

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 4, 2020, 5:00PM

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Megan Anderson, Amy Houghton*, Skipper Manter, Kris O'Brien, Janet Packer, Kathryn Shertzer, Student representatives (non-voting): Zachary Smith,

Others: About 42 attendees including the following:

Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs, Barbarajean Chauvin - CTE Director
Guidance – John Fiorito, Amy Lilavois, Matt Malowski,
Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod, Debbie Brew, Catherine Cherry, Cheri Cluff, Kevin Crowell, Jessica Estrella, Carrie Fyler, Kim Hathaway, Corinne Kurth, Jeff Kurth, Linda Leonard, Jane McGroarty Sampaio, Debra Swanson, Elspeth Todd,

MVTEA: Nedine Cunningham, Spencer D'Agostino, Anne Davey

MVPS staff: Sue Costello

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith,
Interim Finance Manager – Mark Friedman,

Students: Isabella Clark, Alexandra Rego,
Towns: Tisbury: Mary Ellen Larsen, Jonathan Snyder,
WT: Bruce Stone, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Aaron Wilson, MVTV

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHSC members (see * in text)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 5:08PM. Chair Kimberly Kirk welcomed the large attendance: MVRHSC members, teachers, staff, students, and interested community.

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 4/6/2020

• *MS. KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2020 MINUTES; MR. SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. JANET PACKER—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

Student Report

(Agenda Item #II)

A. Zack Smith,

Student Representative Mr. Zack Smith reported that remote learning was going well, with the vast majority of students giving full effort to their classes. He thanked the teachers and administrators for the hard work they put into the program, which he knew about first hand.

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Other students were present to give a broader picture of student opinion. Sophomore Ms. Isabella Clark agreed with Mr. Smith and praised the new schedule of two classes per day as more manageable. She confirmed that she found Zoom attendance and school work to be basically the same as when school was in regular session. Both students were able to personally connect with teachers fairly well, so that although different, it was consistent and steady—the earlier schedule had a heavier workload. Student Council and National Honor Society (NHS) Representative Ms. Alexandra Rego also agreed but reported that some of her peers were struggling, however she thought a good balance had been achieved.

- Principal Sarah Dingley reported on negotiations and support for staff on: troubleshooting, adjusting assignments while satisfying the scope of the curriculums, and reception to feedback. She thanked teachers for their flexibility in a challenging situation—especially as this was Teacher Appreciation Week. Student well-being and education remained a community priority.
- MVRHSC members also commended staff for their efforts which were valued by both students and families.

Student/Department Spotlight - None

(Agenda Item #III)

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Guidance Update

- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was publishing guidelines on student outreach and support. Guidance and Senior Advisors were working on the logistics and timetable for Graduation and surrounding events, maybe in late July/early August before college fall semester—survey results showed a preference for this year. The situation was still unknown but small groups were developing a number of ideas on how to celebrate:
 - student speakers to represent broader segments of the population, e.g a Portuguese speaker;
 - on-line recordings, speeches, postings, etc.
 - movies/slideshows/trailers,
 - rock concert type events;
 - graduating small groups at a time from the Tabernacle;
 - lining Edgartown/Vineyard Haven Rd. with signage,
 - parades with social distancing.
- All Departments had been contacted, a list was compiled for Honors Night connecting students to community, State and Federal resources. Staff met and voted on next year's NHS 65 Executive Council members. Staff was communicating respectfully with donors—a few of which had withdrawn due to the changed financial situation. The Administration, staff and MVRHSC acknowledged with great appreciation the incredible generosity of the community.
- The survey suggested the Prom might be held next year.
- The Guidance Department spoke about:
 - constant outreach and contacts to make sure students and families had appropriate resources;
 - canvassing and rescheduling a 2020-21 master schedule for 650 students, including incoming Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS), Charter School and Falmouth Academy eighth graders;
 - integrating a communication hub to share information on family and community needs;
 - staying on top of emergent issues;

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- monitoring and addressing impacts on students of families, economics and constant anxiety;
- making sure high-risk students were engaged;
- for some a personal reaffirmation of positivity in the community and students.

The MVRHSC and Administration again thanked the entire MVRHS staff for their outstanding service and dedication:

- congratulating the Vice Principals on completing their classes despite the crisis disruptions;
- staff that took on, or had coincidentally started new roles;
- support staff working with teachers and administrators;
- food service workers.

B. Data and Technology Position

* Ms. Amy Houghton entered the meeting in the course of this discussion.

The Technology Director's one-year leave of absence (see 10/7/19 Minutes p.4 #VIII B) gave an opportunity to temporarily reconfigure the Department, currently consisting of three positions: MVRHS Scheduler, Technology Support, Technology Director. Prin. Dingley proposed reducing the Department to two positions through use of a reputable off-Island contractor that supported the server, gathered data, managed PowerSchool and Mosaic, and ran reports. The contractor had a reputation for responding within 1-2 hours and would have a representative on-site four days a week. The result would be a net savings, although the amount was not yet known. MVRHSC questions on the contract liaison position included:

- housing issues;
 - teacher/software focus;
 - contract versus regular employment posting issues;
 - Superintendent's Shared Services (Central) Office exploration of the same contractor.
- *MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTING OF A TECHNOLOGY LIAISON/ REPRESENTATIVE POSITION; MS. ANDERSON SECONDED; MS. HOUGHTON CALLED THE VOTE; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE.*

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) Update (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The focus would be on revisions to the Remote Learning Plan (RLP) according to new guidance from DESE, and the related Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

B. West Tisbury Letter (See documents on file.)

Schools had been looking at possible savings for both Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) and FY21, and at Federal and State Covid-19 crisis funding—current relief was likely to be roughly equivalent to Title One levels.

- The Budget Subcommittee met last week and would continue to meet. The fluidity and unpredictability of the situation made it very hard to gauge what was necessary. Most Towns were planning on June Special/Annual Town Meetings. The MVRHSC agreed to meet again in two weeks (see below: Meetings/Events).

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Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file & below: #H Vote to Transfer...)

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

The Commonwealth expected to fulfill its FY20 reimbursement commitments—staff would continue monitoring the situation.

C. Grants and Donations

• *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT A DONATION OF MATERIALS FOR THE BUILDING TRADES VALUED AT \$2,000 FROM JOEL MEISSNER OF THE BARNYARD; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

• The MVRHS was the traditional fiscal agent for Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD).

• The English Language Learners (ELL) grant outreach position would help build a support system for first generation students. It was part-time, temporary (present through August 2020) not eligible for benefits, and possibly contracted—i.e. separate from standard MVPS employees.

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT:*

- *\$40,000 GRANT FROM SAFER SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GRANT FOR UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY DOORS, LOCKS AND FIRE ALARM UPGRADES;*

- *\$20,000 FROM SYSTEMS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER DIRECTOR OUTREACH COORDINATOR AS A BRIDGE TO FAMILIES;*

MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.

D. Bus Leasing Operating Lease - Vote (See 3/9/20 Minutes p.6 #E.)

The vote for a “capital lease-to-purchase” was predicated on a standard Town Meeting timeline which was now delayed by the Covid-19 crisis (see below: Meetings/Events), pushing bus delivery beyond the start of the school year. Discussions with MVPS legal counsel and the bus company decided the best course was to shift to a more standard lease that no longer triggered legal borrowing protocol. Information on finances and implications of leased rather than owned buses was not yet finalized and the Transportation Subcommittee hoped to report at the next MVRHSC meeting. The buses being replaced had already been declared surplus and would no longer pass safety inspections.

E. Elementary Bus Reimbursements - Vote

As the MVRHSD had ceased to provide bus service to the local elementary schools and the Charter School from March 13th through the end of the school year (about 35% of total service). The Transportation and Budget Subcommittee suggested and the Superintendent recommended only billing for days of transportation provided—thus avoiding billing for services not provided (except some food delivery transportation). This would result in \$243,700 in elementary school savings that could be passed on to the Towns. A similar MVRHS revenue loss was somewhat

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offset by fuel and maintenance expense savings. It would not affect the FY20 Budget, although it might reduce next year's Excess and Deficiency (E & D).

• *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADOPT MR. MARK FRIEDMAN'S ANALYSIS TO NOT BILL THE LOCAL SCHOOLS AND OTHER USERS FOR SERVICE FROM MARCH 13, 2020 (ROUGHLY 35% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR) AS SUGGESTED; MS. PACKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

F. Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trustee

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPOINT MR. MARK FRIEDMAN AS THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DUKES COUNTY POOLED OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

G. Model United Nations (U.N.) Refunds to Families

The MVRHS was awaiting word from Model UN field trip vendors such as Amtrak reservations and hotels. The process was complicated by differing measures, such as one year credits, refunds, etc.

H. Vote to Transfer of Lines Out of Deficit

This measure was to keep the Budget as clean as possible. The MVRHS staff and MVRHSC were mindful of Town problems and the Budget Subcommittee would be working hard on finding savings where possible. It should also be remembered that that the MVRHS received over \$4,000,000 in State aid that would be at risk.

- The bulk of the deficits were from Residential Tuition which was \$180,000 over budget.

• *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSFERS AS PROPOSED; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea and the MVRHSC thanked Mr. Friedman for stepping up and managing the multitude of MVPS budgets, while continuing his work at the MVRHS.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VII)

The Interim MVRHS Financial manager position had been advertised.

Subcommittee Updates – See above.

(Agenda Item #VIII)

Chair Kimberly Kirk gave a shout out to MVRHS Nurse Ms. Linda Leonard for her health newsletter.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #IX)

This was National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and some events were planned to raise awareness.

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

Executive Session – Not needed. (Agenda Item #IX)

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XII)

- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:00PM; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. PACKER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE.*

Appendix A - Meetings

- AISC – 5:00PM, Thursday, May 7, 2020 - Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, May 18, 2020 - Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 1, 2020 - Zoom
- Special & Annual Town Meetings - **TBD**
 - Aquinnah – 7:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020
 - Chilmark – 5:30PM, Monday, June 8, 2020, Community Center Grounds
 - Edgartown – 1:30PM, Saturday, June 13, 2020 (Rain Date 6/14/20) Edg. School Grounds
 - Oak Bluffs – TBD, Tuesday, June 16, 2020
 - Tisbury – 1:00PM, Saturday, June 13, 2020, Tisbury School Grounds
 - West Tisbury – 4:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Tabernacle
- Subcommittees – by Zoom
- Facilities Subcommittee – 9:30AM, Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- Budget Subcommittee – 12:00N, Tuesday, May 12, 2020
- Transportation Subcommittee – After Budget, Tuesday, May 12, 2020
- Budget Subcommittee – 11:00AM, Thursday, May 14, 2020

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Budget Subcommittee – schedule a meeting.
- Transportation Subcommittee – schedule a meeting.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda & 2 Revised Agenda (6 p.) 5/4/20
- West Tisbury Selectman, Finance Committee, Financial Management Team letter re: Corona Virus finances 4/6/20
- MVRHS FY20 Year End, Required Year-End Budget Transfers, May 4, 2020
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (14 p.) 4/3/20
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 5/4/20
- Elementary School Bus Reimbursements (and YMCA, B&G Club, and Charter School
- MVRHS FY20 Voucher Signature List April, 2020
- The Following materials were donated to the Building Trades by Joel Meissner...

continued

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Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea– MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 6/1/20