in place to support the invoices until the Extraordinary Expenses grant was decided. A warrant article was submitted for the 2022 Special/Annual Town Meetings (STM/ATM). Secure long range planning was necessary to insure student and financial stability since the costs could continue for 5-6 years.
- Revolving lunch had a healthy \$14,000 balance. Prin. Farrell expressed her gratitude for the lunch staff who revamped menus for healthy choices and provided snacks for after school activities and sports.
- School Choice balance was \$125,000 with \$86,000 more anticipated in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The OBSC advocated that funds be used to enrich education as well as the traditional commitment to capital needs established in 2001 when Oak Bluffs became a district of choice.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

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• Expenditure Report

- As previously noted all negatives were covered by the Increment line.
- Other residuals in the department could cover an Administrative Salary negative.
 - \$900 ELL Translations deficit for report card would be repeated at the end of the year.
 - Other negatives were unchanged (longevity, textbooks, student insurance, etc.)
 - Copier Supplies (lease payments) would increase another \$2,000.
 - An additional Educational Support Professional (ESP) could be covered, and ESP Longevity was an accounting line item shift.
 - There was a \$400 Library Books negative.
 - The OBS was contracting with A1 Cleaners out of School Choice funds until the custodian vacancy could be filled, at which point it then be replenished from the salary residual—allowing some financial leeway if the Extraordinary Relief grant was denied.

• Revolving Lunch Report

Staff lunch debt was paid each month.

Principal's Report

- Prin. Farrell expressed her excitement that the March 9th - 11th ski trip was going forward, increasing the normalcy and fun factor. Testing protocols, isolation rooms, multiple cars, and covid chaperoning was in place. (New Hampshire had no mask policy.) She praised Jeanie Holenko for organizing the trip.
- Thanks went to everyone who attended the boys and girls basketball finals. OBS did not win but a great time was had by all—another step towards normalcy. The OBSC attested the games vibrated with energy and excitement.
- After school clubs and sports would resume after the winter break—thanks to the ESPs and teachers who made it possible. Thanks also went to Hope MacLeod for her help with the upcoming school play. Outside spring community events were planned. Prin. Farrell was eager to start Friday community meetings again, but everyone's mental and physical health came first.

Old/New Business

Chair Lisa Reagan wished the MVPS had addressed the letters about AISC meetings, including the June letter written by Janet Packer.

Correspondence (See documents on file.)

• School Use Requests – Oak Bluffs Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

The ZBA had a 5:30-9:00PM, February 17th meeting likely to attract too large an attendance to be accommodated in their usual venue. Prin. Farrell suggested the cafeteria or the Home Ec Room. The meeting was already advertised in the press.

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BY THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS PRESENTED IN THE APPLICATION; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

– Vineyard Football Association

This was the over-30 co-ed soccer league that applied every year. Prin. Farrell charged those granted field use (United Youth Soccer, Vineyard Football, Lacrosse) to work out an equitable schedule among themselves. No fees were charged but the Association usually donated about \$400 for fertilizer. The OBSC supported community use of the fields. A field status check was requested due to feedback about pebbles, clover, etc.

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• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BY THE VINEYARD FOOTBALL/SOCCER ASSOCIATION AS PRESENTED; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

Executive Session – Not needed

Next OBSC meeting will be on Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 8:30AM via zoom.

Adjourn

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:42AM; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: LISA REGAN—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

Documents on file:

Agenda 2/16/22

Oak Bluffs School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022 2/15/22

Oak Bluffs School General Fund Expenditure Report – OB Site, Fiscal Year 2021-2022
(3 p.) 2/15/22

Revolving School Lunch Report, Oak Bluffs School FY22

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Vineyard Football Association (2 p.)
2/3/22

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Oak Bluffs Zoning Board of Appeals
(2 p.) 1/29/22

Zoom Chat:

Mark Friedman to Everyone (9:01 AM)

Leah Palmer reports: to-date = 3,032 vaccines/vaccinations have been administered by
the MV Vax Bus.

Hope MacLeod to Everyone (9:03 AM)

Hope MacLeod to Everyone (9:26 AM) Mine left today!

Minutes approved 3/15/22.