

**EASTPORT SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021  
6:00 P.M.  
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL**

**Members Present:** Melissa Lawrence, Jessica Andrews, Cynthia Morse, and Walter Cummings

**Members Absent:** Meg McGarvey

**Staff Present:** Superintendent Kenneth Johnson, Principal Paul Theriault, Catherine Lee, Connie Knight, and Erin Mahar

**Others Present:** Edward French, *Quoddy Tides*, Sonya Sullivan, Jean Peacock, and Ross Lawrence

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**B. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Agenda items G 4 and G 2 will be switched. It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to switch agenda items G 4 and G 2.

**C. To Approve the Minutes of the October 20, 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 3 – 0 -1 (Walter Cummings was absent) to approve the October 20, 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. It was moved by Melissa Lawrence, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted unanimously to allow momentary removal of masks for picture taking at Freshman Reception. Ross Lawrence asked about the cost of keeping the radio station active. Principal Paul Theriault noted going “dark” is only temporary in response to an increase in licensing costs and that he wanted to keep the station. Principal Paul Theriault noted Shead High School technically operated two stations – 91.7 and 93.3 – one is ten watts and the other is 100 watts. It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Jessica Andrews, and voted

unanimously to “go dark” on channel 91.7. The boys’ soccer team won the DAC Sportsmanship Award. Walter Cummings asked for uses of ESSER III funds. Principal Paul Theriault noted a Learning Recovery Program and exploring outdoor facility capabilities. Erin Mahar noted Shead High Schools students were recognized as PVC All-Stars: Katie Bartlett, Lindsey Donahe, and Jesse Cook. Cynthia Morse asked if we could partner with a local clinic to offer a vaccination by representatives of the Eastport Health Care. Principal Paul Theriault stated he has been contacted by representatives of the Eastport Health Care and they were advising all those interested to push to Calais. Walter Cummings asked if Pleasant Point Health Center could be contacted. Walter Cummings asked about the status of cheerleading. Principal Paul Theriault noted differences between sideline and competition cheering. Erin Mahar stated Kayla Barber is interested to begin cheering at Shead High School. A brief discussion on possible activities using the coach bus occurred.

**2. School Committee** – There was no school committee report.

**3. Superintendent** – Superintendent Johnson appointed Ian Campbell as Learning Recovery Specialist; appointed Dale Bowen, Sr. as day custodian; Dale Bowen, Jr. as night custodian; appointed Glen McNally as SHS boys’ JV coach; appointed Kayla Barber as SHS cheering coach; and noted student vaccines will be available soon for ages 5 – 11.

## **E. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **F. New Business**

### **1. To Consider Revisiting Safety Protocols/Pool Testing**

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to continue masking and pool testing.

### **4. To Consider a Revision to Policy IHBAC, Child Find**

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to adopt policy IHBAC, Child Find.

### **3. To Consider a Discussion on Mini Field Trips to Include Surrounding Schools Eighth Graders (Port Bus)**

It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously to begin using port bus on school related activities as soon as possible.

## **2. To Consider a Discussion on Winter Sports Protocols**

Principal Paul Theriault stated his preferences/recommendations: spectators on a limited basis based on capacity; advance tickets sales (season passes and game tickets) 125 total not counting participants; call in advance for a ticket; notify other schools in advance; masks for spectators; concessions in Lobby rather than the gym; pool testing required for athletes; locker rooms ok to use – must wear masks; other schools – home rules apply; our kids wear masks; can decline to participate; vaccinations not required; masks required for participants, coaches, officials (consistent with CDC); and post season – MPA sponsored events require masks consistent with CDC. Walter Cummings stated his support for Principal Paul Theriault's recommendation as does Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson noted this recommendation is designed to maximize the number of kids that can participate. Erin Mahar adds PVC Conference has decided to observe the stricter policy of whatever teams are playing. Mr. Johnson also stated if Shead High School athletes are belittled or bullied over our policy decision, we would not participate in that content. A discussion around pool testing occurred. Jessica Andrews asked what if we will lose a kid due to his/her family not giving parental consent. Melissa Lawrence stated she is opposed to mandates in general, but she can see similarities with other safety precautions like mouth guards. Cynthia Morse stated she would be concerned that many kids wouldn't chose to do it if it was optional. Principal Paul Theriault and Mr. Johnson continued to explain advantages of pool testing. Mr. Johnson advised limiting the implementation if the vote to grades 8 – 12 and revisit for elementary sports. It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted 2 – 2 (Jessica Andrews, Melissa Lawrence) to accept Principal Paul Theriault's recommendations. It was moved by Jessica Andrews, seconded by Melissa Lawrence, and voted unanimously that ticket sales not exceed 125 per game. It was moved by Cynthia Morse, seconded by Walter Cummings, and voted 3 – 1 (Jessica Andrews) to require pool testing for players, managers, and coaches.

## **G. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kenneth Johnson, Superintendent  
Secretary, ex-officio**