

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 7, 2019, 4:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

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

Others: Dukes County Youth Commissioner Bekah ElDeiry
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs, Barbarajeau Chauvin - CTE Director
Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Elsbeth Todd,

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

PTO/Parents: Suzy Cosgrove,
Fin. Coms: Oak Bluffs –Maura McGroarty, Greg Thornton, Bill Vrooman, West Tisbury: Clark Rattet, Tisbury: Lolly Hand,

Press: MV Times – Jack Shea, Vineyard Gazette – Noah Asimov,
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 4:05PM. Chair Kimberly Kirk introduced the Vice Principals and their roles as important members of the MVRHS Administration:

- Ms. Barbarajeau Chauvin – vocational/Career/Technical Education Director, oversaw overall operations, including work-study, collaborative education and staff supervision;
- Mr. Jeremy Light - supported teachers in classroom systems, coached and evaluated teachers, oversaw restorative justice and student affairs, upgraded the Code of Conduct, planned/implemented Professional Development (PD), coordinated Advanced Placement (AP) and the Athletic Department;
- Mr. Dhakir Warren - oversaw behavioral and attendance policies, implemented the Code of Contact, collaborated with staff on student social development and student academic achievement, supervised disciplinary intervention, insured compliance with disciplinary laws and regulations and planned, organized and budgeted student activities.

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 6/24/19 & 9/9/19

- *MS. KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 24, 2019 MINUTES AS WRITTEN AND THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED; MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. MEGAN ANDERSON* due to absence.

Student Report

(Agenda Item #II)

A. Zachary Smith, Junior Class President, Jackson Wojnowski, Junior Class Vice President

- Junior Class Vice President Jackson Wojnowski reported the Tisbury School interim occupation (see 8/27/19 Minutes) was progressing seamlessly without negativity or adverse interactions.

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- Fall sports had been underway since late summer and with the exception of a soccer field drama, were going well.
- The clubs were up and running, with a broad enough range to attract a number of previously uninterested students.
- Door decoration competition lead off next week's Spirit Week and Homecoming game. School spirit seemed unusually good this year.
- The new lunch program was pretty good so far with hopes for continuing throughout the year.
- The MVRHSC thanked Mr. Jackson for his report.

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Back To School Night

- The Senior and Freshman parents turned out for the Welcome Back Barbecue and Back To School Night. Administration hoped to strengthen Sophomore and Junior parent attendance.
- Parent/Teacher conferences would mean four half days next week.

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

- CityReach (aka Grass Roots and Students for Social and Global Change) trip would include causes, support for and donations to the homeless.
 - The Project Vine went on their annual trip to Penikese Island.
 - All chaperone levels and gender requirements were fulfilled.
 - *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE OR CONFIRM APPROVAL FOR:*
 - *PROJECT VINE STUDENTS AND TEACHER(S) TO PENIKESE, ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2019;*
 - *CITY REACH CLUB AND TEACHER(S) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON DECEMBER 13-14, 2019;*
- MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

C. Special Education Update - Tabled

D. MCAS Update (See documents on file.)

Principal Sarah Dingley reviewed MCAS results with the understanding that although MCAS scores were not the sum total of student progress, the School Accountability Report was a useful evaluation tool.

- The new MCAS test and the first on computers caused significant statewide declines.
- MVRHS was part of a nationwide trend showing a growing gap between economically advantaged (mostly white) and economically disadvantaged students.
- The emphasis was on Student Growth, comparing scores to a student's previous work, peers, and skill based standards, rather than on Student Achievement, measuring required score competency to graduate.
- The MVRHS was working hard to raise expectations in student capacity to grow and change their path, as well as to insure students were engaged and present. This was likely result in a temporary graduation rate dip, but should show increased results in the coming years:
 - changes in course requirements;
 - instigating after hours school and programs allowing students (especially English Language Learners/English as a Second Language (ELL/ESL) to continue their education despite working full time;
 - insuring interest and learning was continued from the 10th grade test through the 12th grade;
 - allowing graduation at a student's own pace.

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- ELL/ESL were targeted for support in science because new students without English were assigned to “Intentional Design Science” class that was primarily a language class focusing on science. Prin. Dingley preferred that they pass this course than that they take a test for which they were not yet prepared.
- Those with disabilities and the lowest performing Special Education scores all met or exceeded their goals—an indication of the success of the co-teaching model.
- Math curriculum was being changed to teach algebra over two years instead of one.
- MVRHS made substantial gains in advanced course work and in absentee rates (see 6/4/18 Minutes p.5 #G) showing there were more students in the school interfacing with adults.
- The MVRHSC asked questions and made a number of comments:
 - The State set School targets—with the hardest targets being rising between 99.1 to 100 scores. This year was a baseline that would be incrementally increased for State set goals.
 - Middle school inconsistencies although discussed by Department Heads and Guidance should not strongly affect student performance. The trend was to minimize pre-requisites to allow more student participation.
 - Special Education (as well as regular) reading skills was an important focus. A system that failed to achieve results in elementary and middle schools should not be repeated in high school in order to reach the point of reading to learn after learning to read. The volume of reading was at least as important as technical skill indicators. Consultant Jim Shillinglaw would conduct a building-based Special Education review this year, which would include reading skills.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

Expenditures were not much changed from September.

- Residential Tuition was projected to be slightly over-budget despite Circuit Breaker funding.
- Departments continued to be active.
- Increased safety precautions had paid off in lower Workmen’s Compensation Insurance rates.

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

Revenues were mostly Town assessments with quarterly State funding expected next month.

C. Grants/Donations - None

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VII)

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

The meeting would focus on the first draft of the Superintendent’s Shared Services Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget.

B. Scholarship Requests (See documents on file.)

- *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE TIME DAVIN A. TACKABURY ARTS SCHOLARSHIP AND TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS THERETO; MS. O’BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. O’BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE WILL LUCKEY MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AND TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS THERETO; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* This scholarship was for the student most passionate about music.

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C. Tisbury School Update

- Supt. Matt D'Andrea agreed with Mr. Jackson's report that the Tisbury School temporary residence was fairly seamless with thanks to the staff and students of both schools. The goal was to reunite the Tisbury School on a single campus by January 2020. He would report on further progress at the next meeting.
- Martha's Vineyard Mediation Services (MVMS) sent a letter stating their reasons for respectfully declining the MVRHS request (see documents on file) due to:
 - lack of knowledge of the technicalities of regional agreements; and
 - conflict of interest among all members and volunteers.They nonetheless offered advice as well as services through a sister organization. Conversation on the letter was postponed till the following meeting.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Retirement/Resignation(s)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RETIREMENT OF ENGLISH TEACHER BILL MCCARTHY AT THE END OF THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR, A WONDERFUL INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVED MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WELL FOR MANY YEARS; MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Several MVRHSC members spoke with gratitude and admiration of his excellence and already missed his presence.
- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF KITCHEN STAFFER JORDAN FOURNIER AS OF OCTOBER 3, 2019; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Leave of Absence

- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR PART OF THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AND ALL OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR CLIFFORD DORR; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

A leave of absence was without pay but guaranteed the same or commensurate position on return. This was a position with large responsibilities and interim staff (including some consultants) was already being solicited.

Sub Committee Updates (See below: Meetings/Events.) (Agenda Item #VIII)

Facilities – The Capital Plan was being redistributed. The General Contractor (GC) had begun work on the track and was engaging sub-contractors.

Budget – Prin. Dingley and staff gave such an inspiring overview of MVRHS mission and directions that the Subcommittee requested the document be formalized.

- Members polled their Town leaders and reported the biggest concern was facilities and deferred maintenance.

- Administration was tasked with drafting three budgets: Level funded, 2% increase and 4% increase; plus a warrant article for Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) and discussions on a reserve line item. Later in the meeting the time of the next Subcommittee meeting was changed.

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Transportation – Meeting time was changed to include transportation staff who proved to be an invaluable resource. The Subcommittee was discussing how to charge and collect funds for non-profit transportation as well as updating the bus fleet.

Student/Department Spotlight (Agenda Item #III)

After his time in Japan, Science Teacher Jason Neago, introduced the practice of MVRHS postcards from faculty to students marking student actions that supported school values. The goal was for every student to receive at least one. The faculty was enthusiastic and had mailed out 180 in the first round. The MVRHSC very much liked the recognition of student characters that did not include grades or sports and commended the wonderful initiative improving school culture.

Public Comment - None (Agenda Item #IX)

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair (Agenda Item #X)

- The MVRHSC requested their First Class emails be shared publicly on the MVRHS website.

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

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XII)

- *MS. MEGAN ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN 5:10PM; MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Appendix A - Meetings

- **MARS/MV Mediation Presentation - 6:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS PAC**
- **AISC - 5:00PM, Monday, October 28, 2019 – MVRHS LCR**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, October 28, 2019 – MVRHS LCR**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, November 4, 2019 – MVRHS LCR**
- **MVRHSC Budget Hearing – Monday, November 25, 2019 - PAC**
- **MVRHSC Budget Certification – Monday, December 2, 2019 - PAC**
- **Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - MVRHS LCR**
- **Facilities Subcommittee – 10:30AM, Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR**
- **Building Committee – TBD**
- **Budget Subcommittee – 8:00 AM – Thursdays**
 - October 10, 2019 (2:30PM) October 24, 2019
 - November 7, 2019 November 21, 2019
 - December 5, 2019
- **Regional Subcommittee – 9:15AM, Thursdays:**
 - October 24, 2019 November 21, 2019

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks – None

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/7/19
- Sign In Sheet 10/7/19
- MVRHS October Calendar

continued >

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Appendix C - Documents on File:

- CityReach Roster
- Penikese Island Massachusetts September 25th-27th
- 2019 Official Accountability Report - Martha's Vineyard Regional High (4 p.) 9/25/19
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (13 p.) 10/7/19
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 10/7/19
- Davin A. Tackabury Scholarship Fund
- Will Luckey Memorial Music Scholarship Fund
- McCarthy letter of retirement 9/12/19
- Fournier letter of resignation
- Dorr letter requesting leave of absence 10/1/19
- Barnes/MVMP letter re: request for mediation services (3 p.) 10/6/19
- Amending The Regional School District Regional Agreement submitted by MARS (21 p. not counting blanks) 10/7/19
- Countryman email re: Letter to MVRHS School Committee (3 p.) 10/7/19

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 11/4/19