

**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
6:00PM, Thursday, February 18, 2021
By Zoom**

Present:

Up-Island Chair - Robert Lionette, Roxanne Ackerman, Kate DeVane,
Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,
Tisbury Acting Chair - Michael Watts, Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer,
Oak Bluffs Lisa Reagan, Kathryn Shertzler,
Edgartown

Others:

Recorder – Marni Lipke, Celia Gillis,

Supt. Shared Superintendent - Matt D'Andrea, Asst. Supt. – Richie Smith, Ruda Stone,

Services Of: Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, ELL Director - Leah Palmer,
Student Support Co-Director – Nancy Dugan, Hope MacLeod,
Shared Services Coordinator - Susan Conlan,

Principals: Chilmark – Susan Stevens, Edgartown – Shelley Einbinder,

MVRHS – Sara Dingleddy, Dhakir Warren, West Tisbury – Mary Boyd,

MVPS: Maryann Bartlett, Kim Garrison, Amy Lilavois, Heather, Rogers-Rodrigues,
Jennifer Russel,

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Noah Asimov,

**Late arrivals or early departures of AISC members (see * in text)*

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

* Chair Robert Lionette had technical difficulties throughout the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes

A. Including but not limited to: January 21, 2021 (Agenda Item # II)

• MS. AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2021 MINUTES; MR. ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, MS. LISA REAGAN—AYE, MS. JEN CUTRER—AYE, MS. KATE DEVANE—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. MICHAEL WATTS—AYE, MR. ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

Financial (Agenda Item #IV)

A. Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Approved Insurance Rates

Original projections were for a 5% health insurance rate increase. The CCMHG set rates at 2-3%

depending on insurance company and plan. However they also used a sizable amount of their reserves for a one month premium holiday—which was unlikely to be continued, presenting possible sizable increases for FY23 or FY24.

B. FY22 Budget Recertification

(See documents on file & 12/10/20 Minutes p. 2-4 #III A & B.)

The Supt.'s Shared Services Office budget was revised as follow:

- \$68,305 health and dental insurance reduction;

- \$10,420 unemployment insurance (“Payroll Obligations”) reduction.

• The Student Support Co-Director/Director shift (see below: #V A) would have no impact on the Office budget. It might produce some savings overall but was still known.

• *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND THE CERTIFICATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUPERINTENDENT’S SHARED SERVICES BUDGET VOTED ON DECEMBER 10, 2020; MS. DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MS. DEVANE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE.*

• *MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO CERTIFY THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUPERINTENDENT’S SHARED SERVICES BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT \$7,490,394.92 AN INCREASE OF 7.52%; MR. SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MS. DEVANE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE.*

Personnel

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Director of Student Support Services Position – Discussion and Vote

(See documents on file & Minutes: 6/9/16 p.1-3 #3, & 1/21/21 Minutes #VI.)

Superintendent Matt D’Andrea reviewed the reasons for the proposed shift from Co-Directors to a single Director and a Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Coordinator.

- The original decision was made after a five-year period of high Director turnover and inconsistency that was detrimental to special education programming.

- Consultant Jim Shillinglaw did a thorough study of and made recommendations for the shared services programs, Project Headway, the MVRHS and all local schools.

- The Co-Directors brought stability and competency to the department:

◦ overseeing and implementing the recommendations,

◦ re-organizing shared services,

◦ improving parent communications,

◦ updating policies and procedures,

◦ promoting appropriate and pro-active Professional Development (PD),

◦ insuring consistency in school transitions, and

◦ overseeing positive Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Program Reviews

• The Position and Department were now stable. Ms. Hope MacLeod was experienced, knowledgeable, familiar with the Island education community and would provide continuity.

- She would fill retiring Co-Director Nancy Dugan's position in the Supt.'s Shared Services Office and Budget. The MVRHS was advertising for a Special Education Coordinator—using Ms. MacLeod's salary in the MVRHS budget.
 - Neither the Student Support Director nor the MVRHS Special Education Coordinator were new positions.
 - The AISC raised the issue of process.
 - Did the AISC or the Superintendent hire the Student Support Directors?
 - As an in-house hire, the position was advertised with the Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) as required, but did not have to be publicly posted. The only applicant was Ms. MacLeod.
 - MR. MANTER MOVED TO RETURN TO THE SINGLE STUDENT SUPPORT DIRECTOR POSITION CONFIGURATION; MS. SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. DEVANE—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE.
 - MS. REAGAN MOVED TO APPROVE AND HIRE MS. HOPE MACLEOD AS STUDENT SUPPORT DIRECTOR; MS. SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSTENTION: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. DEVANE—ABSTAIN, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE,
 - Ms. Devane and Ms. Houghton interrupted the vote, stressing their support of Ms. MacLeod but expanding the conversation on procedure and suggesting a delay to insure proper protocol. They cited State Advisory on Governance and Education Laws and Regulation, and other websites which delineated AISC authority to award contracts for the: School Business Administrator, Administrator of Special Education, School Physician, Registered Nurses, Attendance Officers, Chief Procurement Officers, Legal Counsel, and Assistant or Associate Superintendent on the recommendation of the Superintendent.
 - Supt. D'Andrea had consulted Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Field Director Jim Hardy, who stated in an email that the Superintendent ran the hiring process and recommended the candidate to the AISC.
 - Other members noted:
 - that in voting to hire Ms. MacLeod the AISC was executing a contract;
 - there was a level of trust with Mr. Hardy, Ms. MacLeod and Supt. D'Andrea;
 - that it was procedurally inappropriate to interrupt a vote;
 - that sacrificing a patently right decision to procedural obstacles against the advice and research of the Superintendent was the sort of thing that discouraged citizen participation in government.
- MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—NAY.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Covid Testing Update

Participation was very high and testing was going very well with 3 straight weeks of total negatives. Thanks were again extended to the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation and Martha's Vineyard Youth for their generous support.

B. MCAS Data

The MCAS Accountability system looked at all different aspects of schools, instruction, graduation rates, attendance, etc. Chair Lionette proposed to explore this system at each meeting to help the School Committee understand it, especially as it was one of the main areas of evidence in the Superintendent's evaluation process. The presentation was tabled due to time constraints.

C. AISC Personnel Sub-Committee

- Two members were departing, so the Subcommittee had to be repopulated.
- Coming up on a complete year of the Covid-19 pandemic, Supt. D'Andrea asked to simplify the laborious process and evaluate him on his handling of this unique and 24/7 year: covering all areas of impact: school, students, instruction, staff, facilities, budgets, instructional leadership, technology/remote learning, management operations, collective bargaining negotiations, testing/vaccines, human resource, grants, entitlement and other applications, family community communications, professional culture, etc.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #VI)

Ms. Dugan thanked the AISC for their confidence in voting to return to the single Student Support Director configuration had always been the one of the Co-Directors' goals—although there was still work to do. She praised Ms. MacLeod also noting that Special Education teachers would appreciate the continuity.

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

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #VIII)

- *MS. SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:02PM; MR. WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. REAGAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE.*

Meetings/Events: (by Zoom – TBD)

Documents on File:

- Agenda 2/18/21
- Friedman cover email re: Shared Services - Revised FY22 Budget 2-16-21
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Superintendent's Office and Shared Services Programs
FY'22 Certified Budget, Proposed to A.I.S.C. February 18, 2021 (7 p.)
- Superintendent's Shared Services FY'22 Proposed Budget Listed by School District,
Proposed to A.I.S.C. February 18, 2021 (3 p.)
- Director of Student Support Services (6 p.)

Approved 5/13/21