

# OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

8:00AM, Tuesday, September 20, 2022

### Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present:	Kathryn Shertzer, Rizwan Malik, Kris O'Brien
OB School Staff Present:	Dr. Megan Farrell (Principal), Denitsa Alton
Superintendent's Office:	Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod
Public:	Maura McGroarty, Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.

### Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: June 21, 2022.

*MR. MALIK MOVED TO APPROVE THE 6/21/22 DRAFT MINUTES; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDS.*

*NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

### Public Comment

Ms. McGroarty asked the Committee how the school budget gets developed and questioned whether a sub-committee should be formed for this purpose. Dr. Farrell responded that the School has very little wiggle room when it comes to the budget, due to the 2.5% annual cap on increases; she stated that the budget process is mostly just a presentation of the numbers to the Committee. Ms. O'Brien explained that the OB School budget is nowhere near as complex as the High School budget and the OB School Committee only has three members, where the High School Committee has nine. She continued that the three members of the OB School Committee are capable of managing the budget due to the support and expertise of the staff. Mr. Friedman stated that the High School budget has to consider a lot that the OB School does not, such as maintenance, insurance and transportation. Many of the budget items that are determined by the High School are given directly to the OB School to be included in their budget. Ms. Shertzer said the High School Committee has a lot more people weighing in on the budget as there are five towns and four school committees that must come together to determine the High School's budget; Superintendent Smith added that the individual interests of each of the towns brings a lot more debate to the budget discussions. Ms. McGroarty thanked the Committee for answering her question.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smith said he has done a walk-through of all the buildings for the start of the school year and spirits are very high. He is grateful for Dr. Farrell's leadership and the support that has been provided for students and teachers. Superintendent Smith said he follows Dr. Farrell's lead as she has been both a role model and inspiration for him. He will report further at the All Island School Committee meeting tomorrow evening.

### Special Education Director's Report

Ms. MacLeod said it has been a fantastic start to the year. She has put together a snapshot review of data from the previous year; she will send that out for discussion at the next meeting. The review provides information on how many children are participating in the shared services programs as well as information gathered from a survey that parents fill out with feedback on their child's experience in the programs. The review also compares OB School statistics to statewide school statistics.

### Financial Report

Dr. Farrell stated that the financial report is healthy with zero negative balances. The finances for the rest of the year have been secured.

The revolving school lunch fund is solid at around \$60k and it appears as though the town will continue to qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch for students and staff for the next three years. Qualification for the program requires 40% of students to be in need of free lunch. Two school lunch positions are funded through the program. Dr. Farrell thanked Ms. Alton for her efforts to keep the school enrolled in this program.

The School Choice account has \$155,000.

There is one article request, for \$30,000 on the Special Town Meeting warrant for painting the cupola and other needed exterior painting.

Dr. Farrell is working on an RFQ for the new boiler design which is more complicated than she anticipated; she will have more information at the next meeting. There will be a State inspection of the 30 year old boilers on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Farrell secured a grant for funding for a new Wi-Fi project that will be completed this summer. The last Wi-Fi update was completed 5 years ago.

Dr. Farrell stated that she does not presently have any concerns about the budget or anticipating any issues that may arise. She identified a teacher line item that shows a \$204,000 surplus; \$170k of this represents an unfilled math support position that there were no viable candidates for. There is a leave-of-absence employee who will return next year so this money is a placeholder. Mr Friedman clarified that the \$204k is a placeholder amount to accommodate the collective bargaining contract increases. It has not been distributed yet because the teacher/ESP contract negotiations are still on-going.

### **Principal's Report**

Dr. Farrell stated that opening week was very successful and everyone is happy to be back. Summer happenings included facility maintenance such as painting the hallways and classrooms. Last years' kindness campaign produced posters made by the kids that are now displayed around the school. Dr. Farrell encouraged the Committee to come check out the numerous murals that were painted. Everyone enjoyed an assembly the previous Friday that showcased a hip hop group from Philadelphia that resulted in a great dance party.

The past two years have been a challenge and Covid has made everyone feel isolated and separate, Dr. Farrell's vision for this year is to bring everyone back together. There is a great new guidance counselor and as part of keeping the kindness campaign going, the staff is focusing on "bully-proofing" the classrooms.

Other work over the summer included focusing on improvements to the math curriculum by meeting the students where they're at and focusing on math intelligence rather than computation.

Dr. Farrell, along with nine teachers, took a week and a half long course, offered through Harvard, called Datawise. Datawise is a course that focuses on facilitating collaborative discourse through teamwork. Dr. Farrell is working to alleviate the pressure on the staff by fostering a community of collaborative support.

The Committee discussed whether to continue to meet via zoom or go back to in-person meetings. A hybrid option was discussed so the recorder of the meetings does not have to be physically present.

### **Personnel: Leave of Absence Requests**

The Committee had two leave of absence requests to act on, both for maternity leave: Ms. Damier and Ms. Montambault. Additionally, there is resignation notice from Ms. Edmonds, who helped out as an ESP last year but has now taken a job in her professional field.

*MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE BOTH LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS; MR. MALIK SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

**School Use Requests**

The Committee had two School Use Requests to act on, one from OB Adult Basketball for the use of the gym and one from Vineyard Footie Association for use of the the field. Both applicants are long-time users of the School's facilities and the Committee remained supportive of sharing the use of those facilities with the community when appropriate.

*MR. MALIK MOVED TO APPROVE BOTH SCHOOL USE REQUESTS; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 8:00am.

*AT 8:49AM, MR. MALIK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; MS. SHERTZER SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

**Documents on File:**

- 9/20/22 Financial Reports
- 2022 Special Education Snapshot
- School Use Applications – OB Adult Basketball & Vineyard Footie Association
- Personnel Documents

Minutes Submitted By: Juliet Mulinare