

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, September 9, 2019, 5:00PM**  
**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School**  
**Library Conference Room**

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman\*, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Kris O’Brien, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer, Student representatives (non-voting): Zachary Smith

Others: Peter Palches,  
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,  
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs, Barbarajean Chauvin - CTE Director  
Special Ed Director – Hope MacLeod, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman,  
Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Ryan Kent,

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

Fin. Coms: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Mary Ellen Larsen,  
West Tisbury – Doug Ruskin,

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

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 5:06PM. Chair Kimberly Kirk declared a moment of silence in memory of the tragic loss of Senior Davin Tackabury.

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

**Minutes**

(Agenda Item #I)

**A. School Committee Minutes: 8/5/19 & 8/27/19**

• *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 5, 2019 AND AUGUST 27, 2019 MINUTES; MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. KRIS O’BRIEN FROM THE AUGUST 5, 2019* due to absence. Recorder Ms. Marni Lipke was welcomed back after a summer absence.

**Student/Department Spotlight** (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #III)

The MVRHS was designated a National Banner School in recognition of its unified sports program (see 5/7/18 Minutes p.5 #C) in basketball, track and bocce signifying the work to embrace differences and create a world more acceptable to all with impressive determination. The notification letter celebrated the MVRHS and urged the School to continue the push. The MVRHSC applauded the award and the staff. The program had previously been unbudgeted with costs in: stipends for coaches, supplies (purchased last year) and travel. Grant opportunities were noted (see below: Tasks).

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

2

**Principal's Report**

(Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Opening of School**

Principal Sarah Dingley reported on the challenging school opening,

- The loss of Mr. Tackabury was a weight on the senior class. the Riverside Trauma Center would hold a forum on loss and suicide (see below: Meetings/Events).
- Last minute accommodations for the Tisbury School students (grades five through eight)—who began classes today, September 9th. The Tisbury students were greeted by the class leaders and so far the transition was going smoothly. The MVRHSC acknowledged Administration's hard and staff's work in instigating and managing the shift.

**B. New Staff** (See documents on file.)

The MVRHS had a large number of new staff including positions in Special Education English/Language Arts (E/LA) and History, Compass, Voyager, English Language Learners (ELL), Health, Social Studies, Guidance, Algebra, Culinary Arts/Cafeteria, E/LA, Portuguese, the front office, food service and custodians.

**C. School Advisory Council (SAC) Schedule** - See documents on file.

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

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE:*

- *THE FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL TO MYSTIC VALLEY, RHODE ISLAND AND THEN OVERNIGHT TO BRYANT UNIVERSITY, RHODE ISLAND SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2019; AND*
  - *25 STUDENTS WITH TEACHERS TO TRAVEL TO TRINITY REPERTORY THEATRE IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND ON APRIL 28, 2020;*
- MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

\* Ms. Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:20PM.

**E. Coop with Charter School**

**F. 8th Grade Waivers**

Athletic Director Mark McCarthy requested sports waivers, explaining the two forms:

- coop - authorizing two-year slots to another high school, in this case the Martha's Vineyard Charter School, and
  - mid-level – authorizing one-year slots to be filled by middle school grades.
- Girls Cross Country requested a coop waiver: usual team size about 15 (to account for injuries and absences) with a minimum requirement of seven, nine were currently signed up. (For the last four years the MVRHS had a successful swim team coop waiver with the Charter School.) The Tisbury School although temporarily in the building was still a separate school and the Department did not see much interest among Island middle school students.
  - *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A COOP-WAIVER WITH THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE GIRLS TRACK TEAM; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
  - Last year the middle schools supplied cheerleading to the MVRHS including the unified sports games, since the School had no team of its own. This year a mid-level waiver (and later in the meeting a coop waiver) was requested to fill out the MVRHS students for varsity games only.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

**3**

Cheerleaders would travel separately and would not go on overnight trips. The current configuration was five middle school and seven MVRHS students.

- Middle School cheerleading students graduating into high school usually moved into the wider choice of sports (soccer, field hockey, etc.)

- The Touchdown Club funded uniforms, etc. the MVRHS funded travel expenses.

- This was a not a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) sport; (nor were sailing teams—as only present in coastal town schools).

- Cheerleaders would be subject to all the Handbook and Athletic Department regulations on behavior, chemical infractions, etc.

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A MID-LEVEL WAIVER FOR THE CHEERLEADING TEAM; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 3 NAYS—MS. KIRK, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER; 1 ABSTENTION—MS. ACKERMAN.* A little later in the meeting:

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A COOP-WAIVER WITH THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE CHEERLEADING TEAM; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS—MS. KIRK, MR. LIONETTE, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. ACKERMAN.*

**G. Career Technical Education (CTE) Update**

• The CTE exploratory was fully enrolled with interest stabilizing at ~153 students.

• CTE Director Barbarajean Chauvin instituted a pre-apprenticeship week later in September with 30 hrs. of credit towards a Laborer's Apprenticeship Program. The program would include a full week of all day programs including Wednesday travel to New England Labor Center. About 15 students signed up— the program was capped at 20; Compass and Voyager students would participate to the greatest extent they were able.

• Contrary to expectations one of the automotive lifts failed inspection and would have to be replaced at \$6,000 for the lift and installation, plus \$2,000 for ancillary electrical work. Resources were being explored with safety as a priority, through the Perkins Grant and by reviewing/postponing other equipment needs.

**H. Special Education Update**

Special Education Director Hope McLeod congratulated and thanked Mr. Ryan Kent for unified sports and the Banner School award, and encouraged all to attend the season's basketball games.

• The new Voyager program (see Minutes: 6/5/18 p.2-3 #V A & 11/5/18 p.4-5 #D) was fashioned to dovetail with community and was overseen by a committee of parents, teachers and administrators. Thanks went out for community support particularly: the YMCA—for teaching fitness and training and to Polly Hill for animal training and job opportunities.

• Co-teaching teams were deepening their relationships and experience.

**I. Athletic Track Update**

• Athletic participation had greatly increased (290 total students) particularly in field hockey as well as boys and girls soccer—to such an extent that the School was looking for places to locate students from 3:00-6:00PM.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

**4**

- Four firms were interviewed following the Request for Proposal (RFP) with two that stood out. The Subcommittee recommended Huntress Associates because they liked the firm's other projects, Mr. Huntress' demeanor, and his good relationship with the Owner's Project Manager (OPM). Ms. Ackerman requested to view the design documents and there was a discussion on the procedure. The current step was to hire a firm to produce the design/construction documents, usually a large text involving, specifications, materials, environmental impacts, permits, etc.
- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROCUREMENT OFFICER TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND INFIELD WITH HUNTRESS ASSOCIATES; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY—MR. LIONETTE, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. ACKERMAN.*
- The MVRHSC asked about variations in sport team participation, for example this year's field hockey team, and also regarding Title 5 issues on gender since cheerleading was not school funded. The Administration relied on volunteer coaches and knowledge of feeder programs from the local schools, however results were not entirely predictable, with some coaches not returning or unexpected participation spikes or dips, making budgeting difficult. There was a possibility of instituting anticipatory floater funds but not with a tight budget—a Budget Subcommittee issue.

**J. Handbook Update II** (See documents on file.)

- The major change was from number to letter grading—with numbers still existing but translated to letter grades (e.g. 82% equals B-).
- In tandem with this, Administration requested a change to MIAA standards for sports participation of passing 70% or a minimum of four out of five core subjects.
- Other changes were the:
  - inclusion of hazing in a number of places (with referral to the definitions section) in both the Student and Athletic Handbooks;
  - removal of eligibility requirements for academic field trip—with allowable teacher input on individual students;
  - explanation and expansion of District/Individualized Curriculum Accommodation Plans (DCAP/ICAP);
  - addition of "potential" under Non-Statutory Offenses regarding SAC advice against absolutes.
- *MR. LIONETTE MOVE TO APPROVE THE SECOND ROUND OF HANDBOOK CHANGES WITH THE PROVISO OF THE PLANNED CLARIFICATION ON DCAP/ICAP WORDING; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Student Report**

(Agenda Item #II)

- Junior Class President Zachary Smith, introduced himself (with some humor) as related to Asst. Supt. Richie Smith.
- Both the MVRHS and Tisbury School students had great opening days that ran smoothly. MVRHS student greeted the Tisbury students.
  - The School lost Davin Tackabury, an important member of their community. Mr. Smith invited everyone to a workshop on tragic events and losses by Dr. Larry Berkowitz (see below: Meetings/Events).

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

**5**

- Parents and families were also invited to Back To School Night (see below: Meetings/Events).
- Fall sports were starting: Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Girls and Boys Soccer
- The MVRHSC thanked and applauded Mr. Smith.

**Financial Report** (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #V)

**A. Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

This was the first look at the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) operating expenditure and revenue after a busy summer reconciling salaries from staff change—for about \$112,000 savings that could cover unpredictable expenses such as long-term substitutes.

- A couple unanticipated residential placements would hopefully be Circuit Breaker reimbursed.
- Athletic costs were not yet allocated, some union negotiations were still ongoing, and health insurance costs (especially for new hires) were not yet settled.
- Dukes County Retirement System (DCRS) expenses were \$70,000 higher than budgeted, some of which was reimbursable through the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office portion.
- On the other hand after several years Worker’s Compensation premium rates dropped due to a reduction in claims.
- The MVRHSC could make transfers back and forth from month to month, quarterly, annually, etc. at its discretion.

**B. Revenue Report** (See documents on file.)

As always the MVRHSD was grateful for the incoming Town assessments. State reimbursement figures were still unknown.

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

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE:*
    - *MARTHA’S VINEYARD SAVINGS BANK MINI-GRANTS TOTALING 12,041.29, AND*
    - *RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM AWARDS OF \$35,908 FOR THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL AND \$43,862 FOR THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT;*
- MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Superintendent's Report** (Agenda Item #VI)

Superintendent Matt D’Andrea echoed praise for the good opening day, including for the Tisbury School students, now split between grades five through eight at the High School and kindergarten through four in the “newer” Tisbury School wing. Thanks went particularly to administration, staff and transportation who worked hard to make a smooth transition and to the YMCA for their help in daycare.

**B. Enrollment**

As of today Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) student enrollment was 2,220—about 30-40 more than last year. All the MVPS school enrollments were slightly up except Tisbury.

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

The meeting would discuss the first look at the FY21 Supt. Shared Services budget and some final bargaining unit negotiations.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

6

**C. Tisbury School Budget Implications**

The emergency reconfiguration of the Tisbury School shortly before opening day was extremely challenging. Staff was grappling with a number of issues but students seemed fairly resilient— Supt. D’Andrea had lunch with them and Asst. Supt. Smith took playground duty. Although there could be unanticipated costs, so far sharing the facility issues were:

- use of the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club;
- an additional bus to the MVRHS;
- full time Tisbury: nurse, secretary and custodian at the MVRHS;
- negligible changes to MVRHS heating and electrical costs with some overlap in water charges;
- School Resource Officer (SRO) sharing (without entering Tisbury School classrooms).

Tisbury School Committee (TSC) Chair Amy Houghton thanked everyone for the heartwarming support and advocacy (both loud and silent). About 20 students “choiced-out” of the Tisbury School in the last two weeks. The MVRHSC expressed their support, emphasizing responsibility for all MVPS students and their appreciation of the MVRHS students’ welcome.

**D. Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) - Consultants**

Supt. D’Andrea thanked Tisbury FinCom Chair Mary Ellen Larsen and the All Island Finance Committee (AIFC) for taking on the challenges of the MVRHSD Regional Agreement financial formulas. The impetus was the need to renovate the MVRHS campus. The AIFC met four times with increasing participation from all six towns, including 10 different capital formula proposals from various town representatives. There was a general consensus that two of the six towns had a hard time with the current mostly-enrollment-based formula. Representatives had a tendency to hold the perspective from their own towns in a somewhat tribal manner so that much of the conversation circled back on itself.

- West Tisbury FinCom representative Mr. Doug Ruskin emphasized that the AIFC was a discussion forum for Islandwide issues but not an official body, having no municipal power—so that any agreements had to pass all six Town Meetings.
- There was a proposal to hire a MARS facilitator to help the Town negotiate. MARS was a professional organization that advocated for regional school funds issues such as legislative funding. Facilitation costs, encompassing several trips to the Island for meetings was estimated at \$35,000. Mr. Manter expressed his shock and suggested the Martha's Vineyard Mediation Services which charged a minimal fee and was more conversant with Island issues. There was discussion on objective third party perspectives.
- It was noted that MARS could also provide expert advice on necessary technical language and legal updates to the Regional Agreement; however these issues might be taken up after the funding formula conversation was settled.
- There was a discussion on the sponsoring organization, whether the MVPS/Supt. Shared Services, MVRHSC, MVRHS Regional Subcommittee (6 MVRHSC members & 6 Town appointees) or Town shared responsibility, including possible grant funding.
- The MVRHSC also considered:
  - funding as the primary MVRHSD Regional Agreement issue;
  - separating funding from the Regional Agreement (requiring two Agreements);
  - use of technology to reduce MARS travel costs.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

7

- There was general agreement to request presentations (at no cost) by both MARS and MV Mediation, to be sponsored by the MVRHSC, to a combined and publicized MVRHSC/Town audience (see below: Meetings/Events & Tasks).

**Personnel** (Agenda Item #VII)

**A. Retirement/Resignation(s)** (See documents on file.)

There were a number of resignations some of them moving on to other MVPS positions;

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS TO ALL AND CONGRATULATIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE THE:*

- *RETIREMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER SARAH CALLAHAN AS OF AUGUST 31, 2019,*

- *RETIREMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MARY AUSTIN,*

- *RESIGNATION OF CUSTODIAN SUE FLEMING AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2019,*

- *LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KENDALL ROBINSON,*

- *RESIGNATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL TARA NITARDY;*

*MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**B. Other** - None

**Subcommittee Updates** (See below: Meetings/Events.) (Agenda Item VIII)

- Prin. Sarah Dingley and Finance Manager Mark Friedman gave an excellent presentation to the Budget Subcommittee on MVRHS goals and priorities. The Subcommittee members were tasked with returning to their Towns for FY21 Budget directions.

**Public Comment** - None (Agenda Item #IX)

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

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

**Adjournment** (Agenda Item #XII)

- *MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN 7:19PM; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Appendix A - Meetings**

- Riverside Loss/Trauma Workshop – 6:30-8:00PM, Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – PAC

- AISC - 5:00PM, Thursday, September 12, 2019 – MVRHS LCR

- Back to School Night–Barbecue 5:00-Opening 6:00PM, Thursday, September 19, 2019 PAC

- AIFC - 5:00PM, Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – Chilmark

- MVRHSC - 4:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS LCR

- MARS/MV Mediation Presentation - 6:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS PAC

- MVRHSC Budget Hearing – Monday, November 25, 2019 - PAC

- MVRHSC Budget Certification – Monday, December 2, 2019 - PAC

continued >

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

**Appendix A – Meetings/Events (continued)**

- Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - MVRHS LCR
- Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR
- Building Committee – TBD
- Budget Subcommittee – 8:00 AM – Thursdays

<u>September 19, 2019</u>	<u>October 10, 2019</u>
<u>October 24, 2019</u>	<u>November 7, 2019</u>
<u>November 21, 2019</u>	<u>December 5, 2019</u>
- Regional Subcommittee – 9:15AM, Thursdays:

<u>September 19, 2019</u>	<u>October 24, 2019</u>
<u>November 21, 2019</u>	

**Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks**

- Administration – clarify DCAP/ICAP Student Handbook language.
- All – attend the AISC and MARS/MV Mediation presentation meetings.
- Supt. D’Andrea/Office – contact MARS & MV Mediation re: 10/7/19 presentations.
- Publicize to Towns.

**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda 9/9/19
- Sign In Sheet 9/9/19
- MVRHS September Calendar
- Shriver/Edenzon-Unified School Champions letter 8/23/19
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Football 9/13-14/19
- Out of State Travel Request (Trinity Repertory Theatre) 4/28/19
- School Advisory Council 4:00PM Library Conference Room 3rd Wednesday of the Month Starting in October
- Student Handbook Martha's Vineyard Regional High School 2019-2020 p.29-58
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (12 p.) 9/9/19
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 9/9/19
- Grants – September 9, 2019
- Student Enrollment Numbers Sept. 9, 2019
- Callahan email re: Retirement 7/31/19
- Austin email re: An Extremely Difficult Decision 8/13/19
- Fleming letter of resignation 9/3/19
- Nitardy email re: Please Send ASAP 9/3/19
- Robinson email re: LTS 8/26/19

**continued >**



**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Minutes approved as amended 10/7/19**