

**ALL-ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #19
Edgartown School Committee
Oak Bluffs School Committee
Tisbury School Committee
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee
Up-Island Regional School Committee
5:00PM, Friday, April 10, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present:

Up-Island	Chair - Skip Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Kate DeVane, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop,
Tisbury	Amy Houghton, Janet Packer, Michael Watts,
Oak Bluffs	Lisa Reagan, Kris O'Brien, Kathryn Shertzer,
Edgartown	Megan Anderson, Kimberly Kirk, Kelly McCracken,
Others:	Dan Cassidy, Rose Cassidy, Jojo Cassidy, Celia, Harvey,
Shared Services Of.	Supt. Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instr. – Richie Smith, Interim Financial Manager – Mark Friedman, Co-Dir. Student Support – Nancy Dugan, Hope McLeod, ELL Coordinator – Leah Palmer,
Principals	Chilmark – Susan Stevens, Edgartown – Shelley Einbinder, MVRHS – Sarah Dingley, Oak Bluffs – Megan Farrell, Tisbury – John Custer, Melissa Ogden, West Tisbury – Donna Lowell Bettencourt, Mary Boyd,
MVPS:	Maureen Best, Cheri Cluff, Heather Devine, Diana Deblase, Jenn Fournier, Meredith Goldthwait, Debra Grant, Natalie Krauthammer, Kim Leaird, Emily Levett, Catherine Mafcher, Elsbeth Todd, Melissa Walsh, Ben Mulvey – Student Council,
Towns/County:	Dukes County Manager – Martina Thornton, Edg. Town Administrator – James Hegarty, Oak Bluffs Planning Bd. – Ewell Hopkins, Tisbury FinCom– Mary Ellen Larsen, W. Tisbury Emergency Management – Russell Hartenstine,
Press:	Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette
Recorder	Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda Item #1)

The All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 5:07 PM. Chair Skipper Manter praised Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) staff and

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students for their progress during difficult Covid-19 crisis.

Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2020 (Agenda Item # II)

• It was requested that documents pertaining to a meeting be attached to that meeting's invitation/agenda.

• MR. ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2, 2020 MINUTES; MS. KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 14 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MR. ALEX SALOP—AYE, MS. LISA REAGAN—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. KELLY MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, MR. MICHAEL WATTS—AYE, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KATE DEVANE—AYE, MS. JANET PACKER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # III)

A. April Vacation

After hearing from many groups, the Superintendent's Shared Services Office put out a survey, the results of which were that 80% of both families and staff favored canceling April vacation—regarding the start of remote learning routine that should be continued. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner ruled that this would gain four days at the end of the school year (Patriot's Day was a legal holiday) for a school year closing date of June 22nd, however the situation was still unpredictable.

- Such an action would not affect the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Union (see 4/2/20 Minutes p.2-4 #III B-C).

- Some survey results also favored extending the school year—the Union contract specified only 186 days.

• MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO REMOVE APRIL VACATION FROM 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR ACKNOWLEDGING THE SCHOOL YEAR END DATE WOULD BE SET BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 14 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. DEVANE—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

B. Food Service Update (See documents on file.)

Through a heroic effort food service workers provided pick-up meals within five days of the Covid-19 school closure. However, as the Massachusetts surge approached, workers contacted the Administration about a work stoppage due to serious fears for their and their families' health. After considerable negotiations a compromise was reached to fulfill two non-negotiable targets:

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- feed as many MVPS children as possible, and
- keep staff as safe as possible.

Protocol was changed to reduce time in work, public contact and more opportunity to enforce safety guidelines. Two mixed bags of groceries and cold meals for a total of five days breakfast and lunch, could be picked up by families on Mondays and Thursdays between 12:00N and 1:00PM. Service would vary from school to school. Parents were asked to sign up in order to facilitate preparation amounts, but anyone showing up would be served regardless. Each MVPS Principal gave a brief outline of their school's meals service parameters.

AISC reactions were passionate and covered several issues.

- There were strong objections to the lack of uniformity among schools. For example the West Tisbury School (WTS) would continue to serve meals daily. The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) would maintain its cold easily heated meals but reduce pick up to Mondays and Thursdays. Administration emphasized that the local differences were due to each school's food service capacity. The small WTS cafeteria limited the number of workers and amount of meal preparation so that 3 days meals at a time was counterproductive.
- Families could find the different configurations confusing. On the other hand a family only had to know its own school's protocol.
- The Monday and Thursday times were deliberately set for Islandwide consistency.
- It was suggested the Administration take a week to draft a more robust plan.
- The AISC expressed concern about proper notification of non-MVPS families also using the service (no one was turned away) as well as those families on Free and Reduced status. It was also acknowledged that as the financial crisis deepened the service would become more vital. To address the crisis the AISC requested the change and protocols be publicized in a wide array of venues: press, radio, MVTV, websites, social media, etc. as well as translation into Portuguese.
- Foods should be easy to prepare as there was anxiety over children having to fix lunches while parents were working. Some families would welcome bags of groceries rather than a prepared meal.
- Staff caring for ill family members were protected by the Family Leave Act and Covid-19 Amendment.
- The AISC suggested hazard pay for all staff working on foods and school facilities.
- The AISC raised the issue of State and Federal guidelines for workers. However, Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith and Superintendent Matt D'Andrea emphasized their responsibility to listen to and address the emotions and concerns of the food service workers, expressing pride in achieving this compromise instead of a two-week service suspension during the Massachusetts Covid-19 peak.

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- AISC members thanked the Administration for their leadership, resolution of a difficult circumstance on short notice and further sent their thanks and appreciation to the food service staff.

C. 2021 Budget

The financial shutdown was likely to affect State reimbursement levels. In addition Towns were reviewing both the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) and FY20 budgets. Local school committees could reach out to their Town Administrators.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair (Agenda Item # IV)

- The State Police were issuing autistic child seat belt covers which could be sent to schools for distribution. The Island Autism group was continuing to meet and promote virtual after-school activities.
- Ms. Ackerman suggested the regional school district agreements be reviewed to streamline the system.
- The AISC again thanked Supt. D'Andrea and Asst. Supt. Richie Smith for meeting tremendous challenges such as remote instruction and food service safety.
- The AISC expressed their condolences to Supt. D'Andrea on the loss of his father.

Adjournment

MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:11PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 14 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. DEVANE—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/10/20
- D'Andrea letter re: Food Service (2 p.) 4/9/20

Approved 5/7/20