

**OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**Wednesday, June 21, 2022, 8:00AM**  
**By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Acting Chair - Kathryn Shertzer\*, Kris O'Brien, Rizwan Malik,  
Others: Principal's Office – Megan Farrell, Denitsa Alton,  
Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Hope MacLeod, Kim Garrison,  
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 8:04AM. Kathryn Shertzer was slightly late due to technical issues.  
(Recorder's Note: Some discussions have been grouped for clarity and brevity.)

**Minutes: Approval of Minutes of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MAY 24, 2022 MINUTES; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE.

**Public Comment** - None

**Superintendent's Report**

\* During this conversation Kathryn Shertzer entered the meeting.

• **Non-Union Salary Adjustments**

– Tabled pending completion of collective bargaining negotiations.

• Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Vote

(See documents on file & Minutes: 3/22/22 p.3 & 5/24/22 p.1-2.)

Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith gave a brief overall review of the SOA and moved on to describe the specifics for the OBS school.

• OBS English Language Learners (ELL) enrollment jumped from 18 in 2012 to 109 (or 26.2%) in 2022. There were similar demographic changes across the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS). This was a previous trend possibly intensified by the pandemic.

• MVPS Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Special Education (SpEd) had been strengthened pre-pandemic by the MedStar program due to forward community thinking (see Minutes: 10/17/17 p.2, & 9/18/18 p.3 #6). SOA resources included Shared Services staff such as an Inclusion Specialist, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to consult with and support teachers as well as Professional Development (PD).

- Elementary school graduating classes demographics would continue to change requiring: appropriate structure, staff training, direct support and family engagement. Program evaluation would include: data analysis, school climate surveys, student feedback, etc.

• OBS SOA funding was reviewed especially the \$404,834 for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).

- Commonwealth Cherry Sheet reimbursement to the Town was subject to assessments such as Charter School tuition, which often resulted in a slight deficit or "negative aid".

Consequently, it was very important to meet with Town officials on the mandate to spend Ch. 70 SOA funds on ELL and SpEd students.

- Principal Megan Farrell outlined OBS specific spending:
  - classroom specialist teachers and Education Support Professionals (ESPs), e.g. 5 ELL teachers and 4 bilingual ESPs—some supported by grant funding;

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- PD trainings in instructional strategies for ELL: math and writing standards, WIDA ELL program interventions and Fountas and Pinnell literacy transitions;
- Supplies, equipment, technology – smart boards, iPads, Fountas & Pinnell supplies...
- Guidance and psychological support and expansion of Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) partnering;
- Instructional leadership on analyzing data to determine where children are and monitor progress.
- Employee benefits/fixed costs.

The OBSC discussed a number of aspects.

- They confirmed that OBS had classroom space for 415 students with diverse needs and commended Principal Farrell for her work to include and respect all students.
- As the FY23 \$404,834 would exceed Proposition 2½ tax restrictions it was necessary to focus Town discussions on revenues as well as expenses, because the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Commissioner of Education targeted these funds for students in need of services. DESE and the Commissioner expected SOA to be counted in addition to schools' annual budgets—an important factor not only for the OBS but also the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) and Superintendent's Shared Services budgets, particularly when multiple Covid impact and other grants began to fade.
- OB Finance Committee (FinCom) member Maura McGroarty asked that FinComs be included in the revenue conversations with the Town and invited the OBSC to a school-focused FinCom meeting at 5:00PM, Thursday, June 23, 2022.

• RIZWAN MALIK MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL PROGRAM AS PRESENTED; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.

**Special Education (SpEd) Director's Report**(See above: SOA.)

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

In order for the Town to avoid a Proposition 2 ½ override department budgets were often modified during final calculations at the end of each calendar year and the Town Manager had reduced the OBS FY23 Budget by \$25,000. A communication breakdown over School Choice funds and Residential Placement costs, resulted in Principal Farrell proposing \$25,000 be cut from the Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math (STEAM) line reducing the teacher to 0.5 part-time—with an Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grant funded ESP would assume some of the duties.

• KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFYING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL BUDGET BY REDUCING THE SPECIAL SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY-ENGINEERING-ART-MATH TEACHER LINE BY \$25,000; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0

*ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

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

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

End-of-year transfers showed nothing unexpected. Prin. Farrell reported the school in good financial and emotional standing. Deficits were conservatively estimated:

- Legal expenses included collective bargaining consultation costs;
- Administrative Salaries - Administrator of Student Services (see 12/22/21 Minutes p.2);

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- Regular Day Substitutes and Nurse Substitutes;
- Advisors – historically over-budgeted – to be considered for the FY24 budgeting;
- Regular day subs – conservative in case of further illness;
- Fuel and Power & Light – due to price hikes to be examined for FY24 budgeting; (final solar panels connections were imminent);
- Student Insurance as previously noted and budgeted for FY23.
- *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 TRANSFERS AS LISTED FOR A TOTAL OF \$161,755.56; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.* The OBSC thanked Prin. Farrell, MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman and Administrative Support Professional (ASP) Denitsa Alton for all the hard work and clarity on financial matters.

- **Revolving Lunch Report** (See documents on file.)

**Principal's Report**

Prin. Farrell thanked everyone who came to the OBS Graduation. The eighth grade students had a great time on their trip to Niagra Falls. She praised the 'kindness t-shirts' and thanked the OBSC for allowing the School to do what it did.

**Old/New Business**

- **Personnel** (See documents on file.)

**Leave of Absence – Holly Thomas; Resignation – Sean Ohanian**

The OBSC would miss Holly Thomas, but was also excited by Kim O'Callaghan filling in for her. Prin. Farrell praised Sean Ohanian who was moving into an ELL teacher position.

- *KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE:*
  - *A ONE-YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR FOR FIFTH GRADE MATH TEACHER HOLLY THOMAS,*
  - *A 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KIM O'CALLAGHAN, AND*
  - *THE RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SEAN OHANIAN; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

- **Discussion of Other Potential Meeting Times for the OBSC**

(See 5/24/22 Minutes p.3.)

- Evening or late afternoon meeting times had advantages and disadvantages.
- Administrators were already over-booked for almost daily meetings, not getting home to families until late evenings.
  - Some OBSC members could not accommodate afternoon/evening meetings.
  - After work meetings allowed greater community participation.

The OBSC agreed on the importance of greater community access and suggested recording meetings for posting. Minutes and agendas were already posted. The public was welcome to contact the OBSC with any questions or comments:

[kathryn.shertzer@mvyps.org](mailto:kathryn.shertzer@mvyps.org), [rizwan.malik@mvyps.org](mailto:rizwan.malik@mvyps.org), [kris.obrien@mvyps.org](mailto:kris.obrien@mvyps.org).

The average meeting lasted about 1-1.5 hours. It was agreed that:

- meeting times would be changed to 8:00AM;
- meetings would be recorded and posted on the OBS and/or Town websites;
- staff would work to expedite posting of minutes and recordings.

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**• Martha' Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC)**  
Membership

As there was a fairly steep learning curve for new school committee members, more veterans members usually covered the MVRHSC. Rizwan Malik had signed up for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) training—although the Superintendent's Shared Services Office was planning universal refresher sessions for all MVPS committee members.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OBSC THAT KRIS O'BRIEN AND KATHRYN SHERTZER CONTINUE AS MVRHSC MEMBERS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR. Rizwan Malik was encouraged to attend and/or view the recordings to get a sense of the issues and protocol.

• The OBSC thanked Recorder Marni Lipke for her 25 years of service, the clarity of her reporting, her respect for members and her long historical memory. Administration had consulted her and was working on finding a new recorder, and transferring records. Ms. Lipke would be available for trainings, consultations and any OBSC questions. She thanked everyone for their kind words.

• The OBSC acknowledged that this was Supt. Matt D'Andrea's last meeting and expressed their gratitude for all he had shared, offered and done for the MVPS over the years and especially during the pandemic—there would also be an in-person salute. They praised his amicable, knowledge-based leadership and appreciated working with him throughout his time as Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and as MVRHS Interim Principal. Wareham's gain was the MVPS loss.

**Correspondence - None**

**Executive Session – Not needed**

Next OBSC meeting 8:00AM, Tuesday, TBD.

Adjourn

• *KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:37AM; KATHERYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

**Documents on file:**

Agenda 6/21/22

Foundation Budget: Chapter 70 and local funding... *SOA presentation excerpts* (10 p.)

Oak Bluffs School FY22 Year End Requested Year-End Budget Transfers & Actual Cafeteria Transfer June 21, 2022

Oak Bluffs School, FY'23 Budget Analysis, Version #2, June 21, 2022

Oak Bluffs School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022 6/17/22

Oak Bluffs School General Fund Expenditure Report – OB Site, Fiscal Year 2021-2022  
(4 p.) 6/21/22

Revolving School Lunch Report, Oak Bluffs School FY22

School Choice FY22 Report

**continued**



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**Documents on file (cont.):**

Farrell/Thomas emails re: Leave of Absence Request 5/20/22

Farrell/O'Callaghan emails re: Leave of Absence 6/17/22

Farrell/Ohanian email re: Need Resignation letter 6/3/22

**Chat:**

Mark Friedman to Everyone (8:49 AM):

Is there a time for the 6/30/22 Fin Comm Meeting?

Mark Friedman to Everyone (9:35 AM):

And Matt was the MVRHS Principal!!!! For a year.