

10/10/24

Chilmark School Advisory Committee

Meeting October 10, 2024

Present: Jessica Mason
 Anne Mayhew
 Kate Squire
 Jackie Guzalak
 Robyn Dori
 Nelia Decker

1. Minutes approved 5.0.0. Jackie's minutes will be sent to me so I can forward them to Chris Mara for posting. Chris will archive last year's minutes.
2. Budget: Kate is working on it, using level service budgeting. She is comparing line by line to West Tisbury School's budget. Looking into equity issues with money allocated to specific items ie: nursing per student allocation (\$1.40 for Chilmark vs \$9 for WT), Chilmark doesn't have a capital improvements line, snow removal or grounds maintenance line. As a matter of process items needing more than 10K need to go to town meeting: the bell tower and gutters are two expenses that would fall under that category. Kate will be meeting with Mark Freedman to look at grant funded positions. More staff conversations are needed before a high level look in November with the School Committee. Key points in considering the budget: smaller class size is necessary with the multi-age classroom model and the number of days that the School Counselor is available isn't enough for our school population. Specials and student population need to be considered in staff increases. The budget proposal process will be complete by the end of December. Early November we will see the first draft.
3. The School Improvement Plan is considered in draft form until approved by the School Committee. This year the SAC waited for Kate to arrive for input from the School Committee on the most current version of the SIP. Next year it will be presented in September.
 - a. The SIP will be formatted to resemble WT School's format or Kate will reformat it to make it more clear.
 - b. Richie's 3 buckets will appear at the top, followed by the Chilmark School's mission statement. Kate will let us know what those buckets are.
 - c. Staff goals and surveys are reflected in the SIP and the action steps: safety course taken by some staff, more planning time is in the schedule and Noli's work on traditions.
 - d. Kate feels comfortable sharing and discussing the SIP with the School Committee.
4. Looking ahead: Parents want to know what the class configurations will be, but staff need to weigh in, there are always budget considerations as well as physical and scheduling limitations. It will take a multi year build out to get to a sustainable point. With the pre-school space needs and their transition to their new building it is difficult to plan. The plan is that 5 years out we will be able to sustain reasonable class sizes to provide

stability. What are class sizes in other island schools? Our multi-age philosophy needs to be supported with appropriate budgeting and class size.

5. The preschool is in the grant writing phase. They have applications for MV Bank Charitable Foundation and MV Youth. The plans are 95% completed. Work on fundraising is ongoing. The building will not be ready in September. Contingency planning for the school programs can be more intentional among the other campus members/facilities in light of this information.

6. Discussion of the Moderator meeting with the campus stakeholders. Their findings will be presented in January.

Next SAC meeting: Wednesday at 8:10 October 23d.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53.