

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, July 13, 2020, 5:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Megan Anderson, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Kris O’Brien, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts,
Others: Pam Hurley, Katherine Kavanaugh, Janet Packer, Nichole Shank,
MVPS/MVRHS: Principal – Sarah Dingley,
Assistant Principals: Jeremy Light, Dhakir Warren – Director of Student Affairs,
Barbara Jean Chauvin - CTE Director
Interim Finance Manager Jacob Rosengarten, Facilities Director – Mike Taus,
Brian Dowd, Jennifer Fournier, Bridget Mello, Denise Searle,
Debra Swanson, Elspeth Todd, MVPS/MVTEA - Nedine Cunningham,
Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Matt D’Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith,
Interim Finance Manager – Mark Friedman, Kim Garrison,
Towns: Tisbury: Mary Ellen Larsen, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,
Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Will Sennott, Noah Asimov,
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 5:03PM. Chair Kimberly Kirk welcomed new MVHRSC member Mr. Michael Watts from Tisbury, also saluting retired member Ms. Janet Packer.

• Ms. Kirk emphasized that Black Lives Matter was one of the largest and most important movements in history. She acknowledged Principal Sarah Dingley’s letter (see documents on file) and explained the policy was removed from the agenda to be referred instead to the All Island School Committee (AISC) where it would have the most impact. She was consulting with community leaders and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Minutes

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: June 29, 2020

• *MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 29, 2020 MINUTES; MS. KRIS O’BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS* due to absence: *MR. SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. KRIS O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, MR. MICHAEL WATTS—ABSTAIN, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Student Report - None

(Agenda Item #II)

Student/Department Spotlight - None

(Agenda Item #III)

Principal's Report - None

(Agenda Item #IV)

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Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

A. School Fall Opening Update (See documents on file.)

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea reported on the first version of State guidelines for the September 2020 school opening. The State was planning for in-person learning but required three plans (in case the Corona/Covid-19 virus situation changed) to be submitted by July 31st :

- all in-person learning, all students all days;
- all remote learning at home;
- hybrid learning, students in buildings and at home in shifts.

The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) surveyed families and staff, consulted medical professionals (Massachusetts Association of Pediatricians, MVPS physician, etc.) and formed a Task Force which was broken into working groups that also included community experts:

- Teaching/Learning – looking at: platforms, expectations, and remote/in-person consistency;
- Social /Emotional – support for students, families and staff;
- Special Education/English Language Learners (ELL) to meet needs in the best way possible;
- Health/Wellness – safety training, social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc.
- Technology – to keep all families and staff up-to-date and functioning;
- Food service – already at work;
- Transportation – dealing with social distancing, hybrid learning routes, etc.

Prin. Dingley gave a shoutout to Facilities Director Mike Taus, School Nurse Linda Leonard, Career Technology Education (CTE) Director Barbara-Jean Chauvin, and Vice Principal Jeremy Light for their work preparing the MVRHS for in-person learning—minimum spacing 3 ft./preferred 6 ft.. The building was large, but classrooms were often small, requiring schedule shifts to accommodate larger classes. Any situation where masks were not being worn (e.g. lunch) required 6 ft. distancing. Music classes were still undecided and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) had not yet put out guidelines. Some community groups were using the fields.

Financial Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Information Technology (IT) Contract – Budget Transfer

(See documents on file & Minutes: 5/4/20 p.3 #B & 6/1/20 p.2 #D.)

The IT reorganization contract was negotiated at \$129,960 (no benefits to be paid). Transfers to cover the cost would be from IT Dept: salaries/health insurance (Director, Coordinator, Scheduler), and equipment. Prin. Dingley was enthusiastic about this new resource:

- 40 years experience and over 180 employees representing a depth of knowledge;
- best practices coordinated with many school districts;
- in person, on-Island support;
- “800” phone number for all staff;
- 24/7 network monitoring.

• *MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 TRANSFERS TO COVER THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT AS DOCUMENTED: MS. HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE.*

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B. Student Technology Lease - Approval (See documents on file.)

The goal to refresh MVRHS computers every 5-7 years on continuous rotation, resulted in the current need for 17 iMacs. Leasing was the most efficient in this fast moving field however, new accounting regulations for leases (see 6/29/20 Minutes p.4) classified lease-to-own as capital borrowing requiring Town approvals (see 3/9/20 Minutes p.6-7 #E). Consequently the Finance Dept. was working on obtaining an operating lease—which were less common as companies were somewhat reluctant to repossess 5-7 year old computers.

C. Grants and Donations (See documents on file & 6/29/20 Minutes p.3.)

The complex funding and configuration of Ms. Kim Garrison's Mental Health Coordinator position was explained at length. The position should address:

- the MedStar report recommendation for accessible behavioral and substance support for youth;
- and the Island situation as one of the lowest health care access counties in the Massachusetts complicated by siloed/uncoordinated resources.

Ms. Garrison was working on the MedStar year one and two goals:

- data collection on Island resources, strengths and weaknesses, mapping etc.
- updating/drafting in-school clinician practices;
- pursuing funding to implement an in-school health center and mental health coordinator.
- Prin. Dingley worked successfully to expand embedded services: recovery coaching, adjustment counseling, reduced Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) wait list, etc. The next step was a school-based health center (SBHC) for the 14-18 year old vulnerable population, in coordination with MVCS and the Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH). Such centers were now a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) best practice from urban to rural communities. School-based health centers handled such things as:

- timely physicals before athletic seasons,
- follow through on treatments to reduce attrition,
- tele-medication for students moving into medical supervision.

Ms. Garrison was researching models and evidence-based servicing. The two-year Vision Fellowship was strongly committed to this project grant and agreed to two part-time interdependent positions both filled by Ms. Garrison, as well as stipends, activities etc. for community participants.

- Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith reviewed the history of the Supt. Shared Services Mental Health Coordinator position from the 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) MedStar recommendation (see 9/13/18 AISC minutes p.2) to the budgeted/contracted and grant funded position to the reduced 0.4 FTE during the Covid-19 adjustment (see 5/28/20 AISC Minutes p.3). Mr. Smith continued to look for funding to complete the position. Next year he hoped to use local funds to support a 0.5 FTE or higher mental health coordinator with benefits.

- The current configuration for year one (FY21) was proposed as follows:
 - 0.4 FTE for the Supt. Shared Services budgeted Coordinator salary at status quo;
 - 0.5 FTE MVRHS Coordinator salary to implement SBHC– Vision Fellowship grant funded;
 - MVRHS budgeted benefits including Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) from an unfilled position;
 - possible MVRHSD DESE 336 grant to offset \$15-20,000 of the Vision Fellowship grant.

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- Year two would:
 - continue the Vision Fellowship grant for the MVRHS, possibly with DESE 336 grant offsets;
 - and increase the Shared Services budgeted position to 0.5 (or higher) with benefits;
- Year 3 would implement the school-based health center (SBHC) but funding was unknown.
- The MVRHSC thanked Administration for finding grant funding and supporting extraordinary student mental health needs. There was some hesitation about positions funded by temporary grants that might eventually have to be budgeted or dropped. SBHC and post secondary planning were two of Prin. Dingley's core visions. She hoped to be able to shift funds or find community resources but was cognizant and transparent about the financial risk.
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE VINEYARD VISION PROJECT FELLOWSHIP AWARD; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE.*

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Leave of Absence (LOA)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE A MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER GALEN BREW WITH DATES TO BE DETERMINED; MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE.*

Committee Updates

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Subcommittee Membership

The membership was updated as follows (see below: Tasks):

Budget – Chair – Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Anderson, [Ms. Houghton](#), Mr. Lionette, Mr. Manter, [alternate – Mr. Watts](#)

Facilities – Chair – Mr. Manter, [Ms. Houghton](#) Mr. Lionette, Ms. O'Brien, [alternate – Mr. Watts](#)

Land Use – Ms. Anderson, Mr. Manter, Ms. Shertzer, Ms. O'Brien, [Mr. Watts](#)

Transportation – Chair – Ms. Kirk, Mr. Lionette, Mr. O'Brien, [Mr. Watts](#), [alternate – Ms. Houghton](#)

Regional – [Ms. Ackerman](#), Mr. Lionette, Ms. O'Brien.

Public Comment – None

(Agenda Item #IX)

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

(Agenda Item #X)

Administration gave a big shout out to all the parties that helped paint the MVRHS purple pride.

Executive Session – Not needed.

(Agenda Item #XI)

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Adjournment

(Agenda Item #XII)

- *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:23PM; MR. LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Appendix A - Meetings/Events

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

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Sub-committee Chairs – call meetings as needed.
- Supt. D'Andrea/Prin. Dingley/Ms. Kirk–contact Towns to reappoint Regional Subcommittee.
- Agenda Items: - Vice Chair - Vote
- Student Technology Lease - Vote

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda 7/13/20
- Participants_81140395097
- Dingley email re: Sign 7/2/20
- D'Andrea letter re: MVPS fall school re-opening (4 p.) 7/15/20
- News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education On the Desktop – June 10, 2020 (2 p.)
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Fall Reopening Frequently Asked Questions, as of July 10, 2020 (5 p.)
- MVRHS FY21 IT Reorganization
- MVRHS FY20 Voucher Signature List June, 2020
- Vision Fellowship Grant Approval Request
- Vineyard Vision Fellowship Project (7 p.)
- MVRHS School & Sub Committee Members 2019-2020, Revised 8/26/19
- Meeting Calendar 2020-2021, Updated 7/1/20

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Kimberly Kirk – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved as corrected 8/3/20