

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 3, 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 representative (non-voting): Emily Gazzaniga,

Others: MVCS - Kim Garrison, Dukes County: Youth Commissioner Rebekah ElDeiry,

Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley, Vice Principal – Dhakir Warren, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, CTE Director – Barbara-jean Chauvin, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Special Ed Director – Hope MacLeod,

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

Students: Owen Engler, Noah Garcia,

Parents/ACROSS: Signe Benjamin, Suzy Cosgrave, Bill Engler, Paul Garvin, Lexi Holden, Ona Ignacio, Jen McHugh, Jeanne Rogers, Elaine Weintraub, Maureen Williams, Mary Yancy,

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, MVTV – Evgeny Mishchenko,

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 5:07PM.

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

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 5/6/19

• *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2019 MINUTES; MS. JANET PACKER AND MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Student Report

(Agenda Item #II)

Student representative Emily Gazzaniga reviewed the busy month of May.

- Advanced Placement tests ran from May 6th through the 16th.
- The Spring Minnesinger Concert was the 11th and 12th.
- Students worked all year on plants for the annual Horticulture Plant Sale May 11th – 15th. Later in the meeting MVRHSC members praised student knowledge, plant sophistication.
- Island Give Back Day was as successful this year as last (see: 5/7/18 Minutes p.2 #III B).
- The Prom took a lot of effort but was an amazing night.
- May 23rd was Smooth Transitioning To Ninth Grade (STING) (see 6/6/16 Minutes p.2 #B) and Honors Night. Final exams were last week and the last school day for seniors was May 24th with graduation June 9th (see below: Meetings/Events).
- Other school events included the Windermere Prom, participation in the Hospice Five Kilometer fundraiser, and an assembly with suicide survivor Mr. Craig Miller.

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- In sports:
 - Girls lacrosse was #1 in Division 2 with their first tournament game on Wednesday; Boys Lacrosse first tournament game would be Tuesday.
 - The Sailing Team was 11th in New England and won the Cape & Island team and fleet races.
 - MVRHS hosted the Track Championship and crushed the opposition.
 - Congratulations went to Ms. Mackenzie Condon, the first MVRHS student to be the All Female Interscholastic Athletic League All State Pentathlon Champion.
 - Baseball was 12 wins to 8 losses with a tournament game tomorrow.
 - Boys and Girls tennis were both 16 and 0.
- The MVRHSC congratulated all the students.

Student/Department Spotlight - None

(Agenda Item #III)

Public Comment (See documents on file & 5/6/18 Minutes p.2 #IV.) (Agenda Item #IV)
During this discussion many comments were greeted with applause, and Chair Kris O'Brien thanked each for their input.

- Ms. Suzy Cosgrave continued her previous protest on out-of-school suspension (OSS) citing:
 - MVRHS at double the 2018 State average and heading towards triple the State average in 2019;
 - research showing OSS to be ineffective and damaging;
 - best practice for use as a last resort or for emergency/violence/safety, only;
 - lower MVRHS MCAS scores and higher chronic absenteeism (see 6/4/18 Minutes p.4 #G);
 - OSS use dependent on School Principal attitudes.
- MVRHS Senior Mr. Owen Engler spoke passionately about his personal experience with OSS his profound hurt and anxiety disorder, the loss of his position as Class President for two years, his struggle and thoughtfulness in coming to terms with the situation, and finally his graduation ranking within the top 20 of his class. He suggested that other students might be less able to withstand such a strain. He also protested any enforced silence on the subject.
- Other comments included:
 - other parents relating OSS incidents for vaping and other non-violent infractions,
 - student descriptions of School atmosphere as punitive, blaming and jail-like;
 - OSS as divisive, exclusionary, humiliating and the importance of relationships to student life;
 - requests for prompt publication of data on MVRHS discipline;
 - establishing a learning goal for each disciplinary action.
- The Administration and School Advisory Council (SAC) listened to feedback and engaged in a healthy discussion resulting in proposed changes to the Student Handbook.
- The MVRHSC reviewed policy process. The Student Handbook was the day-to-day composite of procedures and protocols that implemented policy. The Handbook was evaluated and revised by the SAC, which started discussions in April and then brought changes before the MVRHSC for each year's August/September Handbook (see 7/9/18 Minutes p.1-2 #VI B & below: Tasks).
 - It was suggested the discussions be by the entire SAC rather than a subcommittee. Meetings were open and inclusive when large topics were being discussed.
 - SAC membership was elected (parents, teachers, community, students). It was suggested that student membership be a pool of 20 diverse students, all genders, including special needs.

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- Climate surveys (see AISC 3/25/19 Minutes p.3 #V) had been delayed by technical and customizing glitches but were expected to be rolled out this week. The four surveys (parents, instructional staff, non-instructional staff, students) would have a two week window and be compiled by the Department of Education (DOE), hopefully in time to inform the new school year. Public comments recommended heavy student promotion and strict confidentiality.
- Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith commended Ms. Cosgraves and Mr. Engler for their eloquence and courage. He emphasized Principal Sarah Dingley's openness to feedback and the difficulties of high school disciplinary issues—which were very different from elementary/middle schools. He suggested the process start with a non-publicized small group.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VII)

D. Response to Questions Regarding School Suspensions

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea agreed with much of what was said and reiterated the difficulties of student discipline requiring balance to promote an atmosphere of physical and emotional safety for a protected learning environment.

- He reviewed the context of the situation, starting with his stint as MVRHS Interim Principal (see 5/4/14 Minutes p.1) when he found students wandering halls during classes, leaving the building during the school day, constantly on their phones, congregating in bathrooms, etc. Consequently he had instructed Prin. Dingley to bring structure to the building. As a MVRHS student parent and as Superintendent he was pleased with the direction of the School.
 - In addition the nationwide vaping trend took the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) off guard and had to be addressed as a substance use affecting student performance and behavior.
 - Many studies on OSS did not support it as an effective tool, however his research had not yet included evaluation of the studies themselves. Each situation was highly individualized.
- Assistant Principal Dhakir Warren reviewed MVRHS OSS statistics showing about 60% related to controlled substance or juul/paraphernalia infractions (automatic OSS), with 27% related to behavioral incidents.
 - The MVRHS was working on educating students on substance use (posters, health and wellness, Catch-My-Breath, etc.). Other measures included recovery coaches, community service, conversations with pediatricians, embedded counselors, and so on. Students who asked for help were supported without punishment. Students on OSS were engaged throughout the day with community partnerships, coaching, etc. as well as one-on-one tutoring from 2:15-5:00PM.
 - Administration noted that perceived risk dissuaded behavior and suggested that those making decisions not to use were unknown or represented here; for example vaping on school grounds had been significantly reduced between the first and second semester.
 - Students with behavioral issues were usually subject to many, many interventions before OSS.
- Supt. D'Andrea agreed the MVRHS was underperforming and needed to do a better job academically. However he emphasized the importance of viewing the MVRHS report card through a more complete perspective.
 - MVRHS was performing in line with its cohorts on MCAS Student Growth statistics, the best indicator of school-wide evaluation (individual student evaluations should include other factors).
 - A major demographic increase of the English Language Learners (ELL) enrollment (see 11/5/18 Minutes p.3-4 #C) was affecting the English/Language Arts (E/LA) scores.

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- Math instruction was being adjusted to include a two-year track of extended algebra for better preparation from the eighth grade.
- The new policy on absenteeism (see 6/4/18 Minutes p. 5 #G) allowed better data and authentic conversations.
- When assessed against comparable schools (as opposed to all schools) MVRHS OSS rates were in the middle of the range.
- Supt. D'Andrea felt the discussion was helpful in spurring more thorough investigation and work on the issue. Ms. Cosgrave thanked the Administration and MVRHSC for their welcome and looked forward to continued work on the Handbook

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Special Education Update

Special Education Co-Director Hope MacLeod reported on the wonderful Unified Track, Bocce and baseball teams, thanking Mr. Bryan Kent for his hard work. MVRHS participation in the Special Olympics on Cape Cod was also a great success.

- Navigator Program students (see 6/4/18 Minutes p.2-3 #V A) were recognized at Honors Night.
- Partnering with the Culinary Department increased student restaurant and monetary skills.
- MVRHS was working with a consultant to increase co-teaching in all core areas for all years.

B. Career Technical Education (CTE) Update

- As reported in the press, MVYouth awarded trade scholarships to five MVRHS students in electrical and building technology, carpentry, nursing and aviation (see documents on file).
- The work on display was from Ms. Elspeth Todd's architectural class.
- The MVRHSC praised the Evening of the Arts, which included musical jamming, coffee houses, and interactive exhibits.
- The tenth grade would take the biology MCAS this week.
- Work/Study Mentorships and Cooping (working in the community trades) were being set up for next year and any community members wishing to participate could contact CTE Director Barbarajean Chauvin and/or download the application from the website.
- CTE was working with the Vineyard Gazette on a hallway photo display of people in Island trades.

C. Facilities Update

- Projects were scoped and hired, but delayed pending the 45-day Excess and Deficiency (E & D) waiting period and Special Town Meeting (STM) votes (See below: #VII C & Minutes: 3/25/19 p.1-2 #II & 5/6/19 p.4-5 #D).

D. School Trip Requests - None

E. Grass Policy – Second Reading

- *MS. KIRK MOVED THE SECOND RESCISSION OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRASS POLICY; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 6 AYES, 3 NAYS—MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN, MR. LIONETTE, MR. SKIPPER MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

At the next meeting Prin. Dingley would present a Department proposal to increase the math requirement from two to three years including: sequential algebra, geometry/pre-calculus, financial literacy, statistics, etc.

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Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

The Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget was briefly reviewed.

- Salary Increments and Benefits residuals should cover all deficits—including Substitutes.
- Athletics was expected to be fully expended—despite less winter sports junior varsity teams.
- A number of capital maintenance projects were on hold (see above #V C & below #VII C).
- Insurance lines were expected to be on budget pending Superintendent's Shared Services Office reimbursement.
- The Subcommittee continued working on Transportation costs pending final field trips and sports playoffs.

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file & below: #VII C.)

Massachusetts practice on calculating/paying Transportation reimbursement in an annual end-of-year lump complicated revenue management. There were no concerns about Town assessments, which were the bulk of MVRHS income (see below: Tasks).

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

• *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE TWO DONATIONS FROM THE SOUND FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT YOGA/MINDFULNESS:*

- *\$2,010 IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT SUMMER PROGRAM, AND*
- *THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL PROGRAM: \$21,700 FOR 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR AND \$21,200 FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR;*

MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

E. Revolving Funds for 6/3/19 (See documents on file.)

These Funds represented income generated by school programs (i.e. neither taxpayer nor student activities) for example the Health Assisting Fund to support the Department programs.

- The Cafeteria fund was usually in deficit from family debt and subsidy timing, in addition to a \$35,000 deficit from FY18. It was hoped that the deficit would be reduced by June 30th.
- The MVRHSC discussed the Performing Arts Center (PAC) charges for outside (private) use of the theater—revenues from student performances were returned to the General Fund:
- comparable summer rates for performance spaces;
- philosophical issues on charging families to watch student performances and sports events;
- calculation of PAC operational, maintenance and wear-and-tear costs;
- see below: Tasks.

D. Student Activities – Annual Update – Tabled

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VII)

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

The long agenda included State Representative Dylan Fernandes, and Consultant Jim Shillinglaw.

B. Non-Union Salary Adjustments (See documents on file.)

This year Supt. D'Andrea was comfortable with a 2% raise across-the-board about \$12,000 under the designated pool. There was a suggestion to increase the salary of MVRHS Finance

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Manager Mark Friedman. The MVRHSC commended his excellent, specialized work presented with clarity and concision.

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 MANAGEMENT AND NON-UNION SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AS PROPOSED WITH THE CONDITION THAT FINANCE MANAGER MARK FRIEDMAN'S SALARY BE REVIEWED WITH A VIEW TO AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

C. Town Meetings Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Votes

(See documents on file & above #V C & Minutes: 3/25/19 p.1-2 #II & 5/6/19 p.4-5 #D).

Aquinnah, Chilmark and West Tisbury STMs on the E & D votes were set for June. If all three Towns rejected the requests, the following projects could be postponed until FY20 (vetted/recommended by the Facilities Subcommittee as presenting neither urgent nor safety/health issues):

- \$40,000 for clouded (but safe) exterior window replacement;
 - \$43,000 for domestic hot water;
 - \$48,000 for cafeteria equipment,
 - \$7,000 for flagpole replacement,
 - \$50,000 for horticulture facility partial demolition,
 - \$36,000 for athletic field fertilizer/reseeding.
- Mr. Manter spoke at length against cutting maintenance lines to compensate for overspending the budget. Administrators reminded the MVRHSC that this proposal was to due to corrective maintenance spending that was previously unknown/untracked. The ensuing discussion covered:
- MVRHSC vote to expand FY19 ELL staff (see 11/5/18 Minutes p.3-4 #C);
 - management of the large MVRHS facility (35 bathrooms) and Budget (\$22,000,000);
 - horticulture facility demolition as an instructional expense;
 - proposal to cut other lines such as instruction, supplies, etc.—Supt. D'Andrea refused to eliminate teacher pay for the remainder of FY19;
 - Administrative ordered freezes on a number of items;
 - Budget Subcommittee quarterly oversight and transfer recommendations;
 - difficulties of tight budgeting 18 months before final implementation;
 - use of Circuit Breaker funds as legal but not recommended—due to spending parameters and probable FY20 shortfall.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Retirements/Resignation (See documents on file.)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH APPRECIATION OF THEIR SERVICE:*
- *THE RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JEREMY LIGHT FROM HIS HISTORY TEACHER POSITION AT THE END OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR;*
- *THE RESIGNATION OF MATHEMATICS TEACHER MARGARET D'ANGELO AT THE END OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR;*
- *THE RETIREMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ANNE NEVIN AT THE END OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR;*

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- *THE AMENDED RETIREMENT DATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL BONNIE TILTON JACKSON TO JUNE 30, 2019;*
MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Subcommittee Reports - Tabled (Agenda Item #IX)

Old/New Business (Agenda Item #X)

The second MVRHSC meeting in June would include reorganization and budget transfers.

A. Surplus Bus

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER TO DISPOSE OF THE SURPLUS 2008 CHEVY BUS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE DISTRICT; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 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. PACKER MOVED TO ADJOURN 7:35PM; MS. MEGAN ANDERSON AND MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

Appendix A - Meetings

~~AISC – 4:00PM, Thursday, June 6, 2019 MVRHS LCR TBD~~

• **Graduation – 1:30PM, Sunday, June 9, 2019 at the Tabernacle**

~~MVRHSC Auditor's Meeting – 4:00PM, Monday, June 10, 2019 – MVRHS LCR TBD~~

• **Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - MVRHS LCR**

~~Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, Tuesday, June 18, 2019 – MVRHS LCR~~

• **Regional Subcommittee – TBD**

• **Building Committee – TBD**

• **MVRHSC - 3:00PM, Monday, June 24, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR**

• **Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesday, June 25, 2019 - MVRHS LCR**

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Administration/Office – cc the MVRHSC on SAC agendas and final minutes.
- Budget/Facilities Subcommittees – review/revise building use fees (including PAC).
- Mr. Friedman – research Tisbury \$7,700 assessment variance.
- Future Agenda Item:
 - School Resource Use Guidelines

continued >

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Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/3/19
- Sign In Sheet 6/3/19
- June meeting schedule
- Massachusetts School and District Profiles Martha's Vineyard Regional High (4 p.) 6/3/19
- Addressing the Out-Of-School Suspension Crisis: A Policy Guide for School Board Members April 2013 (18 p.)
- MVRHS ELA (All Students) ...
 - MVRHS Out of School Suspensions (All Students 2018-2019)
- MVYouth Awards Over \$200,000 MV Times article (2 p.) 5/29/19
- MVYouth Awards Workforce Scholarships Vineyard Gazette article (2 p.) 5/23/19
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (13 p.) 6/3/19
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2018-2019 6/3/19
- Sound Foundation Yoga Grant 2019-20 & 2020-2021 Edgartown School 4/29/19
- Sound Foundation Grant for Summer School Program
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Revolving Funds – Update through June 3, 2019
- MVRHS Possible Reductions
- D'Andrea/ Superintendent of Schools memo re: Management and Non-Union Salary Adjustments 6/3/19
- Light email re: Resignation 6/3/19
- D'Angelo email re: Notification of Resignation 5/11/19
- Nevin email re: Retirement 5/22/19
- Jackson letter re: Revised Retirement Notification 5/29/19

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kris O'Brien – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 6/24/19