

**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  
Thursday, May 28, 2020,  
Immediately Following 5:00 AISC Calendar Sub-Committee Meeting  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present:

Up-Island	Chair-Skip Manter, 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:	About 175 attendees (see Participants Sheet on file) including:
Shared Services Of.	Supt. Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instr. – Richie Smith, Interim Financial Manager – Mark Friedman, Co-Dir. Student Support – Nancy Dugan, Hope McLeod, ELL Coordinator – Leah Palmer, Early Childhood – Jenn Royal, Grants Coordinator – Jennie Shinn,
Principals:	Chilmark – Susan Stevens, MVRHS – Sarah Dingledey, Oak Bluffs – Megan Farrell, Tisbury – John Custer, Melissa Ogden, West Tisbury – Donna Lowell Bettencourt, Mary Boyd,
MVPS/MVEA	Nedine Cunningham, Anne Davey, Spencer D'Agostino,
Towns:	Edgartown – James Hagerty, Oak Bluffs – Ewell Hopkins, Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Mary Ellen Larsen, West Tisbury – David Crawford, Chuck Hodgkinson, Skipper Manter, Michele Mayhew,
Press:	Kelly Marolf – MVTV, Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette,
Recorder	Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures of AISC members

**Call to Order** (Agenda Item #1)

The All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM. Chair Skipper Manter welcomed everyone. In order to facilitate such a large meeting, the “Chat” feature was turned off and all none AISC members or presenters were asked to turn off their videos—nonetheless remaining in the meeting. AISC members would be called on first and then public comment would be solicited.

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(Recorder's Note: Some discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

**Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2019; April 10, 2020** (Agenda Item # II)

• MS. LISA REAGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 7, 2020 MINUTES; MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KATE DEVANE—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIMBERLY KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KELLY MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. KRIS O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. JANET PACKER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. ALEX SALOP—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.

**Finance** (Agenda Item # III)

**A. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget**

(See documents on file & 5/7/20 Minutes p.4 #D.)

\* Throughout this conversation:

- Mr. Michael Watts entered the meeting at 5:57PM;
- and due to other commitments: Ms. O'Brien left the meeting at 5:58PM, Ms. Kirk left at 6:29PM, and Ms. DeVane left at 6:52PM.

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea framed the unprecedented, anxiety provoking, and uncertain situation being addressed with many meetings and consultations.

- Towns were not requesting draconian reductions at this time:
  - Edgartown – fund the schools in entirety,
  - Oak Bluffs - \$50,000 each from Oak Bluffs School (OBS) and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS),
  - Tisbury – 1 to 1.5% cut would be helpful,
  - West Tisbury – cut what was possible.
- Further State guidelines and revenue information would be known as the year progressed, with some announcements expected in July/August.
- The Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) had not agreed to an informal proposal to forego FY21 Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs).
- In order to move forward to serve students Supt. D'Andrea proposed 1 – 1.5% cuts for all districts. Contingencies for the developing situation included:
  - Excess and Deficiency (E & D) and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) lines in regional district budgets; and
  - declaring furloughs, possibly on Professional Development (PD) days—as not included in bargaining contracts and sanctioned by legal counsel.
- 1% cuts by district amounted to about:

MVRHS - \$200,000,	Up Island Regional School District (UIRSC) - \$110,000,	
Edgartown - \$70,000,	Oak Bluffs - \$50,000,	Tisbury - \$70,000.

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- The Superintendents Shared Services Office proposed to reduce its budget by \$85,426 or 1.3% as follows:
  - level fund all contractual/non-union salaries to FY20 levels—but keeping FY20 raises;
  - 50% reduction in PD workshops for administrators, Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs), etc. and 33% off Islandwide staff development—retaining legally imperative updates/certifications;
  - reducing the two all Island Health positions from 0.5 to to 0.4 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) which eliminated benefits and reduced payroll obligations—direct clinical service levels would be maintained.
  - Saving were translated to local districts and the MVRHS as per assessment.

The AISC discussed the larger budgetary issue at great length.

- The MVRHSD budget required four of six Town Meeting approvals. The UIRSD required all three Towns, single district towns required passage at their Town Meeting. If a budget failed, 1/12 of FY20 expenditures would be authorized each month until a FY21 Budget was approved.
- There was concern that 1% did not address the coming economic crisis. 2008-10 Recession practices showed most State education cuts were in Circuit Breaker and Transportation. Transportation costs would increase if social distancing regulations were extended into the fall—requiring more bus runs.
- Others proposed an extended two to three year process tied to information as it became available and the situation unfolded, arguing for ongoing budget agility, rather than too early, harmful cuts of staff and programs that might not be needed.
- Supt. D'Andrea was likely to freeze spending early in the year and watch each month closely while communicating with the State, Towns, and School Committees and working with the MVEA to change budgets as quickly as necessary.
- Furloughs were an option but not necessarily preferred. These were unpaid leave with continuing benefits and job retention assurance. There were no time limitations or notification deadlines. Impact bargaining would be required but Administration had the right to impose them. The contract included eight PD days that could be furloughed without effecting direct student service.

**Executive Session** (Agenda Item # IV)

**A. Negotiations Update**

- MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION, UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 30A SECTION 21 (a) (3) – I.E. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS IF AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING OR LITIGATING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND THE CHAIR SO DECLARES; MS. DEVANE SECONDED.
- The Teachers' contract required notification of possible RIFs be sent out by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- It was emphasized that notification was not a commitment to RIF, only a warning, as

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required by the contract, that such a thing might be possible. To increase budgetary flexibility in uncertain times Supt. D'Andrea proposed sending notification to a limited number of staff, necessarily going to the last hired/least seniority, and stating if the crisis were to go beyond Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) control RIFs might be required.

- Some members proposed a blanket notification to all staff to be prepared for all eventualities. Others protested cutting the lowest paid and most direct student service staff.

• The AISC was divided on the need to discuss issues in Executive Session on re-opening negotiations, and argued the tight notification timeline.

- Districts were obligated to pay according to the Teacher's Contract, even if budgets failed at Town Meetings.

• FY21 Teacher's pay started in August 2020.

• The reoccurring theme for all Town Managers and Schools was to preserve jobs.

• Ms. Nedine Cunningham, one of the three MVEA Co-Presidents, read a statement representing 487 members in five units: teachers, ASPs, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), food service workers and custodians.

- This was the first year of a complex three-year contract. Some other Island employees were retaining COLAs. No State educator units had eliminated COLAs.

- The proposed cuts were well beyond what was being asked by the Towns.

- Unknown's included: school stimulus funding, State and Town revenue levels, and the configuration of the 2020-21 school year.

- Staff quick action, hard work and dedication during the crisis made the attitude of some School Committee members hurtful.

- MVEA hoped to move forward in a measured way, avoiding unnecessary cuts harmful to students, just as School Committees were choosing to retain E & D for later eventualities. MVEA values remained: the best possible education for students.

• Additionally they offered to extend the RIF notification deadline to June 15, 2020 which they would send in writing. Supt D'Andrea thanked them for the extension.

• MOTION AND SECOND WITHDRAWN IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MVEA EXTENSION OF THE NOTIFICATION DEADLINE.

**Finance** (Agenda Item # III)

**A. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget**

• Supt. D'Andrea had heard AISC concerns on RIF notification and the Administrative team would meet early tomorrow, May 29<sup>th</sup>. The AISC reviewed the RIF notification timeline and a Negotiations Subcommittee meeting would be scheduled.

• To facilitate the coming Budget process, Supt. D'Andrea and Interim MVPS Business Manager Mark Friedman proposed to draft plans for phased budget cuts. The AISC suggested:

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- timing AISC meetings and cuts to follow State guidelines and announcements as they were released;

- a hierarchy of categories to be cut and/or percentages and/or \$10,000 increments and/or in accordance with State guidelines.

- As part of each District's budget, the mechanism for appropriating the Supt. Shared Services Budget reductions was briefly explored.

- MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2021 SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES OFFICE TOTAL BUDGET AT \$6,893,041.64 AS PROPOSED; MS. MCCRACKEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE.

- MR. SALOP MOVED THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT COME BACK AT THE NEXT ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH A PLAN FOR PRIORITIZING REDUCTIONS AS BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS CALL FOR THEM; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. WATTS—NAY.

- At the start of the meeting, AISC members reported myriad calls about the Strings Program and protested the lack of notification from the Superintendent. Supt. D'Andrea explained his habit to pre-notify teachers of any possibility of their program being cut. He apologized to School Committee members for not informing them.

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

**Adjournment**

- MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:01PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE.

**Meetings/Events: (by Zoom)**

- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 1, 2020

- AISC Negotiations Subcommittee: - 5:30PM, Wednesday, June 3, 2020

- AISC – 4:00PM, Thursday, June 4, 2020

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 5/28/20
- AISC Participants 5.28.20 (6 p.)

continued >

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**Documents on File (cont.):**

- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Superintendent's Office and Shared Services Programs FY'21 Proposed Budget Approved by A.I.S.C. November 14, 2019 Recertified for Health Insurance Rates February 4, 2020 (5 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Superintendent's Office and Shared Services Programs FY'21 Proposed Budget Approved by A.I.S.C. November 14, 2019 Draft May 28, 2020 (5 p.)
- Cunningham email re: AISC Background Documents 5/29/20 - MVEA Statement - (2 p.)

**Approved 6/4/20**