

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 14, 2019, After the All Island School Committee
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,

Others:

Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman,
Assistant Principals: Barbarajean Chauvin - CTE Director
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod,

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith,
Business Affairs - Amy Tierney, Special Ed Co-Director – Nancy Dugan,

Fin. Com. Chilmark – Vicki Divoll, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,
West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Will Sennott
MVTV – Lynn Fraker,

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures (see * in text)

Call to Order

(Agenda Item #I)

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 6:34PM.

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

Capital Projects and Warrant Articles (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #II)

- In the course of the meeting, Budget Subcommittee Chair Kris O’Brien thanked the MVRHSC for attending this extra meeting and commended the dedication of the School Committee for volunteering their time in this case comprising four straight hours of meetings.
- The Budget Subcommittee voted to recommend putting capital projects (directly related to aging facilities decades of deferred maintenance) into warrant articles and since this was a new procedure they felt it should be a matter for the full MVRHSC. The separation (which was a common practice across the Commonwealth) would more clearly show per pupil operating costs and would eliminate some budget spikes due to large capital projects. If the MVRHSC chose not to vote for warrant articles the capital would be returned to the Budget. (\$270,000 in capital costs had been included in the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) MVRHSD Budget.)
- Tree Planting and Landscaping - was part of the 20+ year old original MVRHSD/Deer Run track agreement as directed by the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), which was never done. The MVRHSD was now attempting to comply and hoped to meet with Deer Run on a revised plan (including possible work by the Horticulture Dept.) to accommodate vegetation changes in the intervening decades. The plan would be submitted to the MVC for compliance modification permission.
- *MR. ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE A \$100,000 WARRANT ARTICLE FOR TREE PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING AS PROPOSED; MS. O’BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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- The state of the Horticulture facility was one of the instigating factors in the larger renovation project and these funds were also proposed as a possible grant match.
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE A \$25,000 WARRANT ARTICLE FOR HORTICULTURE FACILITIES PLANNING AS PROPOSED; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- A conglomeration of Facilities and Budget Subcommittee recommended repair/replacement projects was explored in terms of project timeframes and what constituted capital costs.
 - Re-shingling (\$50,000) was an ongoing maintenance expense and should be in the Budget.
 - A warrant had to pass all six towns and therefore should be projects affecting health or safety.
 - The nature of a one-time capital expense was not clear as Girls Lockers were being replaced over a number of years, but once completed would not have to be replaced again for a long time.
 - Some were aesthetic upgrades were important but might be postponed.
 - Building Trades centralized dust removal system was long overdue for replacement and currently handled by portable, inadequate, aged out equipment. Design/engineering costs were eligible for State grants.
- It was understood that those projects not on the warrant article would be included in the Budget
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE A \$355,550 WARRANT ARTICLE FOR CAPITAL REPAIR/REPLACEMENT PROJECTS; MR. SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED;*
 - *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO A \$185,000 WARRANT ARTICLE FOR:*
 - *TITLE IV COMPLIANCE GIRLS LOCKERS - \$28,000,*
 - *INSTALLATION OF A NEW FIRE ALARM PANEL - \$17,000*
 - *BUILDING TRADES EQUIPMENT 50% ENGINEERING/50% CONSTRUCTION – \$140,000;*
 - *MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED THE AMENDMENT: AMENDMENT PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS—MR. MANTER, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN; 0 ABSTENTIONS;*
- AMENDED MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY— MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

The remaining projects returned to the Budget totaled of \$170,550:

- door and frame replacement (\$20,000),
- interior door security/crisis locks (\$24,000),
- cafeteria/kitchen equipment (\$50,000),
- re-shingling (\$50,000),
- library flooring (\$11,500),
- maintenance equipment (\$15,000).

Contingency Line

(Agenda Item #IV)

- The Budget Subcommittee recommended a Contingency Line Item of \$500,000 for *unplanned* expenses including but not limited to:

- residential placements (tuition ~ \$250,000 per yr.);
- repair projects due to decades of deferred maintenance.

This would preclude having to return to the Towns under the new Excess and Deficiency (E & D) protocol (see 3/4/19 Minutes p.5 #C). Selectmen of all six Towns were very clear that they did not like the new protocol and preferred the MVRHSD deal with their emergencies in a different format. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Counsel was consulted and found the Contingency line within the MVRHSC purview.

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The MVRHSC explored a number of issues.

- Residential placements were usually 75% covered under Circuit Breaker but at a one-year lag.
- The major debate involved funding the line with an E & D offset.
 - Mr. Manter felt that E & D should be returned to the Towns and the Contingency line funded by a single year budget spike.
 - Others responded this would be cumbersome for everyone except Town Accountants. It would be particularly difficult to explain to Annual Town Meetings—especially as Towns strongly requested restraining the MVRHSD budgets to 2.5% so as not to further burden taxpayers.
 - Another objection was that it moved E & D spending power from the Towns to the MVRHSC.
- Chilmark Finance Committee member Ms. Vicki Divoll suggested Towns be kept informed of Contingency Line spending, possibly by placing it on the MVRHSC meeting agendas.
- Mr. Lionette felt \$500,000 was an arbitrary number that might easily be entirely expended and suggested using all of E & D.
 - FY20 E & D was estimated around \$900,000, so if the \$500,000 was exhausted, there would still be a reserve.
 - E & D fluctuated from year to year and so the Contingency Line would fluctuate with it.
 - Mr. Manter emphasized the history of E & D which had not always been used for emergencies. Ms. O'Brien emphasized the Contingency Line was specifically delineated for emergencies only.
 - The amount was in line with E & D and emergency spending totals in recent fiscal years, and as such could be defended to any Finance Committee.
- The Line was titled 'Contingency' with the hope that it would not be used and consequently would entirely or partially rollover into E & D at the end of each fiscal year and then re-inserted in the line. Any E & D over 5% of the MVRHSD Budget was returned to the Towns.
- This was a way to make E & D funding efficiently available during emergencies without the difficulties of a 45 day timeline and Special Town Meetings.
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE TO CREATE A NEW LINE ITEM TITLED CONTINGENCY FUNDED AT \$500,000 TO BE OFFSET BY EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY; MS. ACKERMAN AND MS. AMY HOUGHTON SECONDED*
 - *MS. PACKER MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ENTER THE ENTIRE CERTIFIED EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY INTO THE CONTINGENCY LINE ITEM; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED; AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THE AMENDMENT VOTE WAS CALLED; AMENDMENT FAILED: 1 AYE—MS. PACKER, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS—MR. LIONETTE, MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB)

(Agenda Item #III)

The Dukes County Pooled OPEB Trust MVRHSD total was ~ \$1,091,000, which in addition to pay-as-you-go expenses totaled \$1,700,000 in OPEB budgeting. Mr. Lionette reminded the MVRHSC of the commitment to reach the Annual Required Contribution/Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ARC/ADEC) which was scaled back from three to seven

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years (see Minutes: 1/2/19 p.2-3 & 2/11/19). He requested a OPEB Trust Line \$50,000 increase as a symbolic gesture. Ms. Ackerman was also a proponent of aggressively scaling the line and a good will gesture to the three Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD) Towns.

- The MVRHSD Bond rating was largely based on the ratings of the six participating Towns.
- Auditors had not recommended for or against the ARC/ADEC commitment but had said the MVRHSD was very well situated in comparison with other municipalities. Superintendent Matt D'Andrea reported Dennis/Yarmouth at \$350,000 as the closest other school district.
- Others stressed the primary importance of educating the Island's youth and asked what would be cut from the operating budget to compensate for the \$50,000.
- There was a request to consider committing some of E & D at the end of the fiscal year and/or asking the Administration to present a plan to address the liability.
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ADD \$50,000 TO THE OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST LINE; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED: MOTION FAILED: 2 AYES—MR. LIONETTE, MR. MANTER, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. HOUGHTON.*

Vacancy Line Dollar Amount

(Agenda Item #V)

This might better be described as "Savings" Line total, currently set at \$145,000 equivalent to two retirements, some vacancy refill decisions and other unnamed ways to recoup expenses including supplies.

- As noted above the Towns had requested a 2.5% increase.
- Some suggested that warrant articles and budget spending was up 6.8%. Others separated operating budget spending (including above votes on capital projects and Contingency E & D offset), which was now up 5.3% total and 3.2% assessed.
- This meant the Budget would have to be cut another ~\$150,000 to reach 2.5% assessed.
- Contractual raises were 2.5% and health insurance was up 20%. This meant any cut would be in instruction, maintenance or OPEB. It was noted that both Tisbury and Edgartown would face sizable assessment increases due to changes in their proportional enrollment.
- The MVRHSC mission was to give Martha's Vineyard children the best education possible.
- *MS. PACKER MOVED THAT A 3.2% FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE WAS ACCEPTABLE; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION WITHDRAWN.*
- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO DIRECT THE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION TO AIM FOR A 2.75% FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE (REDUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL ~ \$90,000); MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 4 AYES, 3 NAYS—MS. ACKERMAN, MR. LIONETTE, MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #VII)

- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADJOURN 8:15PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

continued

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Appendix A - Meetings

- **MVRHSC Budget Hearing – Monday, November 25, 2019 – TBD LCR or PAC**
- **MVRHSC Budget Certification – Monday, December 2, 2019 - PAC**
- Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - MVRHS LCR November 19, 2019
- Facilities Subcommittee – Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR - 11:00AM, November 19, 2019
- Building Committee – TBD
- Budget Subcommittee – 8:00 AM – Thursdays, November 21, 2019
- Regional Subcommittee – 9:15AM, Thursdays: TBD November 21, 2019

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Ms. Chauvin – check adequate power for CTE dust collection equipment.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/14/19
- Sign In Sheet 11/4/19
- MVRHS FY18-FY20 Certified Budgets
- MVRHS FY21 Proposed (as of 11/05/19) Capital Repair/Replacement/Planning Projects

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 12/2/19