

# OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

8:00AM, Tuesday, June 13, 2023

At the Oak Bluffs School

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

### Call to Order

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

### Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was postponed.

### Public Comment

None.

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Smith reiterated his appreciation of the Committee's dedication to the OB School.

- Discussion of Central Office Organization for 2024  
Mr. Smith explained his three goals for the organization of the central office for the upcoming school year: 1) Create and expand HR positions, 2) Continue to hire part-time consultants to look at island-wide issues such as transportation and infrastructure, and 3) To coordinate curriculums and operations across elementary schools.  
Mr. Smith said he would like to have someone assume the HR responsibilities in the main office as there are around 600 employees of the school system. He plans to grow this into a full-time position but has been limited by the budgetary restrictions. He said he also plans to keep part-time consultant John Stevens on board for another year so he can keep working on the issues he's been tackling. All of these positions will be funded with the money allocated to the unfilled Assistant Superintendent position.
- Non-Union Salary Increases Discussion and Vote  
Mr. Smith reviewed the various union employees' contract terms as well as the COLAs each town is offering their employees. Based on this information, Mr. Smith stated he would like to offer the non-union employees a 5% salary increase, which he feels is appropriate for these positions to remain competitive on the island. The Oak Bluffs School has four non-union employees, including the IT Director and the Principal. Mr. Smith described the salary for each position. The Committee discussed how much IT Directors in other towns make, for all three down island towns, it's over \$100k per year.  
*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE 5% SALARY INCREASE FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES. 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.

### **Financial Report**

Dr. Farrell reviewed the financials and stated that the budget is healthy. She also reviewed the summer projects. She stated that she is working with the Town Administrator on the funding for the boiler replacement project, which also involves the replacement of the generator. At the request of others, she explored the cost difference between a new propane boiler versus an all-electric system. The cost of the all-electric came in around \$5.3 million, far exceeding the \$1.6 million cost to replace the existing oil boiler with a propane one, and would be a far more complicated project. Dr. Farrell is also working with the Cape Light Compact to identify possible grants.

Dr. Farrell stated that she needs the Committee's approval for some Year-End transfer requests and distributed a handout listing them. There was a total of ~\$236,000 in transfer requests to cover various negative lines.

*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE YEAR-END TRANSFER REQUESTS. MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

### **Principal's Report**

Dr. Farrell stated that the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders just returned from their trip to Philly and had a great time with no issues.

The Committee discussed the School Safety Protocol and whether there should be a time for parents to come and learn more about the drills and protocols so they can help ease any anxiety associated with them.

Dr. Farrell reported that the celebration of cultural diversity event on Friday was a huge success and the kids had a blast.

### **Old/New Business**

The Committee reviewed a resignation request from Guinevere Rebello.

*MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION REQUEST. MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

Reorganization of the Committee:

Ms. Shertzer stated that she would be willing to step down as Chair of the Committee and asked if anyone else was interested. Mr. Malik said he would be happy to contribute as Chair.

*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO NOMINATE AND APPOINT MR. MALIK AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE. MS. SHERTZER SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

The Committee also needs to appoint two members to the High School Committee. Ms. Shertzer and Ms. O'Brien are both willing to continue their current appointments.

*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. O'BRIEN TO APPOINT MS. SHERTZER TO THE HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE. MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

*MOTION PLACED ON THE FLOOR BY MS. SHERTZER TO APPOINT MS. O'BRIEN TO THE HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE. MR. MALIK SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

### **Executive Session**

Ms. Shertzer called for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

The Committee will invite the Superintendent, the Principal and the Recording Secretary to remain present for the executive session.

*Ms. O'Brien made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Malik. No further discussion, roll call vote:*

*O'Brien – Aye, Malik – Aye, Shertzer - Aye.*

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

Ms. Shertzer stated that upon the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Committee will not reconvene in open session.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:00am.

*AT 9:40AM, MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; MR. MALIK SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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

Motion passes unanimously **(3-0)**.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare