

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, May 6, 2019, 5:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Kris O’Brien, Roxanne Ackerman, Megan Anderson, Amy Houghton, Kimberly Kirk, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer, Student representatives (non-voting): Emily Gazzaniga,

Others: Peter Sawyer – Concert Series,

Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley, Vice Principals – Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Special Ed Director – Hope MacLeod, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Tiffany Shoquist,

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith, Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,

Parents: Silene Benjamin, Suzy Cosgrave, Alexis Horder, Mary Yancey,

Youth Sports: Joe Mikos, Terry Donahue,

Fin. Com. Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Holly Pretsky
MVTV –Lynn Fraker,

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures (see * in text)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 5:09PM.

- (*Recorder’s Note: Some discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: April 1, 2019

• *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 1, 2019 MINUTES: MS. MEGAN ANDERSON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. SKIPPER MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Student Report

(Agenda Item #II)

A. Emily Gazzaniga, Junior Class President, and Tyla Packish, Junior Class Vice-President

April 8th -9th French Spanish and Portuguese students took the Bi-literacy Test.

April 10th -11th was the Stand with Everyone Against Rape (SWEAR) Retreat.

April 12th was the Freshman Cup followed by spring vacation April 15th -19th.

April 23rd the League of Women Voters was on campus to register students 18 and older to vote.

April 30th was the Summer Jobs Fair and May 4th the Blood Drive.

May 2nd was the successful Pops Concert.

May 3rd at the New England School Press Association (NESPA) Conference the MVRHS won the Highest Achievement Print Newspaper in the Class 3 Division. Principal Sarah Dingley read out the names including an award to Ms. Gazzaniga.

May 6th, today, was the first Advanced Placement (AP) exam.

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- Four MVRHS students did extremely well in the Coding Competition at Lockheed Martin (see documents on file & 4/1/19 Minutes p.2 #V A.)
- There were great bargains at this weekend's annual Plant Sale.
- In sports:
 - Track & Field was undefeated in the Cape & Islands League and several students qualified for the State meet; Mackenzie Condon qualified for the National Heptathlon;
 - MVRHS would host the Cape & Islands League championship;
 - Baseball won against Nantucket 12 to 1 and were ranked second in the League;
 - Boys Lacrosse had 7 wins to 1 loss, and Girls Lacrosse 8 wins to 1 loss;
 - Boys and Girls Tennis were 9 to 0.

Student/Department Spotlight

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Science Fair Students - Tabled

Art Teacher Ms. Tiffany Shoquist and Science Teacher Ms. Natalie Munn were advisors to the team of students leading school beautification projects including:

- painting the locker rooms (see Minutes 11/5/18 p.2 & 12/3/18 p.2);
- design and envisioning the outside courtyard eating area (raised beds of edibles, tables, etc.);
- moving the Cafeteria sculpture to the Culinary Arts Dining Room, painting accent walls and adding 24 frames allowing swap out student art work submitted to student curators;
- creating student positions: Curator, Assistant Curator, Preparer and Editor;
- photo-montages of school values and senior portraits as highlighted on Honors Night;
- 10 home Island heroes of MVRHS graduates running successful trade businesses.

Projects were being developed in accordance with the Oak Bluffs Building Inspector. A cost breakdown of the allocated funds was reviewed:

- \$200 - sculpture removal, preparation and paint,
- \$1,000 - frames and first photos (one year of photos changed quarterly - under \$500)

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #IV)

Ms. Suzy Cosgrave spoke out against out-of-school suspensions. As a former teacher and member of the Marine Corps she valued discipline but protested the recent increased use of the measure for non-violent offenses, putting MVRHS in the top 20 schools for out-of-school suspensions. She cited research that showed the policy was ineffective, did not promote school safety and was detrimental to student growth—she was happy to share her findings with the Administration. The MVRHSC thanked her for speaking out.

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Athletic Out of State/School Field Trip Requests (See documents on file.)

Permission was sometimes requested to pursue contemplated future trip ideas.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE OR CONFIRM APPROVAL FOR:*
 - *THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE CLASS AND TEACHER(S) TO TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL APRIL 17-24, 2020;*

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- *THE OUTDOOR TRACK TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT ON APRIL 26-27, 2019 FOR THE HILL HOUSE HEPTATHLON;*
 - *FRENCH THREE STUDENTS AND TEACHER(S) TO WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND MAY 24, 2019 FOR THE MUSEUM OF WORK AND CULTURE;*
- MS. ANDERSON AND MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAY—MS. KIMBERLY KIRK, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Career Technical Education (CTE) Update

The Job Fair was now optional attendance to promote interested attendees and employers.

C. Special Education Update

- Due to heavy MVRHSC agendas the Shillinglaw review was scheduled for the second June meeting—the report had been distributed electronically and in hard copy.
- The Department was completing the eighth grade transition meetings.
- The MVRHS was up for a Department of Education tiered focus special education and student rights self-assessment visit next year.

D. Math/Science Position - Tabled

E. Track Update (See below: p.6 #IX.)

Last week West Tisbury was the fourth town to approve Excess and Deficiency (E & D) funds for the track design and logistics. Pending the May 9th cut-off, it was hoped the project could move forward with confidence and enthusiasm after a tense controversial process. The Owner's Project Manager (OPM) was working with the MVRHSC, staff and subcommittees on bids to be advertised in the Central Register and local papers, with bid opening May 31st. The MVRHSC emphasized that the \$350,000 would cover both the current plan with artificial turf, and an alternate plan with grass, if the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) so ruled. Mr. Manter challenged the MVC jurisdiction over the choice.

F. Grass Policy (See Minutes: 8/10/17 p.2-3, 8/16/17 p.1-2 #III, 9/17/18 p.3 #i.)

The current policy was open to some interpretation. There was a debate on Town vote protocol:

- whether Selectmen decisions counted;
 - different wording of the articles (see below: Actions);
 - whether Towns voted use of E & D or for the track project;
 - setting E & D precedent in compliance with State Law.
- *MS. KIRK MOVED TO RESCIND THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRASS POLICY; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 5 AYES, 3 NAYS—MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE, MR. MANTER; 1 ABSTENTION—MS. HOUGHTON.* Counsel advised that this be the first of three actions to rescind.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

- At this point in the Fiscal Year the Budget showed:
 - an ~ \$87,000 Salary Increments residual and a possible modest health insurance residual;
 - \$15,000 in Student Work about to be expended (see above p. 2 #III);
 - small residuals or encumbered instructional lines;
 - the MVRHS share of the Title One position due to the usual fluctuations in the grant;

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- projected full expenditure for sports;
- substantial deficits in Corrective Maintenance and Transportation (see below # D);
- long term substitute projections (to be covered by Salary Increment residual);
- retirement costs for seven staff –it was suggested it be covered by salary increments.

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

Final State reimbursements were still unknown. However, the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) distributed unanticipated drug subsidy revenues with \$40,000 to the MVRHS.

C. Grants/Donations (See documents on file.)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE:*
 - *\$108,041 FROM THE STATE FUND FOR IMPROVING STUDENT ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;*
 - *\$9,250 FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS HUMANITIES FOR CROSS-CULTURAL PERCEPTION VERSUS REALITY THROUGH GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS; AND*
 - *A COMMERCIAL GRADE RESTAURANT RANGE;*
- MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. HOUGHTON* due to conflict of interest.

D. Corrective Maintenance and Transportation—Excess and Deficiency (E & D)

Vote (See documents on file.)

- As Budget lines became tighter, unexpected events (e.g. \$40,000 heating oil overage due to price increases) resulted in shortfalls not always coverable with transfers. The Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Budget was drafted to compensate for these overages.
- The new Budget format clearly showed the largest facilities drain to be Corrective Maintenance (\$110,000 in deficit)—those breakdowns requiring immediate repairs to allow the School to remain open and safe.
- Transportation was \$99,399 in deficit, due to: an additional Special Education route, bus driver salary changes, an added local route due to overcrowded buses, and field trip expenses.
- The Administration asked for guidance and the following options were explored:
 - Time-consuming line-by-line examination for residuals would give minimal results (~\$1,500).
 - Freezing/delaying capital maintenance was possible but not recommended.
 - Mr. Manter suggested freezing all remaining line items including the student projects and returning all E & D to the Towns, however others protested their Towns would balk at a request for more funds when E & D was available.
 - E & D was healthy (~\$1,023,000) especially given the Feasibility Article failure. The situation fit E & D parameters as unexpected and/or emergency expenses. However, the new protocol (see 3/4/19 p.5 #C) would necessitate voted authorization at this meeting to comply with the 45 day mandated timeframe before the end of the fiscal year. Administration recommended this vote, to have the option in reserve pending end-of-year calculations (requesting only for current needs and emphasizing funds would not be spent if not necessary).
 - The MVRHSC requested earlier notification of the problems and possible quarterly transfers.
- Transportation was discussed at some length:
 - differing opinions on local share (additional routes) versus a regional district;
 - whether salary changes were “unexpected”;
 - Transportation Subcommittee discussions on: managing/limiting field trip budgets.

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- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO WITHDRAW \$229,730.86 FROM EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY TO COVER CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION LINES THAT ARE OVERSPENT; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 7 AYES, 2 NAYS—MR. LIONETTE, MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

E. Anticipated Bus Leases (See documents on file.)

The Transportation Subcommittee recommended one five-year lease-to-purchase in this year's bus replacement consignment. However, Massachusetts deemed such arrangements to be borrowing, requiring an annual vote. The lease payments were included in the FY20 Budget.

"VOTED: MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED AND MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED THAT THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAREBY APPROPRIATES \$95,497 TO PAY COSTS OF PURCHASING A NEW 2020 BLUE BIRD VISION 77 PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS FROM THE ANDERSON BLUE BIRD BUS SALES, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ALL COSTS INDIDENTAL OR RELATED THERETO; TO MEET THIS APPROPRIATION THE DISTRICT IS AUTORIZED TO BORROW SAID AMOUNT, THROUGH THE USE OF A LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT WITH TSV NATIONAL BANK, WHICH LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT SHALL HAVE TH ESAME FORCE AND EFFECT AS A BOND OR NOTE ISSUED UNDER AND PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW (M.G.L.) CHAPTER 71, SECTION 16(D), (M.G.L.) CHAPTER 44, SECTION 21(C), AND THE DISTRICT AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED OR PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER ENABLING AUTHORITY;

AND FURTHER VOTED: THAT WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THIS VOTE IS ADOPTED THE SECRETARY BE AND HEREBY IS INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY THE BOARDS OF SELECTMEN OF EACH OF THE MEMBER TOWNS OF THE DISTRICT AS TO THE AMOUNT AND GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE DEBT HEREIN AUTHORIZED, AS REQUIRED BY THE DISTRICT AGREEMENT AND BY M.G.L. CHAPTER 71, SECTION 16(D);" APPROVED: 7 AYES, 2 NAYS—MR. ROBERT LIONETTE, MR. SKIP MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT MATT D'ANDREA TO SIGN ALL BORROWING PAPERWORK; MS. KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The meeting was being coordinated with the State Legislative delegation to report on the new educational reform bill and Mr. Jim Shillinglaw to speak to the Project Headway evaluation.

B. Town Meeting Updates

The MVRHS FY20 Budget passed all five Annual Town Meetings but the Feasibility Study funding failed in Oak Bluffs.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Retirements/Resignation - None

B. Leave Requests (See documents on file & Minutes: 6/5/17 p.6 #B & 5/7/18 p.6 #X.)

There was a request to continue a 0.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) leave, which had been filled

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by alternating schedule and an expansion to 1.2 FTE through two 0.6 positions. The MVRHSC noted this resulted in two benefit packages.

• *MS. PACKER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF A 0.4 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ENGLISH TEACHER KATHRYN HENNIGAN FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR; MS. KIRK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Subcommittee Updates (See documents on file & Meetings/Events.) (Agenda Item #IX)

- Chair O'Brien thanked all Subcommittee members for their extra work and time.
- A Cape & Island Tennis & Track letter certified the track as useable with minor repairs that could be performed in-house. Consequently in the interest of transparency Facilities Director Mike Taus proposed spending \$10,000 originally committed to the track, on resurfacing the tennis courts (budget line - \$7,500). A complete tennis court crack resealing was quoted at \$23,000 but the \$17,500 would cover reasonable upkeep. A STRAW POLL VOTE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE ACTION 8 AYES, 1 NAY.
- Every Town had been contacted to send a representative to the Regional Agreement Subcommittee. Major issues would include:
 - the assessment formula, in particular capital vs. operations; and
 - how MVRHSC members were elected/appointed.

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #IX)

A. Varsity Club

(See documents on file & 4/1/19 Minutes p.5 #X.)

Mr. Joe Mikos of MV Youth Lacrosse and MV Youth Hockey introduced the Varsity Club, which was working with a professional group on developing a School-wide brand (colors and logo) for youth sports, to promote community and spirit among the 386 MVRHS varsity athletes and to unify the many booster clubs. The athletic brand would be separate from the current school seal. The 30-member Varsity Club was applying for non-profit 501c3 status and was working hard to include all sports and booster clubs for total buy-in. The MVRHSC:

- applauded Mr. Mikos for his hard work and acknowledged booster club funding (uniforms, etc.) that sustained the non-fee MVRHS athletic participation;
- protested some irregularities among booster clubs;
- requested input from as many clubs as possible;
- stressed that brand expansion to other activities/clubs (art, drama, etc.) would require more comprehensive input.

B. Music Festival Transportation Requests

(See below: Actions.)

Mr. Peter Sawyer requested usage of 40 MVRHS buses to shuttle patrons from designated parking to the August Music Festival/Concert Series. Other resources had been thoroughly explored including the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA), partnering with bicycle shops, etc. Term options included:

- rental (last rate \$65/hr. for the marathon) or a substantial donation;
- pledge to return buses in as good or better shape than received;
- insurance at the MVRHSC direction;

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- fuel – accept and return with a full tank;
- use and payment of MVRHS drivers—which might include overtime.
- The MVRHSC considered:
 - requesting all costs plus a fee;
 - public/private issues around the MVRHS as a charter bus company;
 - accounting procedures that separated transportation expenses and revenues;
 - alcohol related problems—the Festival would sell no alcohol and screen patrons closely;
 - State reimbursement requirements forbidding private leasing;
 - summer bus maintenance schedule;
 - MVRHS as a community resource and the many requests including non-profits, healthcare, etc.
- Prin. Dingley’s requested guidelines, fee schedule, vetting questions, etc.
- **MR. MANTER MOVED TO RESPECTFULLY REFUSE USE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUSES FOR PRIVATE USE; MS. KIRK SECONDED;**
- **MR. MANTER MOVED TO RESPECTFULLY REFUSE USE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUSES FOR THE BEACH ROAD MUSIC FESTIVAL; MS. KIRK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 8 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. LIONETTE; 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None (Agenda Item #X)

Executive Session – Not needed. (Agenda Item #IX)

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XII)

- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADJOURN 8:01PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

Appendix A - Meetings

- Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesday, May 14 & 28, 2019 - MVRHS LCR
- Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, Tuesday, May 14, 2019 - MVRHS LCR
- Regional Subcommittee – 12:00N, Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - TBA
- Building Committee – TBD
- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, June 3 & 24, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR**
- AISC – TBD 4:00PM, Thursday, June 6, 2019 MVRHS LCR
- Annual Town Meetings
 - Aquinnah – Tuesday, May 14, 2018

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Transportation Subcommittee – discuss field trip budget management.
- Supt. D’Andrea – ask counsel whether E & D vote was in violation of grass policy.
- Mr. Friedman – consider reporting possible large overages for quarterly transfer/management.
- Future Agenda Item:
 - School Resource Use Guidelines
 - *elect MVRHSC Clerk/Secretary (Recorder’s suggestion)*

continued >

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Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/6/19
- Sign In Sheet 5/6/19
- May meeting schedule
- MVRHS Students Place in Coding Competition MV Times excerpt (2 p.) 5/1/19
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School World Language Department letter re: trip
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Outdoor Track 4/25-27/19
- French Field Trip for French 3 Students 5/24/19
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (14 p.) 5/6/19
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2018-2019 5/6/19
- State Funded Grant, Fund Code 336: Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services
- Mass Humanities/Mass Cultural Council Grant
- Chauvin Memo re: Range Donation 6/5/19
- School Committee Vote
- E & D Transfer for Transportation
- MVRHS FY19 Expense Projections Salaries, Utilities, Maintenance, Transportation, 5/6/19
- Hennigan letter re: formal request for extension of leave
- Cape & Islands Tennis & Track letter re: Running Track Assessment 3/29/19
- Mikos/Vineyard Varsity Club letter

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kris O'Brien – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 6/3/19