

OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Wednesday, April 26, 2022, 8:30AM
By Zoom Cloud Conference

Present: Acting Chair - 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,
Town: FinCom – Maura McGroarty,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

* Late arrivals or early departures
of OBSC members

The Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) was called to order at 8:36AM.
(*Recorder's Note: Some discussions have been grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Spotlight on Learning - None

Minutes: Approval of Minutes of March 15th, 2022 - Tabled

Public Comment

Finance Committee (FinCom) member Maura McGroarty raised 2 issues.
- At the end of the fiscal year residual OBS funds were returned to the Town, as would any other Town department.
- The 2022 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) voted \$150,000 for engineering and design for a new boiler, however the ballot questions was for \$600,000. Principal Megan Farrell would contact Town Administrator Deb Potter on the legalities of the discrepancy.

Superintendent's Report

• Town Meeting Update

Administration thanked the Towns for their continuing support of school budgets and, thanked staff and school committees for their work in developing those budgets. The last ATM was Aquinnah next week.

Most Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) were in the midst of MCAS testing and parent teacher conferences.

Special Education (SpEd) Director's Report (See documents on file.)

Student Support Director Hope MacLeod reported on the difference between Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans.

- Teacher trainings included beginning or end of year Professional Development (PD), periodic updates and staff / Guidance meetings throughout the year. There would be a basic rights training for parent on April 14th.
- 504s applied to individuals with a disability (building access, health, etc.) that impacted their access to the curriculum and required accommodations, modifications and occasionally services to facilitate that curriculum access at the same level as their peers –but it did not include specialized instruction. This plan could follow an individual to college and workplaces and changed depending the facility in question.
- IEPs applied to all of the same parameters but also required specialized instruction and was limited to kindergarten through 12th grade.
- OBS had 15-20% on IEPs and 3-4% on 504 Plans.
- The first Island Parent Advisory Council (IPAC) meeting since the pandemic was sparsely attended but active in planning recruitment strategies.

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Financial Report (See documents on file.)

• **Expenditure Report**

There were no dramatic changes and all negatives could be covered by the Teachers' Increment line:

- Teacher Dental Insurance;
- Advisory Stipends for additional tutoring and data training;
- Cultural programs due to Island Grown Schools (IGS) annual fee (increased in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget);
- Undistributed Textbooks;
- Library;
- Custodial Services, which would increase another \$30,000 and was shifted from School Choice funds which might be needed for residential placement costs (see below: Fund Balance Report);
- Student Insurance (increased in the FY23 budget).

• **Revolving Lunch Report**

Staff lunch debt was regularly paid down. Thanks went to Denitsa Alton for her work in applying for free breakfast and lunch next year—OBS was usually just on the margin of qualifying.

• **Fund Balance Report**

The \$148,600 School Choice balance would be very tight if FY22 Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief failed or was small. (Standard Circuit Breaker funds lagged a year behind expenditure.) Normally School Choice was spent on facility capital improvements and repair, and to enhance educational enrichment for all children. The OBSC noted for the record that use of this school dedicated funding for a normally Town-paid expense was the OBS contribution for tax relief.

Principal's Report

• **Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget Update and Possible Vote**

In order to avoid an override, Town departments were often asked to reduce their budgets late in the process and this year the OBS was cut \$25,000. The OBSC expressed confidence in Prin. Farrell to propose a plan to be voted at the May meeting.

Prin. Farrell reported that the OBS was in the middle of parent conferences and MCAS testing. The school musical, *Annie* would be performed May 13th-15th. The School Campaign of Kindness produced lots of signs, gestures, friendship and kind friends examples. The first in-person Community Meeting would include student-designed t-shirts and a civilian dance group funded with cultural moneys. Prin. Farrell participated in the staff/student basketball game, which the teachers won. The OBSC thanked her for her leadership in promoting the wonderful school climate and for signs of recovery from the pandemic isolation.

The solar team worked over spring break and would be back shortly to make final connections. The solar energy should forestall budget increases from fuel price inflation. The OBSC warned that in order to stay solar-connected the OBS had to retain its internet connection at all times.

Old/New Business

The OBSC was interested in formulating a Zoom/in-person meeting policy.

• **Personnel:**

Marni Lipke announced she was retiring after 25 years as the OBSC recorder. The OBSC expressed their appreciation of her kindness and long history such that she seemed like a foundational component of the School Committee.

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Leaves of Absence (LOAs) Danielle Bettencourt and Julie Rodenbaugh

(See documents on file & 6/15/21 Minutes p.3.)

The OBSC honored the maternity requests and congratulated the two teachers.

- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR:*
 - *FIFTH GRADE TEACHER DANIELLE BETTENCOURT FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, AND*
 - *KINDERGARTEN TEACHER JULIE RODENBAUGH AS OF MAY 15, 2022 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR;*
- KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE.*

Correspondence (See documents on file.)

• School Use Requests – Vineyard House

This request was to use the parking lot to stage cars for a July 21st Waban Park water tasting event.

- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE WITH GRATITUDE USE OF THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BY VINEYARD HOUSE AS PRESENTED; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE.*

Executive Session – Not needed

Next OBSC meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 8:30AM.

Adjourn

- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:18AM; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE.*

Documents on file:

Agenda/Revised Agenda 2 p. 4/26/22

Oak Bluffs School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022 4/21/22

Oak Bluffs School General Fund Expenditure Report – OB Site, Fiscal Year 2021-2022
(4 p.) 4/25/22

Revolving School Lunch Report, Oak Bluffs School FY22

School Choice FY22 Report

Stone/Bettencourt emails re: Checking In 4/14/22

Holway/Rodenbaugh emails re: Maternity Leave 3/7/22

Application for Use of the Oak Bluffs School – Vineyard House (2 p.) 4/15/22

Oak Bluffs Special Education, April 2022 (2 p.)

Zoom Chat:

Denitsa Alton to Everyone (8:35 AM)

rizahmadmalik@gmail.com

Hope MacLeod to Everyone (8:49 AM)

attached newsletter)

Kathryn Shertzer to Everyone (8:57 AM)

Having a problem, cant unmute, gonna log out and hop back on to see if that helps

Kathryn Shertzer to Everyone (9:03 AM)

Yes, 100 % YES, PLEASE

continued >

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Documents on file (cont.):

Zoom Chat (cont.):

Kathryn Shertzer to Everyone (9:03 AM)

Not to put you on the spot Dr. Farrell, May we get an update next month on our our solar project and how that is functioning at this point? What is it looking like for our power use etc. Are we seeing any benefit yet?

Hope MacLeod to Everyone (9:09 AM)

Thank you Marni!!!!

Kathryn Shertzer to Everyone (9:12 AM)

I feel like it makes meetings less transparent, the people in the room have no idea who is in attendance. 7/21/22

Minutes approved 5/24/22.