

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**6:00PM, Monday, November 25, 2019**  
**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School**  
**Performing Arts Center**

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette,  
Skipper Manter, Kris O’Brien, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer,  
Others: Secretary: Marni Lipke  
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingleddy, Finance Manager – Mark Friedman,  
Assistant Principals: Barbarajean Chauvin - CTE Director  
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod, Kathy Perrotta,  
Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith,  
Fin. Com. Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,  
Press: MVTV – Lynn Fraker, \*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 6:06PM.

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

**Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget** (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #II)

Principal Sarah Dingleddy introduced the budget by talking about community investment in MVRHS human capital, emphasizing student benefits outside of such data as staff/student ratios. In recent years there was a major commitment to fit resources to student need. Administration had worked hard to smooth out core subject class sizes. Community protests about very small classes were usually in specialized subjects but a teacher might teach four large classes and one small, specialized class. Enrollment grew from 643 (2018-19) to 682 (2019-20)—trending expected to continue in 2020-21.

- English as a Second Language/English Language Learners (ESL/ELL) services had increased, Attrition reduced staff numbers while maintaining programming with split positions, dual certifications, and shifts where needed.
- Enforcement of a uniform code of conduct was showing results in anecdotal feedback from staff and students of a better supported, safer, more constructive environment. The change dropped suspension numbers into single digits, as well as improving school climate, which also helped drop chronic absenteeism from 23.8% to 14.1%—an arduous goal involving data tracking, parent outreach, extensive meetings and supervision.
- Every teacher received supervisory preparation, visits, and follow up in a timely manner.
- MVRHS promoted increased opportunities for non-college career choices through robust programs in arts, music, theatre and expanded Career Technical Education (CTE).

This budget draft was incomplete since some issues might still be revisited, in particular “vacancy” savings, i.e. savings from known vacancies (retirements, resignations, etc.); as the MVRHSC Budget Subcommittee struggled to keep the budget increase to 2.75% to meet Towns’ requests. Prin. Dingleddy highlighted the main points.

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- In order to avoid the new and more cumbersome Excess and Deficiency (E & D) protocol (see 3/4/19 p.5 #C) the Budget Subcommittee proposed a \$500,000 Contingency line, with a \$500,000 E & D offset for unforeseen expenses such as facilities and transportation. The line also promoted a leaner budget by eliminating the need to build contingency spending into individual lines.
- Fixed cost increases included:
  - ~ \$324,000 in contractual increases from collective bargaining agreements;
  - ~ \$244,000 in Residential tuition;
  - ~ \$213,000 assumed 20% health insurance increase – adjusted as rates were fixed.
- The MVRHS owned the bus fleet, necessitating capital purchases—working on being calculated into local school districts per run reimbursements.
- Textbooks often included six-year software license subscriptions, which the MVRHS was negotiating to reduce. Math and earth science curriculums were being re-assessed.
- School-based devices with firewalls and loaded software would decrease reliance on student-owned units.
- MVRHS had not updated furnishings in about 20 years. Flexible mobile furniture was proving to substantially enhance 21st Century learning in small groups and multiple formats.
- Preventative maintenance was broken out into grounds, athletic fields and equipment, building and building equipment. System testing mandates (fire alarm, circuit breakers, etc.) varied some every year, others every seven years, etc.
- The Administration line covered legal costs, audits and the School Committee secretary.
- The copier position was eliminated and teachers asked to do their own copying, along with a shift from two large machines to four smaller machines for better service continuity/back-up.
- Unified Athletics was funded after successful basketball and track seasons (\$5,000 each).
- Advanced Placement (AP) course enrollment now required students take the test consequently testing revenues increased along with costs. Three additional AP courses were offered.
- Student Activities, especially dances, raised school spirit and cohesion. Seed money was proposed so events could be held without fundraising.

The above items totaled an operating increase of 4.85%, which would require \$357,000 in Vacancy Savings to reach the 2.75% target. The majority of the savings, aside from small tweaks in supplies, would be in personnel, and although there would be some attrition, a large number was likely to require programmatic cuts and Reductions in Force (RIF) i.e. staff cuts.

- Other reductions included: custodial supplies and ELL translations (now covered by staff).

This year the MVRHSC decided to place some capital projects (investments in general upgrades and aesthetics) on warrant articles, separating them from corrective maintenance (things that broke and had to be fixed) and preventive maintenance, which continued in the budget. The change to capital articles was more responsible and transparent, better separating true operating costs and per-pupil expenses. The challenge was for the three articles to pass all six Annual Town Meetings:

- \$100,000 landscaping/tree screening commitment to Deer Run abutters from the previous track project 20 years ago;
- \$25,000 Horticulture classroom building, not to be superseded by a larger building project;
- \$135,000 gym lockers, fire alarm panel and Building Trades dust collection.

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(Vehicle purchases were part of the Transportation Department operating budget.)

The floor was opened to questions.

- Oak Bluffs Finance Committee member Maura McGroarty expressed anger and shock at the lack of community attendance during a pivotal period of discussion on MVRHS finances.
- She objected that Oak Bluffs was paying a larger portion of capital bus purchase costs than it was using.

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

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #IV)

- *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING AT 6:36PM; MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Appendix A - Meetings**

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

**Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks - None**

**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/25/19
- Sign In Sheet 11/25/19
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Budget for Fiscal Year'2021 Draft 11/21/19 (10 p.)
- MVRHS FY21 Highlights Draft Proposed 11/21/19
- MVRHS FY21 Proposed (Recommended by School Committee 11/14/19) Capital Repair/ Replacement/Planning Projects

Respectfully submitted,

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Marni Lipke – Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Minutes approved 1/6/20**