

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, December 2, 2019, 5:00PM**  
**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): Zachary Smith,

Others:  
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,  
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs, Barbarajean Chauvin - CTE Director  
Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Facilities Director – Mike Taus,  
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod,  
Teachers: Keren Albistor, Chirs Baer, Lisa Bonneau, Cheri Cluff, Chris Connors, Spencer D'Agostino, Louis Hall, Brian Jakusik, Corinne Kurtz, Kathy Perrotta, Elizabeth Erin Slossberg, Debra Swanson, Elsbeth Todd,

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

Students: 17 Boys Track Team students, 28 Minnesinger students

PTSO/Parents: Eric Brooks, Kristy Brooks,  
Fin. Com. Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Lolly Hand,  
Press: MVTV – Lynn Fraker, MV Times – Lucas Thors,  
Vineyard Gazette – Will Sennott,  
The High School View – Esabelle Carrille, Spencer Pogue,

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 5:05PM.

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

**Student/Department Spotlight**

(Agenda Item #III)

The MVRHSC cheered Track Coach Joe Schroeder and the 17 members of the Boys Cross County track team for winning the State Division Two and Division Five championships. They ran hard on a familiar but down and up-hill golf course. Many of the team were also top students, balancing school and athletics. The girls cross country team did well going to the division meet on a wild card, taking the average best time and coming in tenth overall.

**Minutes**

(Agenda Item #I)

**A. School Committee Minutes: 11/4/19 & 11/14/19**

• MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2019 MINUTES AND NOVEMBER 14, 2019 MINUTES; MS. KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, WITH MS. MEG ANDERSON, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER ABSTAINING FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2019 MINUTES due to absence.

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**Student/Department Spotlight**

(Agenda Item #III)

**A. Minnesingers** (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Music Teacher Abigail Chandler and 28 Minnesingers gave a preview of their holiday concerts with the Carol *What Child Is This*—to enthusiastic applause.

\* Ms. Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:13PM.

**Principal's Report**

(Agenda Item #IV)

**B. Athletic Update**

- There was great turn out today for the start of winter sports. Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association (MIAA) approved waivers and Meet the Coaches was scheduled (see below: Meetings/Events).
- All winter sports team captains would attend the MIAA leadership trainings along with this year and next year's Boys Soccer captains, in keeping with the resolution of a MIAA citation for a November incident (see documents on file). In addition a required course and a staff member would train all soccer coaches in Sportsmanship and Supervision at Away and Home Games. There was also an on-line captain's training module.

**A. Athletic Out of State/School Field Trip Requests**

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE OR CONFIRM APPROVAL FOR:*

- *THE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS, NOVEMBER 15-16, 2019 FOR THE MIAA STATE MEET;*
- *THE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT DECEMBER 14-15, 2019;*
- *THE VARSITY BOYS ICE HOCKEY TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DECEMBER 27-19, 2019 FOR THE HEUCHLING AND SWIFT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT;*
- *THE VARSITY GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM AND COACH(ES) TO TRAVEL OVERNIGHT TO BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JANUARY 11-12, 2020;*

*MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**C. Leadership Team Update**

- Midterms were approaching. A disciplinary/attendance data report was tabled in consideration of the packed agenda.

**D. African American Heritage Club Request**

Principal Sarah Dingley expressed confidence in the MVRHSD protocol for starting or resurrecting clubs—either by student request with staff advisor participation, or by staff request. Therefore, she respectfully declined this proposal for an alumnae-lead club as outside the MVRHSD process, with the understanding that the School took the African American Heritage very seriously and had examined and were comfortable with the number of clubs available to students—particularly to young men.

**Financial Report**

(Agenda Item #V)

**A. Expenditure Report** (See documents on file & 11/4/19 Minutes p.6 #VI A.)

Heating season was just starting. Finance Manager Mark Friedman reviewed a few ongoing



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deadline, but the Subcommittee could set a clear framework as a guide.

- Three articles were questioned as possibly being returned to the operating budget.
- The girls gym lockers article language did not refer to Title IX compliance—boys gym lockers had been included in previous budgets.
- The Building Trades dust collection article would provide matching funds for a State grant.
- The Deer Run landscaping article was still undetermined as to what was entailed and who was responsible (see below: #C).

**C. Letter from Deer Run Association** (See below: Tasks.)

Supt. D'Andrea reported he had found three letters referring to MVRHSD/Deer Run landscaping during the 1995 Track project including: a May 4, 1995 letter citing a May 1, 1994 Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) meeting report from Larsen Associates Landscaping plans; moving the track easterly to retain more trees, planting of 40 pines, fencing and no vehicle traffic on the track.

- MVC Director Adam Turner had not been able to find any further documentation. Supt. D'Andrea would continue to meet with Deer Run representatives.

**D/E. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Certification/ Warrant Articles – Votes**

- The current situation was driven by an aging building now reaching crisis level, burdened with years of maintenance cuts. There was an allusion to a five-year plan that included 7 figure hits to the budget. It was also suggested the MVRHSD FY21 total spending was up 6.8%.
- The MVRHSC had proposed a level of 'vacancy savings' (attrition and other reductions) to reach 2.75% (see 11/14/19 Minutes p.4 #V) however the Subcommittee had greatly increased that amount without consulting the MVRHSC (see 11/25/19 Minutes p.2).
  - The change was caused by recent information on: unexpected Worker's Compensation increase (\$90,000) and higher transportation costs (fuel, cameras, bus purchases).
  - Other changes included the Superintendent's Shared Services assessment, and facilities issues.
- Ms. Ackerman questioned the need for subcommittees instead of conversations in the full MVRHSC but Chair Kimberly Kirk reported that using the Subcommittees for groundwork reduced attendance problems for busy members and had become an efficient way to operate.
  - To promote communications, subcommittee reports were included on the MVRHSC agenda.
- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea agreed that if the MVRHSC was uncomfortable it should postpone the vote, but also noted that Towns would shortly be asking for budget amounts.
  - Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith advocated for careful, planful consideration as well as for clearly highlighting budget rationale and policy to the broader community.
- The MVRHS population had increased and was expected to continue increasing in FY21.
- Principal Sarah Dingley emphasized Administration had numerous meetings with Department Heads on consolidating and reducing costs. The 2.75% target was difficult to achieve in the face of a growing student population, 14% fixed costs increases, 2.25% salary raises, and an 11% Transportation increase.
  - Some savings had been realized (reduction of textbook/software licensing costs, new hires, Chapter 71 reimbursements, off-Island bus runs).
  - However, the original \$375,000 reduction required to reach 2.75% could only be achieved by Reductions in Force (RIF) and in programming cuts so that the above suggestions to return articles to the operating budget while maintaining the 2.75% target would only compound the

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situation. In all fairness, she had informed the staff.

- Martha's Vineyard Education Association (MVEA) Union Representative Spencer D'Agostino and other staff voiced their concern on the budget as not the best possible solution as well as expressing anxiety on the first ever RIF in District history. They protested that Budget scheduling prohibited their attendance during Budget Subcommittee deliberations on this vital issue. The Chair O'Brien agreed to accommodate their request (see below: Tasks).
- The MVRHSC expressed their empathy and noted a number of competing pressures from the larger community as well as the neglected facility.
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TABLE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET CERTIFICATION VOTE UNTIL THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING.**

**Student Report**

(Agenda Item #II)

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

- Mr. Zach Smith introduced himself and congratulated the Cross Country team and Coach Schroeder for their State Championship.
- The Teachers won the student/teacher RJO Handball tournament.
- Today was the first meeting of the newly inducted National Honor Society (list released this week) and the start of winter sports.

**Superintendent's Report**

(Agenda Item #VI)

**A. All Island School Committee (AISC) – Nothing to report.**

**B. Track Update** (See documents on file.)

- Huntress Associates was engaged in testing and meeting with Town leaders, planning to submit an application to the Oak Bluffs Planning Board in mid/late December.
- Subcommittee representatives traveled to Swampscott, Merrimac, and Tower Academy to view other Huntress designed facilities. They were inspired by the results and impressed by the excellent references given for Huntress Associates.

**C. Letter from Deer Run Association** (See documents on file & above.)

**D. Tisbury School Update**

Lead abatement work was on schedule for completion by the holiday break: the third floor done, the second floor in process; Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) starting tomorrow.

**Personnel**

(Agenda Item #VII)

**A. Retirements/Resignations**

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE FOR HER LONG, EXCELLENT SERVICE THE RETIREMENT OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR CYNTHIA COWAN; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF INTERPRETER MATHEUS DOS SANTOS; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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**Subcommittee Reports**

(Agenda Item #VIII)

**A. Facilities** – Nothing to report.

**B. Budget** – See above.

**C. Transportation**

The Subcommittee recommended:

- about \$20,000 in fuel price increases with some offsets from other parts of the budget, and
- \$18,000 to install cameras in all buses.

**Public Comment** - None

(Agenda Item #IX)

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair**

(Agenda Item #X)

Supt. D'Andrea received a letter from the YMCA informing the MVRHSD of a 15% increase in ice time charges effective January 1, 2021. He would research the situation.

**Executive Session** – Not needed.

(Agenda Item #XI)

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #XII)

After a discussion on Subcommittee scheduling

• *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN 6:38PM; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

**Appendix A - Meetings**

- Budget Subcommittee – 3:30 PM – Monday, December 9, 2019 LCR
- Meet the Coaches (winter sports) – 6:00PM, Tuesday, December 10, 2019, PAC
- Minnesingers Holiday Concerts – 8:00PM, Friday, December 13, 2019, Old Whaling Church  
4:00PM, Saturday, December 14, 2019, Old Whaling Church
- Facilities Subcommittee – Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR - 11:00AM, December 17, 2019
- Budget Subcommittee – 5:00 PM – Thursday, December 19, 2019 LCR
- **MVRHSC Budget Certification – 5:00PM, Monday, January 6, 2020 - LCR**
- Transportation Subcommittee – TBD, 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - MVRHS LCR
- Regional Subcommittee – TBD
- Building Committee – TBD

**Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks**

- Supt. D'Andrea – research Residential Tuition Stabilization Fund and report to MVRHSC.
- Ms. Houghton – contact Deer Run re: resolution of request.
- Ms. O'Brien – schedule Budget Subcommittee meetings in afternoon so teachers can attend.
- Supt. D'Andrea – research ice time rate increase and report to MVRHSC.

**continued**

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**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda 12/2/19
- Sign In Sheet 12/2/19
- MVRHS December calendar
- Dingley cover email re: MVA AHT Mural 12/2/19
  - Aaron Douglas Mural, A Community Created Project and for MVRHS (15 p.)
- Dingley email re: MVRHS Building Upgrades (2 p.) 9/18/19
- Dingley email re: New Art Installations 9/24/19
- Flyers... excerpt (2 p.)
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Boys Basketball 12/14-15/19
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Varsity Boys Ice Hockey 12/27-29/19
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Varsity Girls Hockey 1/11-12/20
- Out of State and Overnight Travel Cross Country 11/15-16/19
- Dingley email re: MVRHS Soccer Community (2 p.) 11/7/19
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (13 p. -incomplete) 12/2/19
- Grants/Donations 12/2/19
- Goodman Donation Summary & check 10/18/19
- 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
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meetings (4 p.)
- Mathieu/Mott, Sayre-Deer Run letter 11/7/19
- Santos email re: Resignation Letter 12/2/19
- Cowan retirement letter 11/8/19

Respectfully submitted,

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Marni Lipke – Recorder

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Date

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Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Minutes approved 1/6/20**