

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 3, 2020, 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 by phone,
Student representatives (non-voting): Zachary Smith,

Others: Louis Paciello, Ryan Ruley, MV@Play – Joe Mikos
Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs,
Barbarajan Chauvin - CTE Director
Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Facilities Director – Mike Taus,
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod,
Chris Baer, Lisa Bonneau, Abigail Chandler, Brooke Ditchfield, Ken Romero,
Maria Thibodeau, Elsbeth Todd,

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

Students: Fred Fournier, Tim Dunham,
Fin. Com. Tisbury – Lolly Hand, Mary Ellen Larsen, W. Tisbury – Doug Ruskin,
Bruce Stone – W. Tis. Accountant,

Press: Vineyard Gazette – Aaron Wilson, MVTimes – Lucas Thors,
MVTV – Lynn Fraker,

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. Ms. Kathryn Shertzer joined the meeting by phone and consequently all votes were roll call.

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes:

• *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MINUTES; MS. KRIS O’BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION* due to absence: *MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. JANET PACKER—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIMBERLY KIRK—AYE.*

Student Report

(Agenda Item #II)

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

- Junior Class President Zach Smith reported students returned from the holiday break to complete mid-terms and the first semester of the school year.
- He congratulated 24 art, design and technology students who represented the MVRHS admirably by winning 31 awards at the Massachusetts 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.
- MVRHS National Honor Society partnered with Island Food Pantry collecting over 600 items.

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- Winter sports were moving into the post-season and Mr. Smith urged everyone to attend home games. He personally thanked the MVRHSC for the new field complex (which he had been hearing about since the seventh grade) and described student excitement around the announcement.
- Chair Kimberly Kirk emphasized the importance of the Student Report and thanked and commended Mr. Smith.

Student/Department Spotlight

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Big Fish

MVRHS teachers Ms. Abigail Chandler, Ms. Brooke Ditchfield and Mr. Ken Romero spoke enthusiastically about this year's musical based on the epic *Odyssey* as a large project involving about 100 students and faculty—cast of 47, 20 member orchestra, 10 member crew, sets designed by art classes, and also with community involvement. The move was to bring the project into the school-day expanding participation to include as many students as possible in various aspects of the show (production design, set construction, publicity/marketing...).

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

- Art Department Head Chris Baehr, announced the 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards: including 6 Gold Keys, 8 Silver Keys and 17 honorable mentions (see documents on file).
- In addition *Seabreezes* took first place in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Massachusetts awards (see documents on file).

A. Athletic Out of State/School Field Trip Requests

(See documents on file.)

The trip had been expanded to include Spain around Madrid, with 24 student spaces and 4 chaperones (see 5/6/19 Minutes p.2-3 #V A). The travel agency kept tabs on international events and changed itineraries if necessary.

B. School Improvement Plan (SIP) Presentation

(See documents on file.)

The School Advisory Council (SAC) was comprised of MVRHS stakeholders: students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Previous achievements included:

- implementation of flex-time,
- streamlining communications,
- school cultural changes in Honors Night and graduation gowns,
- teacher collaboration on assessment rubric as well as teaching the collaborative process.
- This year's goals were ambitious.
 - SAC was collecting data on improving parent engagement through more meaningful parent teacher conferences as well as hosting a mandatory introduction night for ninth grade parents, and adding targeted resources for parent to the website.
 - The second goal as to honor students with additional recognitions besides graduating diplomas: i.e. Career Technical Education (CTE) certifications, advance course work designations, Seal of Bi-literacy, certificates of completion, etc. Departments (and other schools in the Commonwealth) were being surveyed to determine practices, recognition requirements, etc.
 - A health/wellness goal surveyed students on what speakers they wished to hear, on standard adolescent topics but also on less obvious undercurrents. Speakers events included wrap-around support and parent involvement on difficult topics.

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C. Graduation Rates (See documents on file.)

The MVRHS drop-out rate rose from 4% to 16% in the 2017-18 school year. Statistical anomalies accounted for some of this: students changing schools without proper enrollment software reporting. Another challenging factor was older immigrant students that attended the MVRHS for less than a year, moving on to employment or returning to Brazil.

- High needs students (both socio-emotional with significant trauma, and learning challenged) often experienced disrupted schooling due to travel or displacement, however the MVRHS needed to better support such students.
- Student Support Co-Director Hope MacLeod described continuing outreach to challenged students who sometimes returned later or intermittently to reach the goal of a General Educational Development/High School Equivalency Test (GED/HiSet).
- On investigating those who dropped out, it was found that none of them had been through disciplinary proceedings.
- Administration was looking at expanding intake options so that immigrant students interested in English as a Second Language/English Language Learning (ESL/ELL) had alternative commitments with flexible hours and work-study credits.
- Ms. Packer requested this agenda item and spoke passionately about her concern, correlating it with absenteeism and demographics. The discussion included:
 - improvements in absenteeism;
 - dropout designation definitions;
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP) monitoring and changes.

D. Leadership Class Updates

Students presented a short-term weight room solution to the Facilities Subcommittee and were working with the booster clubs on in-kind donations and fundraising.

E. Logo Branding Update

(See documents on file & Minutes: 4/1/19 p.5 #X & 11/4/19 p.5 # IV F.)

This task, which proved to be unexpectedly difficult, had been in a long process and still presented buy-in problems from some teams. However, student and faculty surveys garnered 80-85% returns (student input earlier in the process varied widely and was not always appropriate). The proposed logos and colors were customizable—Administration was looking forward to using the results in building beautification work.

- Logos were considered policy and consequently should be voted by the MVRHSC (see below: Actions). Coaches were informed that the matter was still in process. Once the color and marks were adopted they became MVRHS property.
- The MVRHSC commended the branding team for their hard work and perseverance.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Amy Tierney was honored at the earlier AISC meeting.

B. Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) Update

Land was being cleared for the Early Childhood building on the MVCS campus project. The new lease was filed with the Land Court.

- The lease provision on insurance coverage to make the MVRHSD whole was in process.

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C. Building Committee \$55,000 (\$55k) Revote

The \$1,400,000 Feasibility Study article failed to pass over an ongoing assessment formula dispute. The Towns were aware of the need for a major project and requested that the scope be refined. Tappé Architects had done a previous study (see Minutes: 11/30/15 p.3 #II & 1/7/16) and was currently working on the Tisbury School. Supt. D'Andrea approached them about a preliminary study to send to the Towns. The Building Committee had unspent funds (see 5/7/18 Minutes p.8-9 #E/F – original documents on Supt.s website) which Supt. D'Andrea proposed to spend to re-engage Tappé for an update of the earlier study, and to work with stakeholders to create a preferred option.

The MVRHSC discussed:

- process including educational visioning,
- Building Committee notification (only);
- procurement regulations regarding the ability to re-engage;
- extended contract scope including project cost ranges;
- Town or MVRHSD's responsibility to raise the \$55,000;
- experience and commendations for Tappé as an educational visionary;
- educating the Towns on the needs and complexity of the project;
- whether the spending would be redundant, and add confusion to the coming feasibility study;
- whether this was needed since Towns understood project urgency but disputed the formula.

• *MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE \$55,000 IN BUILDING COMMITTEE FUNDS TO REENGAGE AND EXTEND CONTRACT OF TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS; MS. ANDERSON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSTENTION: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—ABSTAIN, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

D. Surplus Buses

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO DECLARE BUSES SURPLUSING AS PROPOSED; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

E. Bus Request

The MV 20 Miler relay race would return for its 24th year and requested use of a bus to transport runners—a driver had volunteered for the duty. The organization had a good history on the Island donating to a number of youth programs (Girls Varsity Hockey, Figure Skating, Track & Field, MV Youth Soccer, OBS Eighth Grade Field Trip, etc.). The MVRHSC recalled a recent request that was refused (see 5/6/19 Minutes p.6-7 #IX B) due to issues on rentals, alcohol use, non-youth events, etc. (see below: Tasks). As a benefit to the community:

• *MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF A BUS ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020 FOR THE MV 20 MILER AS PROPOSED PENDING LIABILITY INSURANCE PROOF; MS.*

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PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

Finance Manager Mark Friedman could not be present but highlighted Corrective Maintenance as almost exhausted and likely to move into deficit. Facilities Director Mike Taus could not predict what would break next but would give a full report to the Facilities Subcommittee.

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

C. Grants/Donations

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH THANKS THE FOLLOWING:*
- *\$100 FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR FOR STUDENT CAFETERIA DEBT;*
- *\$6,300 FROM THE SOUND FOUNDATION FOR THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL YOGA PROGRAM;*

MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.

D. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Recertification (See documents on file.)

The Budget could be reduced by ~ \$183,000 due to a \$212,000 health insurance reduction (plus \$1,000 from the Supt. Shared Services Office Budget), moderated by \$30,000 increase in MVRHS staff lane changes.

- There was an objection to use of Excess and Deficiency (E & D) to offset the Budget, and to 2.05% operating increase as too high, especially with the upcoming project and additional warrant article.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO RE-CERTIFY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET:*

- *\$23,014,494.16 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (4.6% INCREASE) AND*
- *AT \$19,695,265.09 (2.05% INCREASE) ASSESSED BUDGET,*

MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 2 NAYS; 0 ABSTENTIONS; MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—NAY, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.

E. Dust Collection Warrant Articles (See documents on file.)

The language and amount were modified in accordance with MVRHSC votes (see 1/6/20 Minutes p.4-5 #E). The current grant cycle was August application for October awards.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MODIFIED DUST COLLECTION SYSTEM WARRANT ARTICLE LANGUAGE: MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

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F. Scholarship (See documents on file.)

The family asked to shift the Scholarship administration to the MVRHSD.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ESTABLISH AN OUTSIDE JAKE SEQUOIA BAIRD SCHOLARSHIP; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Retirement/Resignation(s) – None

Subcommittee Updates

(Agenda Item #VIII)

- Members would be asked to reconsider Subcommittee membership next month.

A. Facilities

- The Facilities Subcommittee discussed and recommended the use of the residual Building Committee funds for Tappé (see above #V C).
- Phase One of the track/infield project (plans available on the MVRHS website) was submitted to the Oak Bluffs Planning Board for referral to the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC). All, including the students, were excited to move forward. The MVRHSC thanked everyone for their patience and perseverance (see below: Actions). In order to correct technical language:
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO REAFFIRM AND CLARIFY THE CHANGE IN THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR PHASE ONE TO INCLUDE A FIELD HOUSE WITH A BASEMENT; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION* not present during discussion: *MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

B. Budget – See below: Actions.

C. Transportation

The Subcommittee and the Island Parents Advisory Council (IPAC) had a productive conversation on transportation for students in residential placement.

- A letter was received from a bus driver on contract issues.

Public Comment - None

(Agenda Item #IX)

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

(Agenda Item #X)

Executive Session – Not needed.

(Agenda Item #XI)

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #XII)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN 7:15PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE.*

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Appendix A - Meetings

- Facilities Subcommittee – Tuesdays, - MVRHS LCR - 11:00AM, February 11, 2020
- Transportation Subcommittee – 1:00PM, 3rd Tuesdays - February 18, 2020 - MVRHS LCR
- **MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, March 2, 2020 - LCR**
- Budget Subcommittee – TBD
- Building Committee – TBD
- Regional Subcommittee – TBD

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Prin. Dingley – send SIP to MVRHSC.
- Budget Subcommittee – schedule meeting.
- All – consider subcommittee participation.
- All – attend OB Planning Board meetings on the Track Phase One.
- Supt. D’Andrea - get the guidance re: next steps on branding for a March MVRHS vote.
- send out branding policy draft prior to the meeting.
- Transportation Subcommittee – draft third party bus use policy for MVRHSC consideration.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 2/3/20
- Sign In Sheet (2 p.) 2/3/20
- MVRHS February calendar
- Big Fish, The Musical flyer
- Congratulations to the following 24 MVRHS Art, Design, & Technology students...(3 p.)
- NCTE 2019 Recognizing Excellence in the Art and Literary Magazines Massachusetts (3 p.)
- Seabreezes Volume 39 2019 (82 p. + covers)
- Bonneau memo re: Changes in the proposed trip to Portugal
- February 3, 2020 Surplus Buses
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (14 p.) 2/1/20
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 2/1/20
- Grants/Donations – February 3, 2020
- Friedman email re: Cafeteria Donation 2/3/20
- Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School District Budget for Fiscal Year’2021 Recertified:
2/3/20 (10 p.)
- Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School District Recertification of FY21 Budget February 3,
2020
- MVRHS FY19 Year End, Requested Year-End Budget Transfers & Actual Cafeteria Transfer
January 6, 2020
- Revised Warrant Article for 2020 Annual Town Meetings Submitted by: Martha’s Vineyard
Regional High School District School Committee (2 p.)

continued >

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Appendix C - Documents on File (cont.):

- Jake Sequoia Baird Scholarship
- MVRHS branding survey results...(2 p.)
- Massachusetts School and District Profiles Martha's Vineyard 2017-18 Student Dropout Rate Report (2 p.) 2/3/20
- Intake Options
- Student Attrition Profiles
- School Improvement Plan Update (4 p.)

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 3/9/20