

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 29, 2020, 5:00PM
Zoom Meeting

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

Others: about 70 attendees (see Participant list) including:
Chris Rogers – CiftonLarsonAllen,

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

MVRHS/MVPS Staff: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs,
Barbara-Jean Chauvin - CTE Director,
Interim MVRHS Finance Manager – Jacob Rosengarten,
Special Ed Co-Director – Hope MacLeod, ASP – Noelle Warburton,
Guidance – Amy Lilavois, John Fiorito, Athletic Director - Mark McCarthy,
Facilities Director – Mike Taus,
Chris Baer, Larissa Bernat, Maureen Best, Lisa Bonneau, Pierre Bonneau,
Kansas Brew, Abigail Chandler, Molly Chvatal, Cheri Cluff,
Debra DeBettencourt, Ginamarie DeBettencourt, Brian Ditchfield,
Stephanie Dreyer, Charles Esposito, Jessica Estrella, David Faber, Hope Fecitt,
Jennifer Fournier, Carrie Fyler, Kim Garrison, Debra Grant, Troy Harris,
Theresa Holmes, Gail Lachapelle, Rebecca Laird, Constance Leuenberger,
Vanessa Martins, Skylar Menton, Sue Merrill, Lisa Nichols, Kathy Perrotta,
Nancy Rogers, Jane McGroarty Sampo, Denise Searle, Teresa Temple,
Elsbeth Todd, Ellen Wannamaker, Christine White, Mary Yancey,

Staff/MVTEA: Nedine Cunningham,

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,

Press: MVTV – Kelly Marolf, MV Times – Lucas Thors,

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

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 5:04PM. Chair Kimberly Kirk welcomed everyone. In order to facilitate such a large meeting, the chat feature was turned off, and all non-MVRHSC members or presenters were asked to turn off their videos—nonetheless remaining and participating in the meeting.

- The agenda was taken out of order to accommodate those with conflicting schedules.

- (Recorder’s Note: *Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity*).

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 6/1/20 & 6/18/20

- *MR. SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED; MS. KRIS O’BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0*

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NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, MS. MEGAN ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.

• MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 4, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED AND THE JUNE 18, 2020 MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

D. Grants and Donations

(See documents on file.)

#V B. & VI E. Transportation Request

Commendations went out again to all staff for tremendous community service after March 13th Covid-19 school closing. Island Grown Initiative (IGI) would start summer food service for the schools July 6th, and the Island Food Pantry was taking on the added challenge of growing Island need. IGI approached the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) for transportation support for those indicating they needed delivery. Administration researched a model for active support without use of taxpayer money, in conference with Noli Taylor and Sophie Abrahams of IGI, Katie Morris of Island Food Pantry and Emily Bramhall of the Permanent Endowment. Permanent Endowment had applied for State partnership funding for Covid Related costs and would assure a donation of up to \$12,000 (total cost strongly guesstimated at \$11,160) for ongoing transportation costs July 6th through August 14th covering:

- 4 days per week delivery, 3 for IGI, 1 for Island Food Pantry;
- 8 staff members paid per run - commensurate to normal pay—and benefits;
- fuel for the runs.

The MVPS would provide 4 vans, including maintenance.

• The Permanent Endowment and IGI pledged the funds regardless, but current payment of the first \$5,000 start up was not yet in MVPS possession pending MVRHSC approval of the model and outcome of a State application.

• The MVRHSC raised a couple points.

- Others were welcome to donate, however the fall season was likely to bring further need and the community effort would benefit from pacing contributions.

- MVPS sent out an IGI designed survey. Total meals requested was for 450 children (up from the usual 200) with 35 deliveries through IGI and 39 deliveries from the Island Food Pantry.

- MVPS legal counsel endorsed the public/private partnership, and Accountant Chris Roger's general but non-legal opinion was that it was financially valid, especially given the unprecedented times.

• MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR SUMMER FOOD SERVICE AS PRESENTED AND TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF UP TO \$12,000 FROM THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT AND ISLAND GROWN SCHOOLS; MS.

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

- Before being hired as a 0.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) MVPS Mental Health Coordinator Kim Garrison applied for and was personally awarded a Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship grant of \$84,368. With the permission of the Vision Fellowship these funds would now be used (hopefully over a two-year period) as follows:

- 0.1 FTE increase is Ms. Garrison's position, resulting in 0.5 FTE with benefits;
- a multi-tiered system of care to include research and evaluation of a school-based behavioral health center for the MVRHS;
- development of a comprehensive MVPS mental health continuum of care for families and students.

- There was some confusion over the increase to Ms. Garrison's position. The position and related spending was reduced during the FY21 budget process (see 5/28/20 AISC Minutes p.3). The MVRHSD would be the fiscal agent for the Fellowship-funded additional 0.1 FTE which would restore it to its original level. The position would be carried on the Shared Services/MVPS FY22 budget as 0.4 FTE.

- The Superintendent's Shared Services Office had applied for a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) 613 grant for an additional \$15,000 to fill the reduction of school-based clinical care.

- The Fellowship grant covered the entire MVPS for the Mental Health Coordinator and comprehensive school mental health continuum but the behavioral health center (~ \$47,000) would be specifically for the MVRHS.

- MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GRANT; THERE WAS NO SECOND. MVRHS Principal Sarah Dingley was excited at the prospect of the MVRHS behavioral health center and requested the matter be tabled for a more formal presentation (see below: Actions).

- A generous, anonymous Island resident offered to contribute to the MVRHS July graduation.

- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GREAT GRATITUDE A \$6,300 DONATION FOR A LED GRADUATION SCREEN; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.*

Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Audit Review (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #II)
Mr. Chris Rogers of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) thanked the MVRHSC for allowing him to join the meeting and wished all families safe. He reviewed the audit document. CLA was contracted to express opinion on:

- financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP)—unmodified opinion—best available;

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- expenditures for federal awards programs (Uniform Guidance) and compliance with same (mostly Special Education (SpEd) cluster)—qualified opinion with two findings on procurement compliance;

with reports on:

- compliance on laws, regulations, contracts and grants—no findings (i.e. operating as intended);
- internal control over federal awards

and finally a management letter (5 comments—2 repeats, 1 new, 2 informational).

• The MVRHSD had a net position of negative \$24,700,000 in long term: assets, debts, obligations, some of which were the unrestricted \$4,000,000 pension and the reported \$40,000,000 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities. Mr. Rogers reminded the MVRHSC that all municipalities had these obligations on their books. For example, the MVRHS Dukes County OPEB Trust balance was \$2,600,000 or 6.23% funded—above the general 1-2% funding of other municipalities. The OPEB actuarial study encompassed a number of variables (discount rates, healthcare costs, etc.) that produced volatility e.g. 1% decreases or increases could result in \$6,000,000 to \$11,000,000 shifts either way.

- The same volatility applied to the smaller pension liability on a lesser scale.

- Mr. Manter expressed his concern on the enlargement of the OPEB liability from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 especially as the MVRHSC had been contributing well beneath his best wishes. He was trying to avoid his previous experience when the pension liability pay-off was instituted.

- Mr. Rogers:

- reviewed actuarial changes (mortality rates, etc.) as summarized in each study;

- noted the “not active” reporting of the liability;

- pointed out continuing pay-as-you go costs (FY18 – costs \$864,000, FY19 – costs \$943,000).

• The General Fund Balance was about \$2,000,000—with \$350,000 for the feasibility study.

• The MVRHS received about \$1,300,000 in Special Education federal awards. The qualified opinion involved \$48,000 in questioned costs—which only indicated some failure to follow federal guidelines—not involving return of funds or inappropriate use):

- no evidence that contracts were checked for inclusion on the suspended or debarred list—CLA checked the involved contractors which were not included on the list.

• There were two repeated Management Letter comments (see 7/1/19 Minutes p.2).

- No MVRHS Information Technology (IT) audit was performed because the IT Director was on leave (see 10/7/19 Minutes p.4 # VIII B). Mr. Rogers strongly advocated for better defense against increased external vulnerability as schools became more dependent on remote learning during the Covid pandemic.

- There was \$16,000 in FY19 cafeteria debt but a change in operations eliminated the problem and the comment was not expected to be repeated next year.

- The new comment recommended the MVRHSD procurement policy be updated to meet federal uniform guidance.

- The two Informational comments included:

- Fiduciary activities—delayed for a year by the Covid/Corona pandemic; and

- significant new lease accounting/reporting requirements.

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- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDIT AND MANAGEMENT LETTER: MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.*
- The MVRHSC thanked Mr. Rogers for his attendance and his patience.

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Remote Summer Programming

There were a number of remote July/August platforms from the building serving students and some latitude in State guidelines was emerging:

- program to recover early credits—no credit loss from the final quarter / Covid closure;
- invitational program for pro-active students with D grading in core subjects;
- English as Second Language/English Language Learners (ESL/ELL) learning targeting MVRHS students;
- Extended School Year (ESY) for qualified SpEd students—monitoring high-need students for possible face-to-face sessions as guidelines, increased equipment and training permitted.

Robust engagement and enrollment was expected.

B. MV Times Article

The Martha's Vineyard Times published an article on how the MVRHS supported families with food deliveries and educational materials (see <https://www.mvtimes.com/2020/06/04/island-schools-deliver-food-families/>)

C. Middle Level/Charter School Waiver for Girls Cross Country

(See 9/9/19 Minutes p.2 #IV E).

The mid-level waiver was tabled over concerns on Covid-19 guidelines on fall school sports.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A COOP-WAIVER WITH THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM; MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.*

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) Update on Fall Planning

General experience was that Covid-19 was not as easily transmitted to or by children and posed a less severe risk to the child—schools did not appear to play a major role in transmission. The 45 member State working group's (healthcare experts, superintendents, teachers, a student and a parent) primary goal was to bring students safely back into facilities for in-person education utilizing preventive measures for students and staff. In-person learning was determined to be by far the best form of education, encompassing relations, bonding, socio-emotional component with staff and peers.

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- The Administration was reviewing recently released State guidelines for the 2020-21 school year. These were liable to evolve due to a number of unknowns: State budget status, second Corona/Covid wave, etc.
- students in Grades 2 to 12 required to wear masks—kindergarten (K) and first graders not required but had the option;
- re: Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization recommendations 6 ft. of physical distancing preferred but at least 3 ft. required;
- hand-washing and alcohol based stations for frequent hand-washing;
- parent monitoring of children, and stay-home if sick requests—temperature monitoring when entering building not recommended or required.

The State requested plans for three models:

- in-person learning with safety requirements,
 - full remote learning,
 - remote/in-person hybrid splitting/alternating students in buildings.
- A MVPS administrative task force was meeting weekly, and had formed specified task subgroups: SpEd, ESL/ELL, technology, transportation. health/safety, food service, etc. some of which included experts in related fields, such as public health officials and the MVPS physician. Groups would also be informed by two surveys, one to families, one to staff. The plans would be presented to the AISC when ready.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Expense and Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

FY20 had been an unusual year financially.

- Legal costs and Shared Services were expected to break even as would County Retirement where the negative was due to a timing issue.
 - There were residuals in a number of lines including: Health Insurance (due to retirements), Instructional Supplies, Salary Increments, and Transportation—due to decreased runs, maintenance, fuel, etc.;
 - and very few negatives: Athletics, Computer Supplies and Corrective Maintenance were likely to be covered within each Department,
 - some Preventive Maintenance contracts were still in process, e.g. athletic fields;
 - The Superintendent's Shared Services office American Disabilities Act (ADA) access had been designed but was not able to move towards design.
- Chapter 71 Transportation revenue came in over target. Chapter 70 reimbursement was in process (according to the usual timing) at \$450,000 which exceeded the budget target by ~ \$42,000. Charter School tuitions would come in \$50,000 over projections and there was the loss of the elementary school transportation assessments (see 5/4/20 Minutes p.4-5 #VI E). However, in total gains and losses, revenues were expected to be as projected.
 - Expense savings and reasonable revenue would generate a level of additional Excess and Deficiency (E & D).

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B. Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Budget Transfers (See documents on file.)

* During this conversation Ms. Houghton left the meeting.

Transfers from Benefits/Medical Insurance included:

- Building Heating due to taking advantage of the closure savings and remarkably low pricing by topping off tanks to remediate FY22 expenses (\$25,935.48);
 - Separation Costs from three more retirees than expected (\$10,848.90);
 - Retiree health insurance for the same three retirements (\$36,278.15).
 - a small Social Studies Salaries deficit (\$1,253.64) would be transferred from Salary Increments.
- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE \$75,316.17 IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSFERS AS DOCUMENTED; MS. ANDERSON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED; 5 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE.*

Mr. Ernie Boch Jr. generously donated \$2,000 to reduce the \$9,963 student cafeteria debt deficit.

- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFERRING \$7,963 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 GNERAL FUND TO COVER STUDENT CAFETERIA DEBT; MS. ANDERSON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE.*

C. Student Technology Lease Approval – Tabled (see above #II Management Letter).

Personnel (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Retirement/Resignation (See documents on file.)

Students and community would miss these staff.

- *MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE AND GOOD LUCK WITH THEIR NEW LIVES THE:*
- *RESIGNATION OF HEAD CUSTODIAN MR. AARON ASHTON;*
 - *RETIREMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS MUSIC TEACHER AND ACCOMPANIST MS. NANCY ROGERS;*
 - *RESIGNATION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND SOFTBALL COACH ALYSSA LEMOI;*
- MS. SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE.*

Committee Updates (Agenda Item #VIII)

A. 2020-2021 Meeting Calendar – Tabled (See documents on file.)

B. Committee Leadership Reorganization (See 9/17/18 Minutes p.5 #IX A.)

- *MS. ACKERMAN NOMINATED MS. KIMBERLY KIRK AS CHAIR FOR ANOTHER YEAR; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MS. KIRK ACCEPTED; THERE BEING NO OTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; NOMINATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:*

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6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE.

Subcommittee membership and Vice Chair nominations were tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Janet Packer would be sorely missed. Mr. Michael Watts was welcomed as the new Tisbury representative.

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

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

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XII)

• MS. O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:14PM; MS. ANDERSON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ANDERSON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE.

Appendix A - Meetings/Events

- **MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, July 13, 2020 – Zoom**
- MVRHS Graduation – Sunday, July 26, 2020 – Ag Hall, West Tisbury
- **MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, August 3, 2020 – Zoom**

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- All – review calendar and consider subcommittee membership.
- Mr. Smith/Prin. Dingley – show Fellowship grant/MVRHS behavioral health center presentation with Ms. Garrison.
- Agenda Items: -
 - Vice Chair - Vote
 - Fellowship Grant - Presentation and Vote
 - Calendar – Approval
 - Student Technology Lease - Vote
 - Subcommittee Memberships

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/29/20
- Participants_87616247670 (2 p.)
- Friedman cover email re: MVRHS Expense and Revenue Report 6/28/20
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (14 p.) 6/28/20
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2019-2020 6/28/20 6/28/20
- MVRHS FY20 Year-End Requested Year-End Budget Transfers, June 29, 2020
- Grants – June 29, 2020
- Appendix B, 2020 Vineyard Vision Project Fellowship Award Budget Y1*

continued >

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Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kris O'Brien – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 7/13/20