

Superintendency Union #19, All-Island School Committee
Thursday, September 12, 2019, 5:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present:

Chair: Skipper Manter, Janet Packer, Amy Houghton, Mike Watts, Robert Lionette, Kathryn Shertzer, Kris O'Brien, Lisa Reagan, Kate DeVane,

Others: Principal's Office – Superintendent's Office – Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Amy Tierney, Nancy Dugan, Macleod, Leah Palmer

Visitors:

Marc Rivers

Kevin McGrath

John Custer

Melissa Ogden

Shelley Einbinder-Fleischman

Media: Holly Pretsky, Vineyard Gazette; Lynne Fraker MVTV

Recorder: Richie Smith

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The meeting of the Superintendency Union #19, All-Island School Committee was called to order by Chair Skipper Manter.

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

Minutes (Agenda Item #II)

A. School Committee Minutes: June 20, 2019

- LISA REAGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 20, 2019 MINUTES; MOTION SECONDED BY AMY HOUGHTON; MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

ELL Program Evaluation (Agenda Item #III)

-Leah Palmer, ELL Director began with a summary of the mission and core values of the EL Action Team. On September 26, 2019 consultants will conduct a forum with MVPS administration and ELL Action Team with member representation from each school to begin an evaluation of the MVPS ELL Program.

-Matt D'Andrea stated the evaluation will be similar to Jim Shillinglaw's assessment and recommendations of the shared programs. The cost of the evaluation is \$14,000. Matt D'Andrea asked school committee members to consider reallocating money not used for a family health benefit plan to cover this cost.

- AMY HOUGHTON MADE A MOTION TO REALLOCATE MONEY IN THE SHARED PROGRAMS BUDGET THAT WILL NOT BE USED FTO COVER THE COST OF A FAMILY

HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN TO PAY FOR THE COST OF THE ELL PROGRAM EVALUATION THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LISA REAGAN.

-Discussion Skipper Manter reminded everyone that the money was not approved for this purpose and should only be used as originally conceived.

Amy Houghton stated we should investigate the use of money for the benefit of children. If a large influx of children occurs, as has occurred in many prior years we consider alternatives to support these children and their needs. Amy Houghton further asked if MVPS will look into evaluating our ELL program in the context of our preschools. Leah Palmer responded by stating there is no preschool ELL program to evaluate at present, though Jenny DeSelm Royal, Early

Childhood Director, will be a part of the interviews to hear and consider all voices.

-Robert Lionette asked what has triggered this evaluation? Are we not covering what we should be covering or are there areas that are not working in the program? Matt D'Andrea – In conducting other program evaluations there was a clear problem that emerged. Where is the problem? Matt D'Andrea – classroom teachers have noted children in their classrooms that don't have any English. It is this challenge that can be helped through assessment.

-Mike Watts – what happens if we don't spend this money on this evaluation. Skipper Manter – it would be returned to the town.

-Matt D'Andrea – you as a body can re-appropriate this money and it is your responsibility to support the needs of children. You are also doing this publicly.

-Skipper Manter – this is not about the need – we are told that we spend money on only what it is appropriated for. We seem to always find a way to spend it.

-Kate DeVane – we have to be able to flex the use of money – to address new needs that arise throughout the year, not just in October.

MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES (PACKER, HOUGHTON, REAGAN, O'BRIEN, DEVANE, SHERTZER, WATTS), 2 NAYS (MANTER, LIONETTE), 0 ABSTENTIONS

FY 21 Budget (Agenda Item #IV)

-Hope Macleod and Nancy Dugan provided a summary of Student Support Services. Increase of 3-5 year-olds in Early Childhood. Using space at Grace Church yet there remain limitations of not having these children in our school buildings. Also – there is a lot of crossover with the growth of ELL population and children with disabilities. Providing services for children in private preschools is being looked at to decrease cost. Three school psychologists provide assessments. The high cost is attributed to staffing.

-Universal supports – defined as accommodations that are made for all children, not just those with disabilities. By offering training in SEL universal screenings, child study, child find, safety care training to help deescalate all children in crisis, we are building capacity in all staff to support all students. Nancy Dugan and Hope Macleod are Homeless liaisons for the schools and ensure that they are connected to ELL staffing for ELL children with disabilities. Also looking to improve the website for improved outreach and communication and offer professional development for community support groups such as Island Disability Coalition.

-Nancy Dugan – new regulations regarding supports and related services for home schooled and private school students. UIRSD and MVRHS will encounter changes in reimbursements

that may impact the budget overall. Transportation is an influential area to support increases in programming (Voyager) and growth in student population.

-Janet Packer – are we looking at the programs that we have changed based on the Shillinglaw recommendations? - And are they working? Nancy Dugan – it is important to monitor. We did this last year and intend to continue this practice as well. Kris O’Brien – this was also part of Matt D’Andrea’s evaluation. We will look at multiple measures such as MCAS and climate surveys to monitor. Janet Packer – please share this with us. Kate DeVane – may we have the simplicity of SPED 504’s and IEPs in bar graph form from 2015-2019?

-Matt D’Andrea invited Kevin McGrath and Marc Rivers to speak

-Kate DeVane recused herself from this portion of the meeting citing conflict of interest.

* Quorum was lost temporarily. No Vote was held.

-Matt D’Andrea stated that Island Autism Group would like for transportation to be made available from MVPS. Matt D’Andrea – attorneys state 501C3s must pay for services.

-Kevin McGrath reviewed the numbers of Island Autism. Programs include Misty Meadows, bowling, YMCA, and the Edgartown Library. Some after school activities are social and some are therapeutic. Kevin McGrath states that the success of the after school programs with the children is based on the transportation to these destinations. All children will be brought to the same place rather than years past where children went to multiple destinations. Good chance that the children will be on buses a shorter amount of time and hopefully reduce cost. Kevin is hoping that Island Autism Group can research and experiment with routes to reduce costs.

-Marc Rivers spoke about how they investigate cost cutting by transporting all children with the two hour minimum pay rather than by runs. Cannot predict an amount until this is put in practice.

-Skipper Manter – are children already on buses and we are just adding stops?

-Matt D’Andrea – yes

-Janet Packer – asked to clarify

-Hope Macleod – we receive pay from the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA. Island Autism is requesting this and not pay for the service.

-Nancy Dugan – We are not required to provide transportation without this specifically prescribed on the child’s IEP.

-Lisa Reagan – as a point of information – my understanding is this committee should have met and should have brought this to the transportation sub-committee. Matt D’Andrea will bring this to the transportation sub-committee. Janet Packer – this was brought to the subcommittee once before. We should work with Island Autism. I believe we need to work through the differences.

-Amy Houghton – two years ago Island Autism paid for this. Do we have rough estimates? – look into “Driving the Future Fund” – how do we say we are not going to support other programs like Felix Neck with free transportation? That is what we must be careful about. Kevin McGrath – much of our money is going into programs like Misty Meadows so we have trouble paying for transportation

-Skipper Manter – As a closing statement, I want to help children and programs such as these when we can.

-This item will be addressed further in the Transportation Sub-Committee.

Executive Session (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Negotiations Update – See documents on file

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

_Skipper Manter – The chair states the contracts have been ratified by the units, we are not compelled to enter executive session. Kris O'Brien – expressed executive session did not need to be on the agenda if the chair was not going to engage.

-Units that Ratified -

Food Service Workers, Custodians, and Education Support Professionals

-Matt D'Andrea expressed thanks to the following for their involvement and contributions to the negotiations:

-Janet Packer, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Kelly McCracken, Lisa Reagan, Kate DeVane,

-Food Service Workers Negotiations Update – Refer to Documentation as expressed by Matt D'Andrea

- SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE FOOD SERVICE WORKERS CONTRACT. THIS MOTION WAS MOVED BY ROBERT LIONETTE AND SECONDED BY KATE DEVANE. MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES (PACKER, REAGAN, SHERTZER, HOUGHTON, WATTS, O'BRIEN, DEVANE, LIONETTE AND MANTER), 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

-Custodians Negotiations Update – Refer to Documentation as expressed by Matt D'Andrea

- SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE CUSTODIAN CONTRACT. THIS MOTION WAS MOVED BY ROBERT LIONETTE AND SECONDED BY JANET PACKER. MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES (PACKER, REAGAN, SHERTZER, HOUGHTON, WATTS, O'BRIEN, DEVANE, LIONETTE AND MANTER), 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

-Education Support Professionals Negotiations Update – Refer to Documentation as expressed by Matt D'Andrea

- SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS CONTRACT. THIS MOTION WAS MOVED BY ROBERT LIONETTE AND SECONDED BY JANET PACKER. MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES (PACKER, REAGAN, SHERTZER, HOUGHTON, WATTS, O'BRIEN, DEVANE, LIONETTE AND MANTER), 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. SKIPPER

- SKIPPER MANTER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. THIS MOTION WAS MOVED BY ROBERT LIONETTE AND SECONDED BY JANET PACKER. MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES (PACKER, REAGAN, SHERTZER, HOUGHTON, WATTS, O'BRIEN, DEVANE, LIONETTE AND MANTER), 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. 6:25PM

Skipper Manter – Chair

Date

Approved 10/28/19