

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 24, 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*, Skipper Manter*, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer, Student representatives (non-voting): Emily Gazzaniga,
- Others: Sue McGroarty, MVCS – Julie Faye, South Mountain – Ryan Bushey
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley, Vice Principals – Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren, CTE Director – Barbarajean Chauvin, Special Ed Director – Hope MacLeod, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Nell Coogan, Matt Malowski, Erin Slossberg,
- Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith, Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,
- SAC: Beka ElDeiry,
- PTSO/Parents: Lynn Blake, Catherine Coogan, Geoghan Coogan, Suzy Cosgrave, Jennifer Cutrer, Alexis Holder, Nika Mone,
- Fin. Com. Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,
- Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Holly Pretsky
MVTV – Heidi Carter,
- Secretary: Marni Lipke* *Late arrivals or early departures (see * in text)

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 3:06PM. Chair Kris O’Brien took the agenda out of order to accommodate members with other commitments.

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

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes 6/3/19

- *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2019 MINUTES; MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Student Report - None

(Agenda Item #II)

Student/Department Spotlight

(Agenda Item #III)

The MVRHSC roundly applauded the Baseball team, who received the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award (out of 300 State teams) at Fenway Stadium. Congratulations also went to Girls Tennis for their fifth straight State Championship, and Boys Tennis for advancing well into the finals.

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Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

E. Grass Policy – Third Reading (See documents on file.)

- *MS. KIMBERLY KIRK MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL RESCISSION OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRASS POLICY; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 6 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

- * Ms. Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:13PM.

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

B. Revenue Report - Tabled

E. Budget Transfers – Vote (See documents on file.)

- Final Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) variances were reviewed. The largest overages were:
 - Substitute line items (Regular, Special Education (SpEd), Professional Development (PD))
 - Title One revenues dip in FY19 (usual year to year fluctuation);
 - Custodian Overtime/Substitutes due to some prolonged absences (offset savings in Custodial Salaries);
 - School Committee Secretary due to the high number of meetings;
 - Audit Expenses, now including proportion of Dukes County OPEB Trust audit;
 - Conferences & Workshops;
 - Advanced Placement (AP) testing (313 student tests up from 259)—revenue reported separately;
 - County Retirement and related costs;
 - (Athletics placeholder—still undetermined due to play off expenses);
 - Separation costs due to more retirements than budgeted—might extend into FY20;
 - Insurance (vehicle), plus a \$5,597 vehicle insurance bill received within the hour (identified as new and old bus changes—see below: Actions);
 - Student Cafeteria debt – often now on Free and Reduced, recovered as possible—must be transferred from actual funds (not Revolving Lunch fund).
 - The MVRHSC discussed the transfers in terms of:
 - “deficit” spending in set lines;
 - the impact of the new Excess and Deficiency (E & D) policy (see 3/4/19 Minutes p.5 #C);
 - whether transfers should be voted quarterly as lines shifted around or discussed and updated as was currently done and then voted as a summary at the end of the fiscal year;
 - increased level of transparency and line item specificity complicating the budget process.
 - E & D was reviewed including maintenance projects funding, already expended (see 5/6/19 Minutes p.4-5 #D). The Superintendent’s Office Feasibility Study residual was in process of being returned to the Towns (see 3/25/19 Minutes p.3).
 - *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE:*
 - *THE TRANSFERS AS REQUESTED, AND*
 - *THE TRANSFER FROM ACTUAL FUNDS TO CAFETERIA DEBT, AND*
 - *ANY OTHER RESIDUALS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE INSURANCE DEFICIT;*
- MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 7 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GREAT GRATITUDE:*
- *LINDA M CHAPMAN INNOVATION GRANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENTS SHARED SERVICES OFFICE FOR DISTRIBUTION AS FOLLOWS:*
 - \$450.87 EDGARTOWN SCHOOL INDOOR GARDEN,*
 - \$298.21 TO WEST TISBURY SCHOOL FOR THE ISLAND GROWN SCHOOLS MONTHLY READINGS;*
- *MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DIAMOND CLUB FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW VARSITY SOFTBALL FIELD/PROGRAM SCORE BOARD; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VII)

B. Town Meeting Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Votes

- Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Manter objected that Towns were improperly notified of the E & D vote because the notification did not originate from the MVRHS Treasurer. The Towns were notified by the Superintendent's Office, which included the Treasurer and the objection was considered a distinction without a difference.

C. Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) Lease (See documents on file & Minutes: 5/1/17 p.2-3 #IX B & 1/8/18 & p.2 #IX & 3/5/18 p.2-3 #IX B.)

- Plans for the new MVCS campus were displayed to show the location of the requested extension of the existing easement (not new road construction) to give access to the western end of the new campus. The MVRHSC considered:
 - increased traffic concerns;
 - Island Elderly Housing, notifications, objections and MVCS cooperation to improve safety;
 - 1980 vote which exempted the MVRHSD from any liability or financial cost;
 - submission to the Oak Bluffs Planning Board this Thursday, June 27th.
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO GRANT MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING EASEMENT; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED; 6 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Mr. Manter had no objections to the extension only to the manner of notifications.
- Attorneys had determined that a new lease and was required in view of a 1980's vote. The complex request would be reviewed by Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) counsel.
 - The MVRHSC were hesitant to authorize any lease without seeing the final version and also to revoke the old lease without having a new lease in place.
 - In recent discussions over the Regional Agreement, Oak Bluffs representatives raised the issue of possible rental revenue from organizations on MVRHSD property, to compensate for loss of real estate taxes. The lease provided for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) and rent without specifying an amount.
- *MS. PACKER MOVED TO REVOKE THE OLD LEASE BETWEEN MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TO APPROVE THE NEW LEASE; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION WITHDRAWN.*

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

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #X)

A. Reorganization of School Committee Sub-Committees

- Chair Kris O'Brien thanked the MVRHSC for the honor of serving them for two terms.
- *MS. HOUGHTON NOMINATED MS. KIMBERLY KIRK AS CHAIR; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MS. KIRK ACCEPTED; THERE BEING NO OTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; NOMINATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. ACKERMAN NOMINATED MS. AMY HOUGHTON AS VICE CHAIR; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MS. HOUGHTON ACCEPTED; THERE BEING NO OTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; NOMINATIONS PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY—MS. HOUGHTON, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #IV)

- Oak Bluffs Finance Committee representative Ms. Maura McGroarty thanked Mr. Manter for raising the Oak Bluffs concerns on MVCS rent.
- As a former MVRHS student and current parent Mr. Geoghan Coogan spoke to the positive outcome from the current administration's policies, noting the substantial progress from the punitive suspension/detention measures from his student days. He voiced the parental goal of great education but also of instilling a level of decency and civility, as well as his own views on enforcing responsibility and consequences for his children's actions. He also praised the civil and positive discussions at the School Advisory Council (SAC).

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #X)

C. Meeting Agenda Format

There was a debate focusing on the Public Comment agenda item.

- If the Chair knew of intended public comments beforehand they could be listed as sub-items.
- Generally the MVRHSC was limited to hearing but not discussing Public Comment.
- It was suggested the agenda include whether an item required a vote.
- In some Committees public comment was restricted to comments on listed agenda items—in which case it might be better placed towards the end of an agenda and it was not a means of introducing new agenda topics.
- In the last 20 years, MVRHSC focus on Public Comment had been rare.
- It was important to understand proper venue for issues, for example the SAC was the correct venue for day-to-day school issues.
- The MVRHSC was an action body, and it was proposed that Sub-Committee reporting be moved towards the start of the meeting.
- Having public comment at the beginning of the agenda was a courtesy to visitors, many of whom had left by the end of the meeting.

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Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Special Education (SpEd) Evaluation Update (See documents on file.)

Originally this was to be a progress report on implementation of Jim Shillinglaw's Report (see 6/4/18 Minutes p.2-4 #V C), however packed MVRHSC agendas had postponed the update and curtailed its length. The MVRHSC apologized for the delay and commended and thanked Special Education Director Hope MacLeod for the user-friendly documents.

- The documents showed each recommendation, an action outline, responsible staff, timeframe and status. For example, the reading program was mostly completed although some actions were still being rolled out. In thinking outside of the box the Department was instituting very small, specialized reading instruction outside of the school day.
- The MVRHS submitted its Tiered Focused Management (previously Coordinated Program Review) on-line self-assessment to Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and there would be a site visit next year.
- Last year the Department instituted parent surveys as part of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. There were 41 respondents (45%) out of the 167 surveys mostly positive. The surveys included 11 comments—the most useful part, 5 of which were constructive if slightly negative, and only one very negative.
- Professional Development (PD) funds were included in the budget and Student Support Co-Directors, Ms. Nancy Dugan and Ms. MacLeod planned what to provide for the coming year: on-line, on-site consultations, and compliance requirements.
- Many of the initiatives were ongoing programs that would not be “completed” and other Department work included: District accommodation plan, child guidance, identifying and supporting students, etc.
- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea emphasized the importance of following up on consultation recommendations (e.g. MedStar, Shillinglaw, Synergy). He also praised the Co-Director team for keeping in line with compliance and benefiting the Schools, parents and District.

B. Facilities Update

Later in the meeting, Facilities Director Mike Taus briefly noted, locker work in the gym, ongoing hot water system upgrades, and custodial cleaning schedule. At least five MVPS programs were keeping the campus very busy this summer.

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #X)

* Ms. Ackerman, Ms. Kimberly Kirk and Mr. Manter left the meeting between 4:32 - 4:38PM at which point quorum was lost.

A. Reorganization of School Committee Sub-Committees

B. Schedule for School Committee & Sub-Committees (See below: Meetings/Events.)

- Facilities – Ms. Packer, Ms. Kirk, Mr. Robert Lionette, Mr. Manter, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Houghton – Alternate,
- Transportation – Ms. Kirk, Mr. Lionette, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Packer,
- Land Use – Ms. Megan Anderson, Mr. Manter, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Packer, Ms. Kathryn Shertzer,
- Budget – Ms. Anderson, Mr. Lionette, Mr. Manter, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Packer, Ms. Ackerman observing,

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- Regional Agreement – Ms. Houghton, Mr. Lionette, Ms. O'Brien,
Town representatives: Aquinnah – appointee declined to come, Edgartown – Mr. Art Smadbeck, Oak Bluffs – Mr. William Vrooman, Tisbury – Mr. Jonathon Snyder (Ms. Mary Ellen Larsen?), West Tisbury - Mr. Manter,
- Building Committee meetings were impractical until Regional Agreement issues were resolved. The MVRHSC discussed the Budget and Regional Agreement Sub-committees' work and frequency of meetings.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

D. Student Activities Annual Update (See documents on file.)

The report was very similar to FY18. Some deficits or residuals were timing issues such as the current balance in the Class of 2019 account, which would be greatly diminished as invoices continued to be submitted.

- The Business Education Club advisor was aware of the \$708 deficit due to DECA conference expenses (see 3/4/19 Minutes p.3 #V A) and planned to cover it through fundraising this fall.
 - The Close Up Trips (see 4/4/05 Minutes p.1 #II) showed a deficit from: not only discontinued trips but also the policy change requiring two chaperones on all overnight trips (see 11/2/09 Minutes p. 4 #IX A).
 - General Fund account was bank fees (bounced checks, etc.). Treasurer Mary Lee Schroeder successfully advocated with the Bank for better interest rates, which should cover the overage.
 - Class of 2013 and 2017 accounts had small deficits. Usually such accounts had small residuals, which were returned to the Class officers. The MVRHSD was custodian to these accounts but otherwise had no authority. The MVRHSC requested the Administration start conversations with class officers on contributing any residuals to the next class account.
 - MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFERS FROM THE FIELD TRIP LINE TO COVER THE FOLLOWING STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT DEFICITS:
 - \$88.95 CLASS OF 2013,
 - \$204.50 CLASS OF 2017,
 - \$935.26 CLOSE UP TRIPS,
- THERE WAS NO SECOND AND IT WAS DISCOVERED THE MEETING NOW LACKED QUORUM.

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

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

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XII)

The meeting adjourned at 5:12PM.

Appendix A - Meetings

- Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesday, June 25, 2019 - MVRHS LCR
- AISC – 5:00PM, Tuesday, June 25, 2019 MVRHS LCR

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Appendix A - Meetings (cont.)

- **MVRHSC Auditor's Meeting - 4:00PM, Monday, July 1, 2019 - MVRHS LCR**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, August 5, 2019 - Location TBD (Handbook)**
- Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - MVRHS LCR
- Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR
- Budget Subcommittee – 8:00 AM – Thursdays
 - August 22, 2019
 - September 19, 2019
 - October 10, 2019
 - November 7, 2019
 - December 5, 2019
- Regional Subcommittee – 9:15AM, Thursdays:
 - August 22, 2019
 - September 19, 2019
 - October 24, 2019
 - November 21, 2019
- Building Committee – TBD
- **MVRHSC Budget Hearing – Monday, November 25, 2019 - PAC**
- **MVRHSC Budget Certification– Monday, December 2, 2019 - PAC**

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Mr. Friedman – research/follow up on vehicle insurance invoice
- Mr. Friedman/Administration – contact Class officers re: passing Class account residuals to next class.
- Chair/Ms. Warburton – *possible* agenda format changes:
 - I. Minutes
 - A. School Committee Minutes 6/3/19 (Vote)
 - IV. Public Comment (Information/Discussion)
 - A. Suspensions
 - B. Other Comments
 - V. Principal's Report
 - A. Special Education (SpEd) Evaluation Update (Information/Discussion)

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/24/19
- Sign In Sheet 6/24/19
- MVRHS Grass Policy 6/3/19
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (14 p.) 6/3/19
- Linda M. Chapman Innovation Grants
- Mello/Gibb-Diamond Club letter
- MVRHS FY19 Year-End Requested Year-End Budget Transfers & Actual Cafeteria Transfer (2 p.) 6/24/19

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Appendix C - Documents on File (cont.):

- MVRHS Student Activities as of 6/24/19 (2 p.)
- MVRHS Special Education Program Evaluation by James Shillinglaw Jan. 2018, Action Plan May 30, 2018 December 28, 2018, April 1, 2019 (7 p.)
- Reading Task Force Recommendations to the School Committee 11/30/18, #3 Identifying and Intervening When a Student Is at High Risk for Reading Difficulties (3 p.)
- MVRHS Special Education – Snapshot SY 2018-2019
- Silva resignation letter: 6/11/19
- Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2018, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts In the One Hundred and Nineteenth General Court...re: MVRHS/MVCS land parcel. 12/31/18
- Exhibit B (2 p.)
- Meeting Calendar Draft 2019-2020

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kris O'Brien – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 10/7/19