

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, August 5, 2019, 5:00PM

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

Library Conference Room

Present: Chair: Kimberly Kirk, Janet Packer, Robert Lionette, Kathryn Shertzer, Amy Houghton, Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman

Others: Principal's Office – Sara Dingley, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman

Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Amy Tierney

Visitors: ACROSS – Suzy Cosgrave, Beka Eldierry

Town of Oak Bluffs, Finance Committee – Maura McGroarty

Recorder – Richie Smith

*Late arrivals or early departures

Press: MVTV – Lynn Fraker

MV Times – Lucas Thors

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order by Chair Kimberly Kirk.

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

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 7/1/19

• *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 1, 2019 MINUTES; MOTION SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS.*

Student Report - None

(Agenda Item #II)

Student/Department Spotlight - None

(Agenda Item #III)

Public Comment - None

(Agenda Item #V)

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Code of Conduct (See documents on file)

- Contents of Code of Conduct had been reviewed and informed through MVRHS School Advisory Council (SAC) input. Sara Dingley requested that school committee review the Code of Conduct revisions.

- Amy Houghton asked Sara Dingley to explain the process conducted by SAC that led to the revisions. Sara Dingley described wide stakeholder input regarding the MVRHS School Improvement Plan (SIP). A goal of the SIP was the review of the student handbook. Sara Dingley explained that SAC spent the bulk of the year on review and revisions of the student handbook.

- Sara Dingley and MVRHS, through the SAC, had a goal of reducing student disciplinary incidences.

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- Amy Houghton asked Sara Dingley to clarify if vaping was a Class C offense. Sara Dingley responded affirmatively and added that the vaping trend has seen a reduction.
- Amy Houghton expressed, in the context of Class C, the word “major” is a difficult word to define. Sara Dingley responded by explaining that the Code of Conduct is meant as a set of guidelines.
- Required by MA DESE and discretion is built into the document.
- Amy Houghton asked Sara Dingley what is the plan to ensure for clarity among parents and students regarding sports participation and the Code of Conduct. Sara Dingley replied that venues such as back to school nights, sports nights for parents and students, and Mentor Mondays will support students in their understanding. These platforms have been used in the past to address harassment. Sara Dingley added that the website will reflect revisions to the student handbook, including public service announcements regarding vaping, “etc.”.
- Kimberly Kirk expressed that bullying, hazing, and harassment, as written in the MIAA handbook should be added to the code of conduct guidelines. Sara Dingley said that she would add this. Kimberly Kirk continued that bullying, hazing, and harassment appear to have lesser consequences in the code of conduct. She would like to see that addressed with a response. She also expressed that hazing should be crafted in the code of conduct to have a more direct link to athletics.

B. Data Review

- Sara Dingley reported that chronic absenteeism as reported by MA DESE has declined from 25%-14% from the previous school year.
- Skipper Manter highlighted p. 18. Regarding permission to park, Skipper Manter believes this section should be stated as “during the school day”. Skipper Manter also suggested that a violation of the Junior Operator License (JOL), which allows only family members to be transported under the license, should result in a suspension of parking privileges. Sara Dingley will speak with SRO Seidler regarding Skipper’s suggestion.
- Beka Eldeiry requested that the first incident of vaping should result in 1 day of suspension rather than 3. Sara Dingley responded, stating that many individuals who advised the code of conduct revisions were in support of a 3 day suspension for such an incident.
- Beka Eldeiry went on to ask if the vaping material could be tested to determine the contents as the specific contents might alter the level of consequences. Sara Dingley responded that this would be particularly challenging to do. Sara Dingley would like to see the outcomes of the consequences as outlined in the code of conduct.
- *AMY HOUGHTON MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT AS WRITTEN WITH MODIFICATIONS IN PAGES 1-34 REGARDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE MIAA AND PAGE 18 REGARDING THE AFOREMENTIONED STUDENT PARKING REVISIONS. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SKIPPER MANTER. MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES (KIRK, PACKER, HOUGHTON, MANTER, ACKERMAN, SCHERZER), 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS (PACKER, LIONETTE)*

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Financial Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Grants/Donations

- Mark Freidman provided a summary of the donations under tab 5 of the financial report.
- *KIMBERLY KIRK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DONATIONS. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KATHRYN SCHERZER. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Student Activities

- Mark Friedman wished to revisit and finish the discussion regarding the student activities account. Three standing deficits needed to be addressed as reflected in the 6/24/19 student activities report.
- Robert Lionette asked where would we receive the balance of the unused field trip funds. Mark Friedman replied that all funds are external to the budget.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO TRANSFER THE FUNDS TO THE THREE STANDING DEFICITS. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROBERT LIONETTE. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION.*

- Skipper Manter also requested that we look into getting the balances from the Classes of 2013 and 2017. Mark Friedman replied that we are not allowed to hold onto balances of funds once a class graduates.

- Amy Houghton asked if it was possible to use graduating class balances to cover deficits. Mark Friedman answered – no.

- Skipper Manter asked why can't the class decide before graduating to transfer their balance to another deficit? Mark Friedman will look into this and report.

C. FY19 Financial Closeout Update

- Mark Friedman updated the closure of FY19 and announced that the audit will occur 8/12/19. This will allow for an improved budgeting process.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. All-Island School Committee

B. Bus Lease

- Matt D'Andrea reported that MVRHS school committee voted in May 2019 to lease to own a Blue Bird bus. This legally means that MVRHS would incur debt. This compelled the issue to go before town meeting if towns chose to do so. Special Town Meetings were held in three towns; Aquinnah, Chilmark, and West Tisbury. Aquinnah and West Tisbury did not reach a necessary quorum to conduct their meetings. Chilmark voted down the bus lease. In light of this, Matt D'Andrea offered the following options for moving the issue forward.

Option 1 was to repeat the process

Option 2 was to conduct a 5 year lease on this bus and plan to lease to own 5 additional new buses approved through annual town meetings and at the same time, shift the 5 year lease of the original bus to the same lease to own plan of the five additional buses at annual town meeting. A lease to own does incur debt, while a straight lease does not.

- Skipper Manter asked are we circumventing Chilmark's wishes? Matt D'Andrea responded by saying we need the bus/buses.

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- Skipper Manter asked if the first bus is for the Charter School, why don't they lease it? Kimberly Kirk responded by saying that this was looked at in the Transportation Sub-committee and both Kimberly Kirk and Skipper Manter agreed that MVRHS tax dollars are not paying for the lease of the first bus.
- Robert Lionette expressed that he does not believe the initial presentation to the broader community had enough detail. The Transportation Sub-committee wished to accelerate the bus refresh process but that is not what happened in the planning.
- Matt D'Andrea responded with nothing was decided in the Transportation Sub-committee so we have now approached the larger committee with the lease to own plan.
- Kimberly Kirk requested that at the next Transportation Sub-committee this process is reviewed and a determination is made of our present condition and the sub-committee will report this to the larger committee.
- Kathryn Shertzer asked if changing the lease of the first bus to a lease to own cost additional dollars. Matt D'Andrea replied "no".
- Amy Houghton said the Charter School needs to have transportation for their children.
- *AMY HOUGHTON MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEED TO LEASE A BUS FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOL. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JANET PACKER. VOTE: 5 – 0 – 2. 5 AYES (PACKER, ACKERMAN, KIRK, SHERTZER, HOUGHTON), 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS (LIONETTE AND MANTER).*

C. Fall-Island Finance Committee Update

- Matt D'Andrea announced updates on topics discussed at the 7/10 and 7/31 All-Island Finance Committee meetings regarding the regional agreement funding formula for MVRHS. In the context of MSBA, towns must work together regarding the rejected \$1.4 million MVRHS feasibility study.

The input of MVRHS school committee is valuable. Matt D'Andrea encouraged school committee members to attend the 8/28/19 All-Island Finance Committee meeting at the MVRHS LCR at 6:00PM.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Resignations

- Matt D'Andrea announced the resignation of MVRHS ESP, Robert Culbert to accept a teaching position in the MVPS and Debra Silva, Health Assisting teacher. Additionally, Jessica Estrella resigned in order to transition to a new position.
- *KIMBERLY KIRK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS WITH GRATITUDE. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY AMY HOUGHTON. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Sub-Committee Updates

(Agenda Item #VIII)

- Skipper Manter provided a report of the Facilities Sub-committee. A contract was signed with Daedalus to be the OPM. 8/9/19 Review of qualified design architects. Top three candidates will interview on 8/21/19 beginning at 10:00AM. This will generate the design architect for the track and field project.

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- Skipper Manter updated the use of \$26K out of the corrective maintenance line to address a repair of the HVAC in the Performing Arts Center (PAC).
- Skipper Manter – asked who will consider and lead the fundraising phase of the track and field project? Amy Houghton replied that MVRHS will not lead this. She also asked what is the facility use fee for the PAC and does this discussion stay in the Facility Sub-committee?
- Kimberly Kirk replied yes. Mark Friedman is working on a list of up to date facility use fees.
- Robert Lionette requested a new list of sub-committee memberships. Mark Friedman will address requests for membership and a calendar of sub-committee meetings.

Public Comment – None (Agenda Item #IX)

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

Executive Session – None (Agenda Item #XI)

Adjournment

SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:25PM.. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROBERT LIONETTE; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Respectfully submitted,

Richie Smith – Asst. Supt.

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 9/9/19