

**EASTPORT SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
6:00 P.M.
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL**

Members Present: Melissa Lawrence, Jessica Andrews, Cynthia Morse, and Meg McGarvey

Members Absent: Walter Cummings

Staff Present: Superintendent Kenneth Johnson, Principal Paul Theriault, Assistant Principal Roberta Clark, Catherine Lee, Connie Knight, Erin Mahar, and Allicia Mitchell

Others Present: Wayne Tripp and Sonja Sullivan

A. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Adjustments to the Agenda

Agenda item G 4 was requested to be deleted. It was moved by Mellissa Lawrence, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to delete agenda item G 4.

C. To Approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2021 School Committee Meeting, as Written or with Corrections, as Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to approve the September 15, 2021 school committee meeting minutes as written.

D. Administrative Reports:

- 1. Principal – Eastport Elementary School and Shead High School –** Principal Paul Theriault reviewed his report.
- 2. School Committee –** There was no school committee report.
- 3. Superintendent –** Superintendent Johnson appointed Catherine Rockwood, School Nurse; and appointed the following Schedule B personnel: EES – Drama, Caryn Vinson; Yearbook, Kayla Barber; 8th Grade Advisor – Allicia Mitchell; Civil Rights – Kayla Barber; Liaison Officer – Rachel McNally; SHS – NHS – Melissa Mitchell; Student Senate – Natalie Brown; Senior Class Advisor – Allicia Mitchell, Connie Knight; Junior Class Advisor – Amy Johnson; Instrumental Music – Robert Sanchez;

Liaison Officer – Catherine Lee; Drama – Caryn Vinson; Marketing Club – Amy Johnson; Radio – Robert Sanchez; Yearbook – Catherine Lee; Outdoor Club/Horticulture – Connie Knight; Chess – Paul Patterson; Civil Rights – Laurie Sullivan; Weight Lifting – Ron Sullivan; the following coaches were appointed: Dana Bowen - Girls’ Varsity; Paul Theriault - Boys’ Varsity; Erin Mahar, Opal Seeley – JV Girls’; and Superintendent Johnson reported on the resignation of Kendra MacDonald.

E. Old Business

There was no old business.

F. New Business

1. To Consider Having Grades 7 and 8 at Shead High School Full-time

Principal Paul Theriault distributed a written outline. Cynthia Morse asked about open campus for lunch and stated she sees it as a privilege for high school students. Jessica Andrews stated her opposition to the idea. She feels the half day at Shead High School is a good transitional step. Melissa Lawrence asked what the upper grades at Eastport Elementary School would look like. Principal Paul Theriault noted the changes would be minimal since a shared schedule is already being implemented and grades five and six rotate with those areas and teachers. Meg McGarvey asked what feedback from students and parents has been received. Assistant Principal Roberta Clark reported eighth graders seemed to favor the plan but seventh grade was more mixed. Principal Paul Theriault noted parents had not been surveyed. Melissa Lawrence noted possibly stigmatization of special education students if they had to return to EES for those services. Sonja Sullivan asked how high school students might react to having eighth graders in the building full-time. Principal Paul Theriault noted eighth graders currently participate on high school sports teams and are accepted. Jessica Andrews asked if next year’s eighth graders would be as ready and as eager. Principal Paul Theriault noted each class is different. Cynthia Morse asked about time table for implementation. Principal Paul Theriault noted parents have the opportunity to come to the meeting. Lisa Morrison stated she feels the year would be OK but would like to revisit the matter next year. Principal Paul Theriault stated his concerns about revisiting annually and feared negative perceptions if a future class remains at EES. Superintendent Johnson stated his preference for seeking parental input. Principal Paul Theriault noted the existence of other 7 – 12 or 8 – 12 configurations.

It was moved by Melissa Lawrence, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to table action on this item and to hold the November

meeting at 5:00 p.m. to accommodate a discussion with seventh and eighth grade parents.

2. To Consider Revisiting Safety Protocols

Superintendent Johnson outlined the advantages of athletes participating in pool testing based on the SOP. Melissa Lawrence asked how many are currently planning on participating in pool testing. Assistant Principal Roberta Clark responded around 40. Superintendent Johnson noted we would revisit pool testing at the next meeting as part of winter sports protocols. Melissa Lawrence expressed her preference for keeping the issues of masking and vaccinations separate.

It was moved by Melissa Lawrence, seconded by Cynthia Morse, and voted unanimously to continue with the mask mandate.

3. To Consider Leasing the Port Authority Bus

Superintendent Johnson reminded the board the coach has no safety features like a school bus and would only be limited to special usages such as field trips and far away games. It was suggested to lease for \$1.00/per school year, Eastport Port Authority would retain ownership, and the school would carry bus on its insurance. Meg McGarvey noted there would be benefits to both parties.

It was moved by Melissa Lawrence, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to lease the Eastport Port Authority bus for \$1.00 per year.

Agenda Item G 4 was deleted.

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Johnson, Superintendent
Secretary, ex-officio