

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, April 6, 2020, 5:00PM
ZOOM Meeting

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Megan Anderson, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Kris O’Brien, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer*,

Others:

Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs,
Barbara Jean Chauvin - CTE Director
Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Guidance – Amy Lilavois
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod,
Cheri Cluff, Chris Connors, Spencer D’Agostino, Elsbeth Todd,

Supt.'s Of: Assistant Superintendent - Richie Smith,
FinComs. Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Mary Ellen Larsen,
Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Aaron Wilson,
MVTV – Michelle Vivian,

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 5:02PM.

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes:

• *MR. ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9, 2020 MINUTES; MS. JANET PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIMBERLY KIRK—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

* Ms. Kathryn Shertzer entered the meeting at 5:06PM. Ms. Kris O’Brien dropped off and rejoined the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Student Report - None

(Agenda Item #II)

Student/Department Spotlight - None

(Agenda Item #III)

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Student Support

B. Remote Learning Plan Update (See 4/2/20 AISC Minutes p.2-4 #III B-C.)

The Plan had been rolled out on a basic schedule with as much face-to-face student/teacher time as possible, and including office hours for teachers, guidance and administrators. Everyone was getting used to the platforms and routines. Remote learning varied, depending on the subject, class and teacher as to structure, frameworks and interpretation. The current configuration would continue for two weeks after which it would be re-evaluated. The School would follow State and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines and at some point hold a graduation. Staff was working on grading parameters such as pass/fail, credit/no credit, etc.

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- Feedback was fairly decent and teachers, guidance and administrators were monitoring student participation and reaching out to those not engaging. Guidance counselors were contacting students they had been seeing regularly and working to set up parent support groups by grade. A wellness page was being designed for the website. As the State moved deeper into the crisis there would be more difficult issues of illness and loss. Guidance was partnering with other community organizations such as Hospice, Connect to End Violence, and Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS).
- One of the biggest challenges was how to provide support and modified curriculums for students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and English Language Learners (ELL). Both Student Support and ELL Departments were working hard to deliver in whatever mode worked best for students and families.
- The MVRHSC thanked Principal Sarah Dingley and the Administration for their exceptional service in unprecedented and uncharted territory, also praising the tone of the Guidance communications. Prin. Dingley stressed how much the staff missed the students and sense of energy in the building.

C. Reduction in Force (RIF) Update

D. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Workforce Reduction Update

In consideration of timeframes, Principal Dingley informed the MVRHSC of the Reductions In Force (RIF) necessitated by the \$222,000 FY21 vacancy savings commitment (see 1/6/20 Minutes p.3 #D). After internal and financial conversations on minimizing impact on students, class enrollment, courses offered and instruction, Prin. Dingley proposed the following changes that would eliminate two classes per semester in each of two Departments:

- 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to 0.6 FTE Instructional Technology,
- 1.0 FTE to 0.6 FTE in Business Instruction.

This part of the savings was in the \$85,000 range (see below: Tasks). The individuals had been notified. Administration was also looking at other small enrollment class reductions, and at vendor contracts, but would inform the MVRHSC of these changes at a later date.

• *MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE AS RECOMMENDED; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

E. Technology Access

Vice Principals Dhakir Warren and Barbarajean Chauvin had been in touch with almost all MVRHS families and, in generous partnerships with the community, had insured: all students had devices and hardware, and that all staff had laptops (rather than desktop computers). Licensing and software contracts for firewalls and privacy assurances were in process. The MVRHSC was forewarned of possible budget line item transfers for emergent technology needs—unfortunately the Technology Director was on leave (see 10/7/19 Minutes p.4 #VII B).

F. Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)/Sports Update

The MIAA was hoping to start the spring season on May 11 with a 10 game season, tournaments starting June 11th and finals June 23rd. Physical examinations expiring after March 13th were

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waived (as doctors were not available) and academic requirements were suspended. Athletes were eager to return to the field.

G. Outstanding Technical Student 2020 (See documents on file.)

Junior, Ms. Taylor Hughes, who earned her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification and worked at Windermere, was awarded Outstanding Technical Student award. She hoped to be directly admitted into a nursing school. The MVRHSC extended their congratulations.

H. Harkness Professional Development (PD) (See documents on file.)

A number of staff signed up for the Harkness Teaching Workshop at Lawrenceville School, New Jersey. The focus was on student-lead reading and Socratic learning in English and History, with Math and Science as a second wave—in many ways a continuation of the Lucy Calkins kindergarten through eighth grade reading curriculum.

• *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF TO ATTEND THE 2020 HARKNESS TEACHING WORKSHOP AT \$1,075 TUITION EACH, PROVIDED THE WORKSHOP HAPPENED; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) Lunch Program Update

- The MVRHSC sent its best wishes and support to Superintendent Matt D'Andrea, who was away due to an illness in the family.
- The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) lunch/breakfast program instituted March 18th after the March 13th closing, was very successful and popular, providing 100 to 300 lunches and breakfasts per site with transportation runs in all directions. Kudos went to the food service workers who had been and were performing heroically. However, recent developments were generating risk anxiety among the workers, their families and loved ones. Administration was working at changes in procedure to address these concerns that would be presented at the next AISC meeting (see below: Meetings/Events). It was noted that meal numbers were likely to increase as the economic shutdown continued. Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith emphasized the two paramount goals: feeding MVPS students and keeping staff safe.

B. Union Overview

On the first day of the Remote Learning Plan roll-out there were no further developments.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Overview of Budget (See documents on file.)

Finance Manager Mark Friedman was closely watching two issues.

- an unexpected Residential Placement just before the March 13th shutdown—application sent for Extraordinary Circuit Breaker Relief;
- State revenues, which were currently intact—but projecting likely Transportation and Medicaid reductions.

State restrictions on larger projects and even access to buildings were unknowns.

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B. Grants and Donations (See documents on file.)

- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE:*
- *\$1,879.99 FROM MV VISION FELLOWSHIP TO SUPPORT MVRHS PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND EQUIPMENT,*
- *\$1,000 FROM THE CAPE COD 5 BANK TO SUPPORT THE CREDIT FOR LIFE FAIR,*
- *\$3,300 FROM THE CAPE & ISLANDS WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS TO CAREERS,*

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

C. Technology Costs – See above p.2 #IV E.

D. FY21 Budget Update – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Although the MVRHSC had approved the FY21 Budget, Annual Town Meetings (ATMs) had all been postponed. The Commonwealth was planning for various scenarios. DESE could extend regional school district budgets into the next fiscal year.

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

The Covid-19 crisis had also affected warrant signatures. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) was researching electronic signatures. Mass. General Law (MGL) Chapter 77 Section 16A allowed a regional school committee to designate any one member to sign warrants, provided a report of such actions was made to the school committee. The MVRHSC debated issues.

- Some preferred electronic signatures rather than abrogating responsibility.
- Chair Kimberly Kirk would not always be available to sign due to family obligations that took her off-Island.
- Scanning and emailing complete invoices and documentation for email signatures was a burdensome task and increased risk for an already stressed staff.
- It was a heavy responsibility for the designee(s).
- The MVRHSD had a good audit and track record in terms of financial stability and integrity.
- This was a temporary measure.

• *MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO DESIGNATE VICE CHAIR AMY HOUGHTON AND/OR MS. KRIS O'BRIEN TO SIGN WARRANTS UNTIL THE MVRHSC COULD FIND A BETTER METHOD; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—NAY, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

- A list of warrants would be made available and any documents would be provided on request.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Leave of Absence (LOA)

- *MS. PACKER MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE-YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ENGLISH*

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TEACHER KATE HENNIGAN FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR; MS. SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.

Subcommittee Reports

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Scheduling of Future Meetings

It was felt that subcommittee meetings would be an added burden to the staff so there was a general consensus to table meetings unless there was an urgent matter—which would be the responsibility of the Subcommittee Chairs.

Executive Session – Not needed.

(Agenda Item #IX)

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #XII)

The MVRHSC saluted the MVRHS sign, which added leavening to the day.

• MR. MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:26PM; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.

Appendix A - Meetings

- AISC – 5:00PM, Monday, April 27, 2020 - TBD
- **MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, May 4, 2020 - TBD**
- All Special & Annual Town Meetings postponed
- Subcommittees – TBD

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Mr. Freidman – send specific finances of vacancy savings and RIF reductions.
- Mr. Light – send Harkness PD links.
- Mr. Light/Mr. Smith – contact MIAA re: extending waiver of physical exams.
- Budget Subcommittee – schedule a meeting.
- Transportation Subcommittee – schedule a meeting.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/6/20
- D'Andrea letters to Parents re: school closure 3/12/20 & 3/13/20
- 2020 Outstanding Vocational Technical Student of the Year
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (14 p.) 4/5/20
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 4/5/20
- 2020 Harkness Teaching Workshop, Workshop Sessions June 12-14, 2020
- Light email re: MVRHSC Background Documents 4/7/20
- Grants – April 1, 2020

continued >

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Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Richie Smith – MVRHSD Asst. Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 5/4/20