

OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

8:00AM, Tuesday, April 25, 2023

At the Oak Bluffs School

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:09am by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: March 21, 2023.

MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 3/21/23 DRAFT MINUTES; MR. MALIK SECONDS.

NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE.

Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Smith reported that, at their Annual Town Meetings, both West Tisbury and Chilmark voted to amend the Regional School District's budget request to zero in protest of the School Committee's vote to not cap the legal budget for the turf field litigation. Mr. Smith thanked the OBSC and voters for approving the School's budget at Oak Bluffs Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Smith said he is working to reestablish All-Island meetings with all the School Committees to be able to better identify and address challenges as well as opportunities. Mr. Smith also stated that he is working on a process to establish a range of consistent salaries, regionally, for all non-union employees. He will return in June with more information.

Financial Report

Dr. Farrell reviewed the financials and stated that the budget is healthy. There are some negative line items but those are intentional. Dr. Farrell has received a \$135,000 grant for air quality improvements and is looking into how to utilize those funds. There is also a surplus in the budget due to an open Specialist position, Dr. Farrell said she intends to use those funds for building maintenance projects and to purchase some new classroom furniture.

Mr. Friedman informed the Committee that they have reorganized the way they are billing the towns for their share of transportation costs. The Towns will now be billed based on the actual number of trips, which will reduce Oak Bluffs' share.

Principal's Report

- School Security Update

Dr. Farrell stated that she met with the communications director in the Sheriff's office to review protocols. There will be a faculty meeting on May 17th with the Police and Fire Chiefs to go over emergency procedures with School staff. The Committee discussed which Schools have School Resource Officers (SROs) and how having one for Oak Bluffs would be beneficial. Dr. Farrell stated that the Police Chief requested funding for an SRO who could also provide additional assistance to the Department during the busy summer months, but that request did not pass the Finance Committee. The Committee will work on getting the word out to support the request for an SRO.

- Student Dress Code – Second Reading
*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY. MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE.*
Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Special Education Director's Report

None.

Old/New Business

Mr. Friedman revisited the issue regarding payment to Weston & Sampson for their presentations to the OBSC and the Selectboard regarding PFAS at the Oak Bluffs School field. He requested that the School Committee pay the outstanding invoice. The Committee discussed the Selectboard's responsibility to also pay a portion of the bill, since Weston & Sampson's time was spent with both groups. Mr. Smith suggested that Mr. Friedman request separate invoices for the School Committee and the Selectboard so the School Committee is not covering Selectboard expenses. In an effort to expedite the process, and not require Mr. Friedman to return for approval next month,
*MS. O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE WESTON & SAMPSON INVOICE ONCE MR. FRIEDMAN GETS EVERYTHING SORTED OUT. MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE.*
Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence

- School Use Request
The Committee reviewed a request to use the gymnasium for a dance on August 13th, from 5-11pm for approximately 500 people. Dr. Farrell stated that she has a number of concerns about this event including the number of people, the need for a police presence and the fact that it would take place within a couple weeks of the first day of School.
*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN NOT TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL USE REQUEST. MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
O'BRIEN – AYE, MALIK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE.*
Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 8:00am.
*AT 9:25AM, MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; MR.MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:
MALIK – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE.*
Motion passes unanimously (3-0).

Documents on File:

- OB School Policy for appropriate student attire-2

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare