

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:30 AM**  
**By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Chair - Lisa Reagan, Kris O'Brien, Kathryn Shertzer,  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell,  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Nancy Dugan,  
Staff – Corinna Black and her Kindergarten class,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals  
or early departures of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 9:32AM. Chair Lisa Reagan acknowledged former OBS student and employee, Emma Hall, with a moment of silence. This would be a short meeting due to a number of ongoing school issues as well as it being Inauguration Day.

### **Spotlight on Learning**

Ms. Corinna Black's kindergarten (K) class asked the OBSC riddles on what made each student happy the clue being the word started with a specific letter. The OBSC totally enjoyed the exercise—despite having a low correct guess score.

### **Minutes: Approval of Minutes of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 15, 2020 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Enrollment Projections 2020-2021**

The projections showed a fairly stable OBS population with a slight decline—although some other Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) were increasing slightly. This year the report included a regional look at New England and State by State enrollment.

#### **• COVID-19 Testing Update**

This was the third week of asymptomatic testing. The first week tested staff, with 0 positive results, The second week began weekly random testing of 900 staff and students, returning one positive. The program was one of several measures keeping students and staff safely in-person.

• Kits were distributed and collected, FedEx-ed to Miramus on Thursday, and Superintendent Matt D'Andrea was informed of the results by about 4:00PM Saturday. Project Manager Molly Houghton was working well.

- Compliance was very high. Of the few that refused testing, some just needed questions answered, and issues were resolved with a phone call from Supt. D'Andrea. Families that refused testing were asked to move to Cohort D-Remote Learning. Staff refusal became a personnel matter.

### **Financial Report**

#### **• Fund Balance Report (See documents on file.)**

• Principal Megan Farrell expected to exhaust Circuit Breaker funds during the year.

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- School Choice had a \$163,000 balance but Prin. Farrell was talking to vendors on the replacement of the hot water heater—possibly over the February or April break.
- Staff was considering how to apply the Student Activities and Scholarship funds. Student activities & scholarship – figuring it out.

- **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

- The Teacher Increment residual was expected to cover the following variances (CARES Act funds had been expended on other lines):

- Undistributed Textbooks (licenses for personalized learning tools);
- Computer Supplies—for Chromebooks and for flat screen displays or white boards in each classroom;
- the copy machine lease (and toner) figures needed to be adjusted;
- hiring an Education Support Professional (ESP);
- Nurse Substitute for additional help each Friday (expected to increase);
- Custodial Substitute—a custodian was out until April;
- Student Insurance.

- **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

The fund showed a good balance; staff debt was low and this month's State reimbursement had not yet arrived. The OBS expected to feed everyone healthy meals.

**Principal's Report**

- Prin. Farrell express her gratefulness for everyone's health. Staff were managing well, and happy to have the students in the building. Kindergarten and first grade had to be closed last week. Administration managed each day as it came along, reassuring parents, commending staff and closing class pockets as needed.
- The OBSC expressed their appreciation of Administration and staff or "rolling with the punches and jumping hurdles" to teach the children and keep the school open and safe, and asked what they could do.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO EXPEND A SMALL AMOUNT FROM SCHOOL CHOICE FUND FOR STAFF WELLNESS.

**Old/New Business: Personnel**

**Jean Zdandowski Resignation Letter** (See documents on file.)

Ms. Zdandowski was moving on to the Edgartown School and would be greatly missed.

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH REGRET AND BEST WISHES THE RESIGNATION OF JEAN ZDANKOWSKI; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

- The Vaccine Task Force would present at both MVPS staff and community meetings the first week of February.

**Correspondence** - None

**Executive Session** – Not needed

The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, February 16, 2021 by Zoom.

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**Adjourn**

*LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 10:16AM; KRIS O'BRIEN AND KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, LISA REAGAN —AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 1/20/21

NESDEC, Oak Bluffs Elementary School, Vineyard Haven, MA, 2020-2021 Enrollment  
Projection Report (9 p.)

Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 1/19/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2020-2021 (3 p.)  
1/19/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY21

Zdankowski resignation letter 12/9/20

**Minutes approved 2/16/21.**



**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 8:30 AM**  
**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 Friedman,  
Nancy Dugan,  
Staff – Ellen Berube and her first grade students  
OB FinCom – Maura McGroarty, MVDC – Jocelyn Walton,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals or early departures of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 8:40AM due to technical issues.

**Spotlight on Learning**

Ellen Berube and her first grade class shared their bulletin board of self portraits and things to know about themselves from their favorite foods (broccoli, pizza, hotdogs) to their traits (creative, quick thinker, nice, kind, good friend, builder with Leggos). Principal Megan Farrell and the OBSC thanked the Ms. Berube and her class for their presentation and their patience.

**Minutes: Approval of Minutes of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 20, 2021 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

**Public Comment**

Chair Lisa Reagan and all present lifted their hands in love and gratitude in memory of Barbara Jones who taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, the Compass Program, summer schools and the Responsive Classroom with kindness and joy, impacting students, parents, teachers, and the entire community.

• **Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC)**

(See documents on file & 1/21/21 AISC Minutes #III A.)

Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith introduced Jocelyn Walton from the MVDC who had a long history on the Island as a summer and year round resident (her grandmother purchased property with her earnings as a domestic on the Island). The MVDC was founded by 6 people 12 years ago to effectively and ultimately eliminate injustice and inequity. MVDC now had over 230 people in their database. Members confronted personal bias by sharing experiences. Grants and donations were overseen by the Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation (formerly the Permanent Endowment). There were now four active committees:

- Criminal Justice headed by the Edgartown Police Chief/MVDC member;
- Faith-Based sponsoring 10-week discussion programs;
- Health and Equity working with Blue Cross Blue Shield to address care disparities;
- Education which had two subcommittees: Schools and Artists.

Diverse membership contributed to the Education Committee (engineers, educators, students, parents, writers, dancers, etc.). Current projects included:

- library program for schools and public libraries with age appropriate books on diversity;

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- a constantly updated list of anti-racist resources – books, films, podcasts, articles, etc.
- curriculums including: Pollyanna Racial Literacy; Journeys in Film, Teaching Tolerance K thru 12; Borders to Bridges, with suggestion to use them with a sharp eye, encouraging discussion by students and teachers.
- People were invited to participate in “A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth” a 3 night program by Kyle Williams to empower through active conversation. An initial viewing of “A History of Race in America” was required to establish a common start.
- Asst. Supt. Smith was working to put together a Martha’s Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) cohort to participate.
- The OBSC thanked and praised the presentation, expressing their pride in being from Oak Bluffs.

**Superintendent's Report**

• **COVID-19 Testing Update**

After 7 weeks the Miramus testing program was going very well with no positive results in the last 3 weeks. Superintendent Matt D’Andrea credited the outstanding work of the staff in supporting student masking, social distancing and clean hands. The testing increased the level of calm and comfort to in-person learning. Thanks were repeated to Martha's Vineyard Youth and Martha’s Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation.

• **Budget Update—Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Shared Services Reduction**

Lower health insurance rates would reduce the OBS share of the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office Budget by \$21,068; however Prin. Farrell and MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman agreed to retain the approved OBS FY22 budget, to cover a discrepancy in an OBS position line item as well as the need for some flexibility in restoring Covid-19 staffing reductions/shifts in an already lean budget.

- The OBSC asked about guidance staffing during this difficult time. Prin. Farrell thanked them for their concern and noted two full time counselors, as well as Jeanie Holenko (see 10/13/20 Minutes p.2) and a subcontract with Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS).

**Financial Report**

• **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

• School Choice was healthy but could be expended on plumbing and hot water issues. Later in the meeting the matter was further considered:

- hot water heater at the end of its lifespan—presenting a possible facility closing;

- rusting pipes in the boiler room, and

- the need for specific shut-off valves to preclude whole school/whole wing shut downs.

Repair was projected for April break or summer vacation. School Choice funding was expected to cover it at \$50,000 or less—but Prin. Farrell had contacted Town Administrator Bob Whritenour in case a Reserve Fund transfer was needed. The issue was on the Town Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list.

- The OBSC acknowledged Prin. Farrell as a remarkable ambassador and remarked on the increased cooperation and inclusion between the OBS and the Town

• The Revolving Lunch Fund showed a \$36,000 balance that would cover repair of the cafeteria steamer.

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• **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

The Teacher Increment line residual was due to a number of positions that could not be filled, and was expected to cover all the following deficits.

- Undistributed Textbooks had not increased in a decade. Science books were seriously out of date so after substantial research the new Science Teacher and Prin. Farrell proposed purchasing a current textbook with on-line components (~ \$26,000).
- \$11,000 overage in Computer Leases covered technology needed for remote learning.
- An additional Education Support Professional (ESP) was hired to satisfy Special Education Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- Nurse's Salary deficit was anticipated at \$8,000 for 1 day/wk. support in paperwork, calls, contact tracing, etc. Prin. Farrell checked with School Nurse Lana Schaefer regularly to insure she had enough support and thanked the OBSC for their concern.
- Prin. Farrell asked that transfers not be considered until spring when budget status was more settled. Massachusetts General Law (MGL) stated that once money is appropriated, the OBSC had full authority to spend it on educational expenses.
- The tight OBS budget resulted in no significant deficits or residuals in recent history, with the exception of the FY20 Covid-19 savings (see 6/16/20 Minutes p.1)—all residuals were returned to the Town.

• **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

Due to the continued free lunches for all, there was no family and minimal staff debt.

**Principal's Report**

- Presently, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade was totally remote after 3 students tested Covid positive—including close contact with 3 teachers. In accordance with a family survey, the students would return March 1<sup>st</sup> after the February break. (The discrepancy with the recent Miramus surveillance testing negatives was being studied.)
- The OBS was moving forward one day at a time. The current in-person model was:
  - K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in-person Monday thru Thursday 8:10AM to 1:40PM – remote Friday;
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade in-person Monday thru Thursday 8:10AM to 2:40PM – remote Friday;
  - 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade in-person Tuesday thru Friday 8:10AM to 2:40PM – remote Monday.(The one hour earlier release (1:40PM) allowed contractual lesson prep time. All special teachers were embedded in the day by traveling to classrooms—e.g. the art room was not set up for Covid regulations.)
- Staff and students were practiced in immediate and seamless switch to remote learning on rolling closings (snow days, Covid-19 quarantines, etc.).
- The OSBC supported the Administration and asked to be informed of each quarantine, so that they could respond accurately to parent/community questions.
- Assist. Supt. Richie Smith reported the OBS met and exceeded in-person and remote, synchronous and asynchronous Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) learning guidelines.
- Prin. Farrell highly praised the amazing staff, working hard to educate students despite fear for their own safety. The OBS was evaluating (possibly with a consultant) all learning loss caused by the pandemic, to calibrate school and student standing. In particular K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading skills needed to be evaluated in order to set up guided reading groups.

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- OBSC expressed concern about academic pressure, but Prin. Farrell assured them students' socio-emotional needs were the priority, followed by instruction. The OBS was ethically required to educate its children and learning voids would be addressed in a safe, supported way.

- Staff wellness funds from School Choice (see 1/20/21 Minutes p.2) provided yoga and small gifts. The OBSC stressed that this should include administrators.
- Prin. Farrell adhered to Martha's Vineyard Public Schools policy was: any student not sleeping in Oak Bluffs for 10 consecutive nights was dis-enrolled.

**Correspondence** – None

**Executive Session** – Not needed

The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, March 16, 2021 by Zoom.

**Adjourn**

- Kris O'Brien's OBSC term was up and she would run for re-election.  
*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:54AM; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: LISA REAGAN—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 2/16/21

Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC), Laying the Groundwork to Eradicate Racism, [mvdiversitycoalition.org](http://mvdiversitycoalition.org) (17 p.)

Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 2/12/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2020-2021 (3 p.)  
2/12/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY21

Minutes approved 3/16/21.

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 8:30 AM**  
**By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Chair - Lisa Reagan, Kathryn Shertzer,  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton,  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Nancy Dugan,  
Staff – Amy Lukowitz and her fifth grade students  
OB FinCom – Maura McGroarty, Recorder - Marni Lipke

\*Late arrivals or early departures of OBSC members

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

**Correspondence**

In keeping with Principal Megan Farrell's recommendation:

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL AS INDICATED BY:*

- *MARTHA'S VINEYARD YOUTH LACROSSE,*

- *MARTHA'S VINEYARD UNITED UNITED YOUTH SOCCER, AND*

- *MV CO-ED SOCCER LEAGUE – OVER 30'S,*

*PROVIDED THEY COORDINATE THEIR SCHEDULING TOGETHER;*

*LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Spotlight on Learning**

Ms. Amy Lukowitz's fifth grade students showed artifacts and magazine covers/articles about the development of the first American colony Jamestown and its relations to Native Americans. Artifacts included a: boat, axe, ear-picker, pipe, arrowhead, gravestone, and tobacco leaves. The magazine covers and articles focused on John Smith, the sea voyage, the difficulties of the wealthy settlers who were unprepared for life on a new continent and the help of the Powhatans with food and furs. The OBSC applauded the work and thanked everyone.

**Minutes: Approval of Minutes of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 MINUTES; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Superintendent's Report**

• **School Choice Vote 2021-2022**

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea recommended the OBS continue to participate in the program which afforded Island students some opportunity to attend schools that better fit their needs. Most other Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) districts had already renewed the policy.

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING AS A SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

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- The Governor of Massachusetts and Commissioner of Education mandated full time in-person learning for Kindergarten (K) thru fifth grade as of April 5<sup>th</sup>, and sixth thru eighth grade as of April 28<sup>th</sup> – with no date yet established for high schools. The MVPS were almost in compliance but some minor adjustments would have to be made.
- Thanks to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH), 250 teachers were vaccinated at the first educators clinic and a second clinic had been requested. Other teachers got vaccinations at other sites or with other MVH appointments.
- Covid-19 surveillance testing was going well at about 850 per week, with very few positive results.
- The OBSC thanked Supt. D'Andrea, Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith, the Health and Safety Committee and the Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) union for all their leadership and work; and advocated on two issues.
  - As parents, taxpayers, former teachers, and OBSC members, they encouraged any effort to eliminate 2021 MCAS testing. Supt. D'Andrea reported that the Commonwealth Superintendents sent the Commissioner a letter also requesting no MCAS this year, emphasizing the importance of continued learning time over testing. However the Commissioner expressed interest in measuring the extent of the learning loss.
  - The OBSC also suggested that end of year professional days be waived to allow teachers more time to recover from this difficult year.
  - Asst. Supt. Richie Smith thanked the OBSC for expressing their support.

**Financial Report**

- **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

The ~ \$38,000 Circuit Breaker balance was being held in anticipation of a possible residential placement.

- ~ \$139,000 in School Choice would show reductions from custodial and maintenance obligations.

- **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

Of the ~ \$27,000 balance ~ \$8,000 would be spent on freezer repair. The OBSC commended Cafeteria Head Leah Miranda for her attention and quick action.

- **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file & 2/16/21 Minutes p.3.)

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) continued previously noted deficits all of which could be covered by the Teachers Increment residual:

- Undistributed textbooks for the new science text—also a reading/writing tool for exceptional non-fiction language;
- Computer supplies required for Covid-19 quick technology shifts;
- Special Education teachers salary for additional help in the building;
- Nurse's Salary for once-a-week paperwork help.

Prin. Farrell would present transfer requests in May 2021.

- The OBSC advocated for both a MVPS and an Oak Bluffs Town facilities manager to care for the continuing tens of millions of dollars invested in new buildings: schools, Town Hall, Fire Station, Library, etc. Prin. Farrell was an excellent steward but her focus should be as an educator, more than a facilities expert.

**Principal's Report**

Students were learning hard in-person 4 days per week in keeping with the year's curriculum. Shifting to 5 full days required extensive reconfiguration as follows:

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- April 5<sup>th</sup> K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade would start on Fridays and 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades on Mondays;
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – (the day the majority of teachers would reach full vaccine immunity) K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade would move to full day 2:40PM release time. The date insured student/staff safety against cross pollination, as well as fulfilling educator contractual obligations for prep and lunch time.
- The School could accommodate its population at 6 ft. distancing if enrollment remained unchanged, however the usual May attendance increase might force a slight amendment to distancing.
- The School was actively calling the 7 remaining middle school families in Cohort D, advocating for a return to in-person learning because the middle school model did not lend itself to excellence in remote learning and there were serious concerns about socio-emotional issues—extra guidance and counseling were available and pro-active.
- About 21 Cohort D K through 4<sup>th</sup> graders were better served by a synchronous single dedicated teacher model.
- OBS activities included:
  - second year book club;
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade fun and celebration week—in place of the annual trip;
  - basketball drills which were a blast for all student;
  - first community service field trip for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to the Portuguese American (PA) Club food pantry;
- Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) materials delivered to families for virtual competition games night, including raffling of baskets.
- The OBSC expressed its great appreciation of remarkable Principal Megan Farrell.

**Old/New Business: Personnel**

(See documents on file & 5/19/20 p.2 #6 & 9/3/20 p.2-3.)

• **Leave of Absence – Kathryn Townes, Maureen Farrissey**

• *LISA REAGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEARS FOR THIRD GRADE TEACHER MAUREEN FARRISSEY AND SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHER KATHRYN TOWNES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MARIAH LARSON AS OF FEBRUARY 19, 2021; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Public Comment - None**

OB Finance Committee member Maura McGroarty had three comments.

- Finance Committee Reserve funds were available for freezer repairs if needed.
- Special Town Meeting deadline was approaching for a residential placement article.
- Custodians were vested after 10 years but cafeteria workers only after 20 years—a possible gender discrimination issue.
- Administration thanked her for the information and would research the contract issue.

**Executive Session – Not needed**

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The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, April ~~27~~ 29, 2021 by Zoom.

Adjourn

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:23AM; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 3/16/21

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – MV Co-Ed Soccer League – Over 30's  
(2 p.) 3/2/21

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Martha's Vineyard United Youth Soccer  
(2 p.) 6/15/20

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Martha's Vineyard Youth Lacrosse (2 p.)  
3/12/21

Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 3/15/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2020-2021 (3 p.)  
3/15/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY21

Farrissey/Dalton email re: Next Year 3/9/21

Townes/Dalton email re: Next Year 3/2/21

Larson letter of resignation 2/11/21

**Minutes approved 4/29/21.**

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Thursday, April 29, 2021, 9:00 AM**  
**By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Acting Chair - Kathryn Shertzer, Kris O'Brien,  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton,  
Superintendent's Office –Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Nancy Dugan,  
Staff/Students - Ellen Berube and her first grade class  
Town – Accountant Deb Potter, Finance Committee – Maura McGroarty  
Recorder - Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals  
or early departures of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 9:05AM.

**Spotlight on Learning**

Ellen Berube and her class greeted the meeting and a video was shown of puppets the students made and animated about their favorite books—instead of book reports. The puppets now on display in the lobby included Curious George, Arron the Alligator, dogs - Biscuit and Tiny, and Little Critter. This was a great project combining: art, reading, writing and technology.

**Minutes: Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2020**

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 16, 2021 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.

**Old /New Business**

**Retirement – Ellen Berube, Jeri Brown**

Two long-time Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) and OBS veterans were leaving the school for new stages in their lives. The OBSC speaking as colleagues, friends parents and Committee members honored their remarkable contributions as life-long learners and role models.

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE AND RELUCTANCE  
- THE RETIREMENT OF FIRST GRADE TEACHER ELLEN BERUBE AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; AND  
- THE RESIGNATION OF FOURTH GRADE TEACHER JERI BROWN AS OF NOVEMBER 5, 2021;  
KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.

**Public Comment**

**Deb Potter, Town Accountant – Close-of-Year (COY) Transfers**

Although all spending for the current fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, all bills did not have to be submitted until July 15<sup>th</sup>; consequently a small lump sum was set aside, usually slightly over the anticipated amount to cover any unknown contingencies. Deb Potter proposed a streamlining process to help close out and balance the Town budget as a whole, by getting the conditional approval of the OBSC, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Finance Committee (FinCom) to transfer any small OBS residual to other Town

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Departments that might be in deficit. The process would in no way curtail OBS spending, and the residual could not be spent since it was after June 30<sup>th</sup>. It was a simple re-allocation for other Town needs. As it was impossible to get OBSC, BOS and FinCom approval at the close of the day on July 15<sup>th</sup> Ms. Potter requested this provisional vote. The discussion covered the following issues.

- Superintendent Shared Services Office final quarter bills were occasionally delayed.
- Circuit Breaker funds and Town Meeting articles covered Residential Placement costs.
- Principal Megan Farrell, Administrative Support Professional Denitsa Alton and MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman all endorsed the procedure as not impacting OBS finances and as beneficial to the Town.
- It only applied to the OBS (not the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS).
- Any problems in the process would be discussed with Prin. Farrell and Denitsa Alton.
- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE RE-APPROPRIATION TO THE TOWN OF ANY FUNDS REMAINING ON JULY 15, 2021 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BUDGET—SUBJECT TO ALL OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BILLS BEING PAID; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*
- Ms. Potter and the OBSC exchanged thanks.

**Superintendent's Report**

**• Reopening Update**

- MVPS were entirely in-person 5 full days a week. Superintendent Matt D'Andrea thanked Prin. Farrell and staff for all their work to get students safely into the School.
- The Commissioner of Education spoke at a Superintendent's meeting on currently unknown safety measures for the 2021-22 school year. Supt. D'Andrea would share information as it became available.
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) declared required MCAS testing for the current year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. DESE would arrange remote testing for Cohort D students in Grades 3-8 but would require in-person tests for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, since it was a graduation prerequisite. (See also below: Principal's Report.)

**• Graduation Guidance**

State guidance mandated the following parameters:

- no capacity limit if outdoors,
- student seating 3 ft. apart,
- 6 individual attendees for each graduating student, with groups distanced 6 ft. from the next group;
- no school support (neither staff nor funds) for any pre or post graduation parties or celebrations.

**Financial Report**

**• Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

- The remaining ~ \$38,000 in Circuit Breaker (along with a Special Town Meeting (STM) article funding) was needed to cover costs for an unexpected Residential Placement.
- School Choice funding would be depleted by facility improvement work over the summer.

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
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**• Expenditure Report**

(See documents on file & Minutes 2/16/21 p,3 & 3/16/21 p.2.)

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) continued in good standing with no new deficits the Teacher's Increment line residual sufficient to cover existing variances.

- Prin. Farrell proposed a budget planning shift to Kindergarten (K) Dental from Principal's Dental in line with trending.
- English Language Learners (ELL) Translation deficit would double to cover the next report card process.
- Prin. Farrell reiterated her enthusiasm for the new Science textbooks.
- Computer Supplies and the additional Special Education (SpEd) Education Support Professional (ESP) were necessary during the pandemic year. Staff was at a minimum, with no available substitutes. Prin. Farrell praised everyone for their dedication in adapting to difficulties.
- The deficit in the Nurse's Salary line covering Friday support, would increase ~ \$1,500 by the end of the year.
- Custodian Substitute deficit showed reliable and excellent A-1 Cleaning Services hired to fill in for a custodian vacancy. The OBS was budgeted for 4 custodian salaries—and would continue to post the position.

**• Revolving School Lunch Report** (See documents on file.)

- The Free and Reduced lunch for all policy resulted in \$0 family debt and staff debt was less than \$250 so no COY transfer were anticipated.

**Principal's Report**

- MCAS testing was scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The OBS was working towards a June 8<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony at the Tabernacle—with a week of Covid-19 safe events leading up to it.
- The OBS facility would host a 6 week OBS summer school in Fontas & Pinnel and iReady math, concurrently with the Islandwide MVPS Extended School Year (ESY) program.
- Prin. Farrell was working on traffic backup problems during school day release time. If all else failed a staggered release might be necessary (K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at 2:20PM and 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 2:40PM). Bus capacity was sufficient but parent drop-off was the preferred choice.

**Correspondence** – None

**Executive Session** – Not needed

The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Thursday, May 20, 2021 by Zoom.

**Adjourn**

Early birthday wishes went to Prin. Farrell, Supt. D'Andrea and Asst. Supt. Richie Smith.  
• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 10:00AM; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 4/29/21

**continued >**

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
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**Documents on file (cont.):**

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 4/26/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2020-2021 (3 p.)  
4/26/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY21

Brown letter of resignation 4/2/21

Berube letter of retirement 4/13/21

**Minutes approved 6/15/21.**

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 8:30 AM**  
**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 Friedman,  
Nancy Dugan,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

\*Late arrivals  
or early departures of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 8:33AM. Chair Lisa Reagan acknowledged this was the last OBSC meeting of the extraordinary Academic Year 2020-21 (AY20/21).

**Spotlight on Learning**

The entire School was excited to be participating in-person in OBS Field Day!

**Minutes: Approval of Minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 29, 2021 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION* due to absence: *KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, LISA REAGAN—ABSTAIN.*

**Public Comment**

The entire meeting honored the passing of Priscilla Sylvia, an OBS icon, as a teacher for 35 years teacher and an OBSC member for 12 more. People spoke with admiration of her exceptional teaching skills, as well as her activism and dedication to the Town and the Island. 24 OBS students and alumnae visited her on the next-to-last day of her life.

The OBSC praised the wonderful OBS eighth grade graduation.

**Superintendent's Report**

• **Town Meeting Update**

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) articles and budgets did well in all five town meetings—with Aquinnah Town Meeting scheduled for next weekend.

• **All Island School Committee (AISC)**

The AISC might meet to vote on a recent opportunity for MVPS staff housing. Superintendent Matt D'Andrea was consulting with new AISC Chair Kate DeVane on next year's meeting schedule.

• **Non-Union Salary Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22)**

(See documents on file.)

Due to pandemic expense uncertainties the non-union personnel did not receive salary increases in FY21. The AISC generously restored the increases so consequently this request was for 4.5%, which fell within the budgeted amount voted. The OBSC asked about a number of issues.

- Principal Megan Farrell was in the second year of her contract; Asst. Principal Carlin Hart was in the last year of his contract.
- The raises were in line with other increases across the MVPS, as proposed or voted.
- Although usually tied to staff evaluations, the evaluations did not take place this year.

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- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 SALARIES FOR MANAGEMENT AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL AS LISTED ON THE SHARED DOCUMENT; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Financial Report**

- **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

- The Circuit Breaker balance would be exhausted on 2 residential placements. Prin. Farrell met with the interim and the new Town Administrators and was applying for extraordinary relief—which subsidized 46% after expenditure of the first \$175,000.
- The Revolving Lunch residuals would purchase new cafeteria tables and kitchen equipment. It was hoped pandemic abatement would allow AY21/22 cafeteria use.
- Some School Choice funds would be spent on building maintenance this summer.
- A healthy Student Activity balance would continue to cover trips and special services.

- **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

- **End-Of-Year (EOY) Transfers**

The deficits and EOY transfers were as monitored throughout the year (see Minutes 2/16/21 p.3 & 4/29/21 p.3):

- network maintenance (to enhance remote learning),
- English Language Learners (ELL) translation (report cards and cultural events),
- undistributed textbooks (science textbooks),
- computer supplies, (iPads, desktops, etc.),
- copier lease (being negotiated),
- health supplies,
- power/light (a historical negative),
- student insurance.
- A \$9,350 OBS share of unexpected transportation costs (e.g. the \$129,000 cleaning/disinfecting protocol contract) put an end-of-year strain on the tight OBS budget. The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) ongoing debate and vote was about whether to absorb such variations in the MVRHSD budget, or parse them out among the MVPS. Prin. Megan Farrell warned that the OBS Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget was the most stringent in her tenure and requested she be informed of any pending additional charges immediately.

- The OBSC praised Prin. Farrell for her financial management, especially the rare residual in the Substitute line.

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 TRANSFERS AS LISTED FOR A TOTAL OF \$132,850; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: LISA REAGAN—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

- **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

Since all AY2020-21 student lunches were free no transfer was needed. Universal free lunch was extended through AY21/22—a great support for Island families.

**Principal's Report**

- Prin. Farrell thanked the OBSC and Supt. D'Andrea for their support during this difficult year, as well as for their presence at the eighth grade graduation.

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- After an extremely difficult year, summer activities (summer school, professional development (PD), etc.) were minimized to allow staff a substantial respite.
- Prin. Farrell did not believe in learning loss and would present data at a later meeting. Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grant funds would support year-long tutoring for AY21/22.
- The OBSC was invited to a School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on ESSER funds spending/allocation.

**Old /New Business: Personnel** (See documents on file.)

• **Retirement – Helen Hall**

The OBSC expressed gratitude, sadness and best wishes to Helen Hall who was a pillar in the OBS office.

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH EXTREME GRATITUDE FOR HER SERVICE THE RETIREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL HELEN HALL AS OF JULY 14, 2021; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.

• **Leave of Absence (LOA) – Danielle Bettencourt**

• LISA REAGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A MATERNITY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEARS FOR FIFTH GRADE TEACHER DANIELLE BETTENCOURT; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

• **Resignations – Lynn Van Auken, Emily Silva,**

• LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH SADNESS AND HOPE FOR HER EXCITING NEXT CHAPTER, THE RESIGNATION OF LIBRARIAN LYNN VANAUKEN AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL EMILY SILVA AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

• LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER TEACHER KRISTA BARNETT AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

• LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH BEST WISHES THE RESIGNATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER TEACHER/COORDINATOR JENNIFER DEMIRS GAUTIER AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.

Prin. Farrell reported that all but two of the vacancies had been filled with excellent candidates and she was looking forward to her summer vacation.

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At the end of the meeting the OBSC saluted retiring Student Support Co-Director Nancy Wigglesworth Dugan with a giant wave and best wishes.

**Correspondence** (See documents on file.)

• **School Use – Vineyard Football Association**

Prin. Reagan recommended approval of the adult soccer (football) club. The OBSC reviewed the schedule emphasizing youth event priority, and requested the field conditions be monitored, as adult use was more wearing than student practice.

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

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$400 DONATION TO THE SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS FROM THE VINEYARD FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Executive Session** – Not needed

**Adjourn**

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:24AM; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: LISA REAGAN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 6/15/21

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 6/14/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2020-2021 (4 p.)  
6/14/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY21

Oak Bluffs School, School Committee Meeting June 15, 2021 FY21 Budget Transfers to  
be Voted

D'Andrea memo re: Management and Non-Union Salary Adjustments 6/15/21

Hall letter of retirement 5/2/21

Bettencourt email re: Maternity Leave 5/17/21

Silva email re: Leaving June 30<sup>th</sup>, 5/27/21

VanAuken email re: News to Share 6/4/21

Barnett email re: Next Year – Resignation letter 6/10/21

Cover emails / Demirs Gautier letter of resignation (2 p.) 6/14/21

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Vineyard Football Association (2 p.)  
6/5/21

**Minutes approved 9/28/21.**

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 8:30AM**  
**Oak Bluffs School**

Present: Acting Chair: Kathryn Shertzer, Kris O'Brien,  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton,  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Hope MacLeod,  
Staff – Ms. Corinna Black and her class  
Town: Bill Cleary–Planning Board, Richard Toole—Energy Committee,  
Maura McGroarty–Finance Committee  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

\*Late arrivals  
or early departures

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 8:35AM.

**Spotlight on Learning**

Ms. Black's 1st grade showed drawings and sentences about what they liked most: reading, technology, soccer, learning English, a lot of gym classes, homework, great reading, and a good friend.

• As always this was the OBSC's favorite part of the meeting.

**Minutes Approval of the Minutes of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 15, 2021 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

**Public Comment:**

• **Green Community Designation** – *Bill Cleary* (See documents on file.)

An OBSC vote and the Superintendent's signature were the final step in the Green Community Master Plan, as supported by the Oak Bluffs voters with the goals of large scale solar use and stretching energy for a 20% reduction in fossil fuels within 5 years. Designation as a green community would allow or increase access to competitive and non-competitive (\$140,000 per year) grants, some of which could be used to hire engineers for further savings, (the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) was also an engineering resource).

• Most of the template guidelines for the OBS were already completed: solar panels, lighting upgrade, pipe insulation, dead band controls, pumps (as part of the recent Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) project), high efficiency unit ventilators, fans (except possibly for 2 in the gym), and some faucet aerators.

- The School was investigating possible leaks that might have spiked water use.

- The OBSC should adopt a vehicle policy with a preference for Electric Vehicles (EVs), however at this time the OBS owned no vehicles and transportation was provided by the Martha's Vineyard High School District (MVRHSD) which had already purchased 2 EV buses and a Prius.

- Other schools and towns were also converting to green technology.

• The OBSC thanked the Town representatives and raised a number of issues.

- The State commitment to grant funding was fairly stable. Solar panels paid for themselves in utility savings. However further improvements would be part of the Town Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which the OBS participated in or the OBS budget which traditionally only included \$20,000 worth of maintenance—the other source being School Choice funds.

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- Larger issues of green home construction, and business impact were also discussed as was the timing for the next annual Green Community grant.
- The OBSC tabled the matter until October.

**Superintendent's Report**

- **Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Revised Mask Policy**  
—2nd Reading (See documents on file.)

The State Commissioner extended the mask policy to November 1<sup>st</sup>. If 80% of students and staff were vaccinated those who were vaccinated could choose not to wear masks as of October 15<sup>th</sup>, however with most elementary students unvaccinated this goal would be hard to reach.

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL FACE COVERINGS/MASKS POLICY; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- **Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Transportation Policy**  
—1st Reading (See documents on file.)

The MVRHSC Transportation Committee spent considerable time on this policy and OBSC members were requested to read the guidelines carefully.

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:*

- **School Reopening Update**

The MVPS opening went smoothly and Administration was happy to have everyone back in person.

- The 'test and stay' Covid testing was in place, allowing anyone who had been in close contact with someone who tested positive to stay in school if they were a-symptomatic and tested negative, i.e. they did not need to quarantine.

- The surveillance testing supplies (a milder version of the nasal swab) were received and the program should be implemented next week.

- Molly Houghton was training 7 staff to administer tests in coordination with school nurses.

- **Schools Enrollment Numbers**

MVPS enrollment was 2,197 with Chilmark, Edgartown and West Tisbury growing slightly. OBS enrollment was 415.

**Financial Report**

- **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

The Town had not yet rolled over the fund balances.

- A negative Circuit Breaker balance was anticipated as funding continued for 2 residential students, further action was expected at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting (STM).

- School Choice \$118,000 balance did not yet reflect the total expenses of a number of summer projects: plumbing and air conditioning issues, and new carpeting for the office. The facility was in excellent shape. Account revenue was anticipated at \$260,000.

- **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

A number of negatives reflected personnel changes (e.g. see below: Resignations) that

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had not yet been reconciled, but would be reflected in the October Report. Staffing in general was in the positive ~ \$150,000 but there was still a custodial vacancy that had to be filled.

- The only true negative was \$5,000 in Undistributed Textbooks for science materials, which would be covered from other undistributed general funds.

• Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) was a tighter budget than usual. Most School Choice funds were spent on maintenance and repair, however the OBS budget could not function without it. Some other MVPS Districts used School Choice for maintenance and repair but it was also used for Special Education costs and one District used it to reduce their budget.

**• Revolving Lunch Report**

All school lunches and breakfasts were free again this year. Federal/State reimbursement had not yet been received.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Megan Farrell thanked everyone for a great OBS opening.

• The summer included some excellent Professional Development (PD) in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which would continue throughout the year, including assessment use to gauge and address academic and socio-emotional needs.

- There was an after school tutoring plan for students in Math, English/Language Arts (E/LA) and social groups.

• The solar project had not progressed well due to missed communications on construction during school hours and during the pandemic. A final meeting and robust Town support on safety measures resolved issues and the project was now in process after school and on weekends with a completion target at the end of October. The OBSC asked that its Chair be copied on all communications.

**Old/New Business: Personnel**

(See documents on file.)

• **Leave of Absence—Carole Weaver**

• **Resignations—Barry Stringfellow, Penny Wong, Catherine Bushey, Kelly Ohanian, Jennifer Demirs, Barbara Pucil-Hoy**

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR APPROVE WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SADNESS TO SEE THEM GO:*

- *A ONE YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR LIBRARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CAROLE WEAVER;*

- *THE RESIGNATION OF EIGHTH GRADE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL BARRY STRINGFELLOW;*

- *THE RESIGNATION OF FIRST GRADE TEACHER CATHERINE BUSHEY;*

- *THE RESIGNATION OF EIGHTH GRADE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KELLY OHANIAN;*

- *THE RESIGNATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TEACHER/ COORDINATOR JENNIFER DEMIRS;*

- *THE RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL BARBARA PUCIUL;*

*KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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**Correspondence**

- **School Use—Adult Basketball** (See documents on file.)

These were long-time users that respected the facility and made substantial donations.

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BY OAK BLUFFS ADULT BASKETBALL; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Executive Session** – Not needed

The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at the OBS.

**Adjourn**

- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:54AM; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 9/28/21

Energy Reduction Plan (24 p.) 7/21/21

Green Communities Designation and Grant Program (2 p.)

Letter must be on School letterhead (2 p.)

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Covering/Mask Policy (2 p.) 8/18/21

MVYPS Schools Student Transportation Policy (4 p.)

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 9/27/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2021-2022 (3 p.) 9/28/21  
6/14/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY22

School Choice FY22 Report VYPS Guidelines for Provision of Transportation (7 p.)  
Updated March 2021

Farrell/Weaver email re: Carole Weaver/1 year leave of absence 8/30/21

Broadley/Farrell/Stringfellow resignation emails 8/13/21

Carter/Farrell emails re: Resignation 8/2/21

Broadley/Farrell/Bushey emails re: resignation 7/14/21

Broadley/Farrell/Ohanian emails Kelly Ohanian 6/18/21

Demirs Gautier letter of resignation

Broadley/Pucil-Hoy emails re: Your hire letter 8/12/21

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Oak Bluffs Adult Basketball (2 p.) 7/15/21

**Minutes approved 11/16/21.**



**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2021, 8:30AM**  
**Oak Bluffs School Grounds**

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 Friedman,  
Hope MacLeod,  
Staff: Julie Rodenbaugh, Karen Downing and their Kindergarten class,  
Town: Maura McGroarty–Finance Committee  
Parent/Student: Soraya Randolph, Jennifer Randolph,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals  
or early departures

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order.  
(Recorder's Note: Some discussions have been grouped for clarity and brevity.)

**Spotlight on Learning**

The Kindergarten showed drawings and sentences about 2 books they were reading, one about the imaginative possibilities of a box and the other about the difficulties of being a tree. As always this was everyone's favorite part of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

OBS student Jennifer Randolph and her mother Sayora Randolph spoke of the problems with the dress code, in particular for young girls. After Sayora was sent home for a reasonable summer dress with straps, she became self-conscious and nervous about what she wore in general. The difficulty was not only uneven and subjective enforcement but also a discriminatory attitude based on the idea that how girls dressed triggered reaction in boys, when in reality, boys' reaction and behavior was their own responsibility and had little to do with dress code. For example, Ms. Randolph reported her older daughter dressed in a turtleneck received obnoxious comments and offensive grabbing. Consequently the family had started a petition (see documents on file) not to eliminate but to modify the dress code to be body-positive and non-discriminatory.

Both the Administration and the OBSC members thanked and praised the Randolphins for working within the School process and agreed this was an Islandwide issue about a 10 yr. old and inconsistently enforced code. Teaching staff had been contacted with clearer instructions and a Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) committee formed (that included Jennifer as a member) to redraft the code.

**Minutes Approval of the Minutes of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Tabled**

**Public Comment:**

**• Green Community Designation**

(See documents on file & 9/28/21 Minutes p. 1-2.)

The OBSC was inclined to table the issue again for more study. Although extensive grant funding was available the OBSC expressed some concern about funding sources if grants failed or became unavailable. Larger upgrades should and would be part of the Town Capital Improvement Program. (The meeting acknowledged better Town School acceptance and cooperation.)

- Every other Island town had already joined the Green Community program, for example Tisbury had been part of the program since 2013 in anticipation of a new school facility.

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- The program required significant financial outlay and would garner significant payback in reduced utility costs—although not necessarily on the same order, however it involved larger issues beyond money such as climate change, clean buildings, water and air resources.
- The OBSC directed Administration to send a letter to the Energy Committee and Planning Board about the following concerns:
- As the Covid pandemic year when the school building was largely unused, 2020 should not be taken as the comparison base year.
- Principal Megan Farrell would submit the project list to the OBS architect/design consultants for comments and cost estimates.
- The OBSC requested more information on new system operating costs and the OBS budget impact.

**Superintendent's Report**

• **Covid Testing Update**

1400 families and staff signed consent forms and Administration was working to get better participation. Surveillance testing had been operating for 3 weeks, at about 415 staff and students per week. Test & Stay was also going well currently active with about 50 students who had been exposed to Covid but could stay in school as long as they tested negative. Having overcome a number of glitches, MVPS was the first system in the region to get the program up and running.

• **Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Revised Mask Policy**

—**3rd Reading** (See documents on file.)

There were no changes from the previous reading.

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL FACE COVERINGS/MASKS POLICY; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• **Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Transportation Policy**

—**2nd Reading** (See documents on file.)

The OBSC noted the somewhat punitive tone of the procedures and offered to help draft more positive language.

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:*

• **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Student Census** (See documents on file.)

MVPS enrollment at 2,191 was up about 40 students from 2020, most of them Portuguese speaking English Language Learners (ELL).

- OBS enrollment was at 412, but Prin. Farrell reported 27 unexpected students since September and 3 more expected next week, of whom 90% were ELL—a humbling experience that required ELL specialized staff.

- The census was used to determine Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) assessments. All assessments decreased except Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury.

**Financial Report**

• **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

Funds had not yet been rolled over so the negative Circuit Breaker (and other Fund balances were accounting anomalies.

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The OBS was struggling with expenses for 2 residential students, one at \$31,000 per month (\$372,000/yr.) and the other at \$24,000 per month (\$288,000/yr.), which the current \$225,000 Special Town Meeting (STM) warrant article could not cover, even for the 2021-22 school year. Further, these would be ongoing annual expenses as long as the students remained in placement.

- In February OBS would apply for Extraordinary Relief for proportional reimbursement after payment of the first 25%. Extraordinary Relief applications were not assured and were required each year. The OBS budget was incapable of absorbing the roughly \$600,000 expense and Prin. Farrell asked for OBSC advocacy.

School Choice was projected at ~ \$119,000.

• **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

Thanks went to MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman and OBS Administrative Support Professional (ASP) Denitsa Alton for reconciling all staff shifts.

- The Undistributed Textbooks negative (see 9/28/21 Minutes p.3) would be covered from the Increment Line—which was unusually tight this year.

- The Special Teachers residual would be reduced when a new ELL teacher or Education Support Professional (ESP) was hired.

- Supplies and utilities which had been unchanged for 10 years, should be re-examined for the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget.

• **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

The Revolving Fund balance was about \$15,000. Prin. Farrell praised the lunch staff for their flexibility in serving students in a variety of shifting settings to accommodate 3 ft. social distancing: outside, classrooms, cafeteria, etc.

**Principal's Report**

• **Solar Update**

The Solar project was now proceeding smoothly and the project manager estimated a min-November finish.

\* Kathryn Shertzer expressed her support for the 20 miler use of the OBS and reluctantly left the meeting for another obligation.

**Personnel**

• **Resignation – Maureen Best**

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE FOR HER SERVICE AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE THE RESIGNATION OF LONG TIME EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MAUREEN BEST; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Correspondence**

(Agenda Item #10)

• **School Use – Martha's Vineyard 20 miler & Amity Island Relay**

• The 20-Miler had a history of excellent use, care of the school, and donations to Island youth programs.

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL AS INDICATED BY MV20MILER & AMITY ISLAND RELAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 FROM 11:00AM TO 3:00PM WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:*

- *EVERYONE IS HEALTHY AND THE SCHOOL IS OPERATING,*

- *USE OF THE KITCHEN FOR WARMING SOUP OR OTHER SIMPLE FOODS;*

*LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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**Executive Session** – Not needed

(Agenda Item #12)

The next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at the OBS.

**Adjourn**

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 10/19/21

Change of Oak Bluffs School Dress Code 27 p.

- Photo of Jennifer Randolph

- Farrell/Reagan emails re: FYI Dress Code Petition (2 p.) 10/6/21

Green Communities Designation and Grant Program (2 p.) 2/28/2020

- Letter must be on School letterhead (2 p.)

- Energy Reduction Plan (28 p.) 7/21/21

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Covering/Mask Policy (2 p.) 8/18/21

MVYPS Schools Student Transportation Policy (4 p.)

- MVYPS Guidelines for Provision of Transportation (7 p.) March 2021

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 10/18/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2021-2022 (3 p.)  
10/18/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY22

Farrell/Best email re: Resignation 10/1/21

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – MV 20-Miler & Amity Island Relay  
(2 p.) 10/4/21

Minutes approved 11/16/21.

**Oak Bluffs School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 8:30 am  
In person at the Oak Bluffs School**

Present: Chair - Lisa Reagan, Kathryn Shertzer  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Hope MacLeod,  
Mark Friedman  
Staff – Erika Oliver and her students  
Towns - Bill Cleary–Planning Board, Richard Toole—Energy Committee,  
Maura McGroarty–Finance Committee \*Late arrival or early departure of  
OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) meeting was called to order at 8:35AM.

**Spotlight on Learning** – Erika Oliver's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class

**Minutes Approval of the Minutes of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 AND OCTOBER 29, 2021 MINUTES; LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS—LISA REAGAN* due to absence.

**Public Comment:**

• **Green Community Designation**

(See documents on file & 10/19/21 Minutes p.1-2.)

Energy Committee member Richard Toole and Planning Board member Bill Cleary responded to OBSC issues.

- Green Community regulations required that baseline data years be within 2 years of the application. Oak Bluffs chose 2020 because School energy use was normal, and Town Hall energy use could be included. This gave the town a high baseline for the best chance at the 55% reduction goal by 2040.

- Tight OBS budgets made associated costs very difficult and the OBSC requested financial help for any expenditures. The Finance Committee (FinCom) and Select Board (i.e. not the Planning Board or Energy Committee) made the final decision on how Green Community grants and other Town funds were spent to maximize effectiveness. At this point no item in the Plan included any School costs.

- The plan hoped to be pro-active in supporting electric vehicles for all school and municipal use.

- Cape Light Compact and Rise Engineering continued to be close partners/consultants.  
*LISA REAGAN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE OAK BLUFFS GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATION; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED, MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Substitute Pay Rate Increase**

There was an acute shortage of Substitutes. Current Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) pay, established in 2014, was only \$90/day. The Superintendent's Shared Services Office researched comparable daily rates around the region and

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considered MVPS teacher pay levels. A 33% increase to \$120/day was proposed for both Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) and FY23 in order to attract more candidates. Other districts approved the increase contingent on the approval of all MVPS districts. There was a discussion on current Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) sub protocol. Two suggestions were:

- automatically increase substitute pay per yearly union contract raises;
- pay teachers bonuses for attendance on days of common absences.
- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SUBSTITUTE PAY RATE INCREASE TO \$120 PER DAY; LISA REAGAN SECONDED, MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Transportation Policy –  
3rd Reading** (See documents on file.)

FinCom member Maura McGroarty commented on the Transportation Guidelines.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OBSC THAT THE GUIDELINES WERE CONFUSING AND PUNITIVE AND SHOULD BE REWRITTEN.
- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY; LISA REAGAN SECONDED, MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Financial Report**

• **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

- Circuit Breaker would be depleted by the residential placements. The OBS was awaiting Special Town Meeting (STM) vote. In answer to Maura McGroarty, Circuit Breaker regulations, including the one-year funding lag were explained.
- The Revolving Lunch balance reflected that free lunches were provided for all students this year. Breakfasts were grab-and-go (hot breakfasts were not possible).
- The current School Choice \$119,000 balance was anticipated to grow to \$338,000 by the end of the year.

• **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

The FY22 Budget was going well with few new negatives except in longevity and an Island Grown Initiative bill.

• **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

Staff debt was regularly paid. The School was happy with the increased participation. Snacks were provided to students in after-school sports.

**Principal's Report**

The OBS was happy to have everyone in the building and the basketball teams and sports were excited to be playing. A live performance of "Annie" was planned for the school play. Principal Megan Farrell praised everyone's hard work in motivating students.

Student Support Director Hope MacLeod reported on Special Education (SpEd) at the OBS (see documents on file). The OBSC asked about the consistent difference between the State and MVPS SpEd percentages. Prin. Farrell reported the OBS was a high needs school with enrollment including 21% SpEd students and 28% English Language Learners (ELL). She emphasized the OBS employed many strategies (including the Responsive Classroom) to insure it educated all students.

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**Old/New Business: Personnel** (See documents on file.)

- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE WITH CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES THE:*
    - *RESIGNATION OF CUSTODIAN MATHEW HILTZ, AND*
    - *LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SEAN OHANIAN:*
- LISA REAGAN SECONDED, MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Correspondence – None**

**Executive Session – Not needed**

Next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at the Oak Bluffs School.

Adjourn

- *LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:44 AM, KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED, MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 11/16/21

Use by Facility Category

MVYPS Schools Student Transportation Policy (4 p.) 10/19/21

- MVYPS Guidelines for Provision of Transportation (7 p.) March 2021

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 11/15/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2021-2022 (3 p.)  
11/15/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY22

Farrell/Ohanian email re: Leave of Absence 10/29/21

Farrell/Hiltz email re: Notice 9/27/21

Oak Bluffs Special Education Snapshot SY 2020-2021 (5 p.)

**Minutes approved 12/22/21.**

**Oak Bluffs School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 8:30 am  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Chair - Lisa Reagan, Kathryn Shertzer, Kris O'Brien  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman

\*Late arrival or early departure of OBSC members

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

**Spotlight on Learning**

Principal Megan Farrell announced a community sing-along from 9-9:30AM tomorrow and showed great slides of last Friday's Ugly Sweater Contest.

**Minutes Approval of the Minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

• *LISA REAGAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED, 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION due to absence: KRIS O'BRIEN—ABSTAIN, LISA REAGAN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

**Public Comment - None**

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea talked about the Omicron variance which resulted in highest Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) numbers of positive cases ever. Testing was increased as another uptick was expected after the winter holidays. He also reported on the Vax (Vaccination) Bus, with commendations to Asst. Supt Richie Smith and OBS staff Jeanie Holenko for their advocacy, outreach to the entire community, and coordination. The Bus was open to the general public and was a big success. It will be back on Martha's Vineyard at the beginning of January with more information regarding exact days and time to follow.

- MVPS student vaccination rates were difficult to gage, especially elementary/middle school rates. Out of the ~ 700 Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) students, 450 were confirmed as vaccinated—51% 12-15 yr. olds, and 81% 16-19 yr. olds. The OBSC commended student sense of community responsibility.

• The OBSC asked about OBS Nurse Lana Schaefer. Although Ms. Schaefer was out this week, MVPS testing was well coordinated and she found her duties manageable enough to dispense with the Friday extra help (see 4/29/21 Minutes p.3). Principal Megan Farrell would continue to check-in with her regularly about support.

**Financial Report** (See documents on file.)

• **Fund Balance Report** (See documents on file.)

• Circuit Breaker was in the negative awaiting Town reimbursement from the Special Town Meeting (STM) vote. \$429,000 (of \$620,000 total year expenses for 2 students) was needed to cover costs at least through February, when the OBS could apply for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief. Prin. Farrell was meeting with Town Administrator Deborah Potter tomorrow. Although there was a good chance of obtaining the grant, additional funds would be needed before the April Annual Town Meeting (ATM) if the application failed. This was likely to be an ongoing expense over several years.

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- Now and later in the meeting the OBSC and Administration discussed student well-being, support and guidance measures during the pandemic (see below).

- The current School Choice balance was \$123,000.
- There was \$102,000 in the Student Activity fund to cover the regular ski and 8<sup>th</sup> grade trips now being planned. Pandemic protection protocols were being designed and the OBS was aware of all final cancelation dates. The entire School was very happy to be moving back towards normalcy.

- **Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

There were no surprises. Previously reported negatives (all covered by the Increment line) included:

- longevity,
- cultural programs (happily enriching school days—see below: Principal's Report); and
- \$15,000 unexpected increase in Student Insurance—included in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget proposal.

- **Revolving School Lunch Fund** (See documents on file.)

Staff lunch debt was paid regularly. Service included a breakfast cart in foyer and afternoon snacks for the Homework Club and sports. All food was State reimbursed.

Prin. Farrell requested a one-time \$10,000 (out of the increment salary line) salary increase for Jean Neble, Administrator of Student Services grades 5-8. She highly commended Ms. Neble for her skills and hard work in administration and student relations, stating the increase was long overdue. Supt. D'Andrea supported the action. There was a long discussion on OBS guidance structure—the OBSC advocating for a 5-8 grade guidance counselor. Prin. Farrell emphasized the change from the previous model (K-4 and 5-8 guidance counselors) to the current model:

- guidance counselor certified for K-8 grades;
- Ms. Neble in the building full time, specializing in 5-8 guidance and relations;
- Jeanie Holenko with Responsive Classroom support for staff consultation and student problems;
- 0.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) support from the Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) staff, (possibly expanded to 0.8-1.0 FTE next year), as well as Consultant James Levine and the Islandwide Youth Collaborative (IWYC) as needed—extra help for students, staff and families in consideration of the pandemic impact and funded by Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grants;
- Asst. Principal Carlin Hart was in charge of discipline.

The OBS put student socio-emotional needs before academics. Two OBS alumnae stopped Prin. Farrell in the Post Office and expressed how much they missed the OBS where they had a strong sense that the School really cared for its students.

- Prin. Farrell again emphasized Jean Neble's excellent support and relations with middle school students, including transitioning to the MVRHS.

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME \$10,000 SALARY INCREASE FOR JEAN NEBLE ADMINISTRATOR OF STUDENT SERVICES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHERINE SHERTZER—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

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- The Superintendent's Shared Services budget increase \$77,000 or 4.12%.
- Contractual increases (salaries, steps, lane changes, etc.) \$147,000, a negotiations placeholder of \$160,000, \$11,000 for the substitute rate increase (see 11/16/21 Minutes p.1-2), and the \$10,000 Technologist increase were offset by new hire savings.
- Other increases were: \$15,000 Student Insurance (see above), \$1,000 Audit increase and \$8,500 transportation increase.
- The OBSC discussed a number of issues.
- Although MVRHS transportation costs were not yet approved, this amount conservatively covered all proposed increases. There was a question of protocol as to approving a budget with an unsettled component, however other Town budget factors such as the Proposition 2 ½ threshold dictated a tight OBS budget timeline. The OBS budget could be re-approved if necessary.
- The negotiations placeholder was sufficient to cover projected raises.
- Precedent was for budget proposals to be distributed in more detail, with greater lead time. Prin. Farrell apologized for the oversight and the extraordinary times were noted.
- With the caveat that the OBSC were volunteers relying on professionals working on a day-to-day basis:
- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AS PROPOSED BY PRINCIPAL DR. MEGAN FARRELL AT \$9,343,810.43 (A 3.97% INCREASE); KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, LISA REAGAN—AYE.*

**Principal's Report**

Several times during the meeting Prin. Farrell expressed her relief at the upcoming winter holiday, to give desperately needed rest to the staff. The OBS sponsored a staff breakfast to thank everyone.

It was wonderful to see students practicing sports and basketball—although audience access was limited to parents. The School play, Annie was going forward planning for a live performance, but could be live-streamed in case of pandemic changes. There was a Middle School fun factor weekly period, including Bali dancing, and cribbage. Hopefully after the break after school activities could be restarted. The OBSC expressed their excitement at these activities and reminisced about community involvement on previous Friday afternoons, teaching juggling, fly tying, etc.

**Old/New Business: Personnel** – None

**Correspondence** – None

**Executive Session** – Not needed

Next OBSC meeting will be 8:30AM, Tuesday, January 18, 2022 via zoom.

Adjourn

The OBSC wished everyone happy holidays and thanked the Chair Lisa Reagan for leading the meeting. THE MEETING ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS.

**continued >**

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**Documents on file:**

Agenda 12/22/21

Oak Bluffs School, Fund Balances: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 12/20/21

Oak Bluffs School, General Fund Expenditure Report-OB Site 2021-2022 (3 p.)  
12/20/21

Revolving Lunch Report OBS FY22

OBS FY'23 Budget Analysis, Version #1, December 22, 2021

**Minutes approved 1/18/22.**