

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School
Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair – Amy Houghton, Vice-Chair – Kelly McCracken, Roxanne Ackerman, Kimberly Kirk*, Skipper Manter, Kris O’Brien*, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts

Others: Chilmark Road Race – Huge Weisman, Wendy Palmer

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light, Admin. of Special Education – Heather Rogers-Rodrigues, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Finance Manager – Suzanne Cioffi, Guidance – Amy Lilavois, Technologist – Rick Mello, Melissa Braillard, Elsbeth Todd

Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Matthew D’Andrea, Asst. Superintendent – Richie Smith, School Business Administrator– Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MV Times – Lucas Thor, MVTV

Secretary: Teresa Kruszewski *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 6:03 PM. Chair Amy Houghton welcomed everyone to the interim summer meeting for the FY21 wrap-up and to begin planning an exciting 21/22 school year; and encouraged public participation. In order to facilitate the technology: the meeting was recorded; video cameras should be off except for MVRHSC members or Administrators or when actively participating; attendees were asked to identify themselves with first and last names; the chat feature was turned off.

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

Approval of Minutes:

(Agenda Item #I)

A. School Committee Minutes: 6/7/21 & 6/21/21 - Vote

Superintendent Matthew D’Andrea corrected the agenda item, stating the June 7 minutes were approved at the June 21, 2021 meeting and that this motion should only be for the June 21, 2021 minutes.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVES TO APPROVE THE 06/21/2021 MVRHSC MINUTES; KELLY MCCRACKEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Student Report:

(Agenda Item #II)

NONE.

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Principal's Report:

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Academic Presentation:

NONE.

B. Administration:

1. Schedule

Highlights:

Four proposed changes to the schedule based on pilots throughout the spring:

- Lock-in four of the five days a week; the goal is to keep stability in the schedule.
- Early release time each month for teacher teaming and collaboration (Thursday)
- Change in lunch: two blocks for community building, less disruption of third block classes
- Move Mentor Monday to Friday

Things that won't change:

- Flex 40 minutes most days between 1st and 2nd block
- Four block periods a day
- 1500 minutes of academic class meeting time a week
- 375 minutes of meeting time of each course every two weeks
- Rotation of last period throughout the week to minimize loss of class time due to early dismissal for sports travel

- Chair Houghton stated the following:

The role of the School Committee is supervision and control and that approval of schedules falls within their purview. As this is a significant change of operating at the MVRHS, this schedule needs approval from this Committee. The state of Massachusetts requires that all high schools must have 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, and that the Committee needs to ensure these hours are met. If they are not, the MVRHS would need to request a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

- Principal Sara Dingley confirmed the new schedule would meet those requirements.

- Chair Houghton asked for a motion to approve the schedule as presented by Principal Dingley: there was no motion to move the schedule changes forward.

Comments:

- Committee members had many open-ended questions specific to students and early release days for teacher development including:
 - What are these students doing on these early release days?
 - Just hitting the minimum academic school hours, is this the right decision?
 - What is the plan for students that have sports on those days?
 - Thursday/Friday time away from teaching, is that the right combination?
 - Teachers need professional development, what is the cost to students?
 - Is Thursday the right time?

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- Principal Dingley stated this provided professional development time for teachers, filling the need for collaboration and common planning for departments that would improve student learning.
- Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith asked for trust in Principal Dingley with this creative approach - balancing time for professional development with academic learning benefits all. The challenge is finding the right time; this proposal is a starting point.
- Members were concerned with how this could be measured for success; a baseline should be set along with a timeframe. Superintendent D'Andrea stated this was open for discussion.
- Chair Houghton asked Principal Dingley to provide specifics to the Committee prior to the next meeting with examples of School Districts where this working model has proven to be successful in making a difference for their students and would support the proposed changes. With these details, the Committee would be able to vote on this proposed schedule for the new school year at the next meeting.

2. Hiring Update:

Principal Dingley reviewed the promotions, change of responsibilities within the existing staff and the list of new hires that will join the team FY22, referencing the detailed email sent to all Committee members. *(Document is not on file at the time minutes were submitted.)*

**Kimberly Kirk and Kris O'Brien join the meeting.*

Comments:

- Agreement among Committee members that swapping dollars within the budget should have been approved by the Committee before moving forward specific to: new positions, new titles, new responsibilities. Concerns were voiced about subverting the process without Committee approval for changes within the staffing structure.
- Committee members did not have issues of the newly formed position for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) but had issues with the process to date. Chair Houghton asked to include this new position on the next agenda to encourage discussion and proper approval in making the position sustainable.
- Principal Dingley explained these changes were planned in the budget, utilizing savings from administrative staff changes, grant money, and/or any remaining open positions.
- Chair Amy Houghton asked for clarification of the new position filled by Sam Hart, that he would fulfill the needs of the Career Technical Education (CTE), which were left vacant after Barbara-jean Chauvin's retirement. *(See job highlights Jun 21, 2021 minutes, Agenda item III)*
- Principal Dingley asked the Committee to share in her enthusiasm for the new team, as they will continue to move forward with the initiatives in place that support the student population.
- Chair Houghton suggested sharing backgrounds with the Committee to allow for greater understanding of new staff as they bring exceptional talent to the MVRHS.

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Superintendent’s Report:

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Bus Use Request - Aug. 14 Chilmark Road Race - *Vote*

Superintendent D’Andrea asked for consideration and approval of the Chilmark Road Race bus request. Chilmark Road Race (CRR) Representative Huge Weisman stated the usual provider, Island Transport, reduced their buses to five (due to Covid) from the usual nine. This shortfall has brought them to the Committee requesting three buses for the morning of August 14th to transport their runners; two large and one small. They are happy to pay the cost (their usual rate to Island Transport) as they are a non-profit organization (501-c3).

Comments:

- Concerns over driver availability during the summer, Superintendent D’Andrea stated it has never been a challenge to find drivers. Still, if it were, the MVRHS would not be able to provide the buses.
- Members were happy to support this organization but were uncertain of the fee structure. Mark Freidman stated it would cover all costs associated with the provided service; the Committee left the negotiations of fees including insurances with Mr. Friedman and the CRR.
- To be noted: the MVRHS is not in the bus business - these buses were purchased with taxpayer money with the purpose of transporting students.

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVES TO HELP THE CHILMARK ROAD RACE AND GRANT THEIR REQUEST OF 3 BUSES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THEIR RUNNERS; KELLY MCCRACKEN WITH PASSION, SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 7 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS; MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY,

B. Non-union salary adjustments

TABLE.

Other: Mask guidance for school opening continues to be reviewed; more details and plans to come in August.

Financial Report:

(Agenda Item #V)

NONE

Other: Mr. Friedman informs the Committee that the West Tisbury School has been awarded a DESE \$50,000 Summer School expansion grant.

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Personnel:

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Leave Requests/Retirements – Vote

Seth Karlinsky resigned from his position in Food Service; Brumelha Magri resigned from her ESP position as she moves into her new ASP position. Superintendent D’Andrea asked to table Jonah Kaplan-Woolner.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS OF MR. KARLINSKY AND MS. MAGRI; KELLY MCCRAKEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE & MR. MANTER—AYE.

Committee Updates:

(Agenda Item #VII)

Chair Houghton asks for updates from all Subcommittees:

Facilities: Nothing to report.

Transportation: Nothing to report.

Calendar: Nothing to report.

Field: Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC) approved the field project at the end of June. MVRHS is awaiting a formal, written decision and is on the agenda for July 22. Once that is formalized, it moves to the Oak Bluffs Town Boards and permitting process.

Land Use: Nothing to report

Budget: Nothing to report

A. Meeting Calendar

Chair Houghton reviewed subcommittees that have open positions including Chairs; she asked Committee members to consider joining and/or stepping into Chair positions. The August meeting will include restructuring of each subcommittee, including the determination of meeting times to be more inclusive for greater participation.

Public Comment:

(Agenda Item #VIII)

NONE.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by The Chair:

(Agenda Item #IX)

NONE.

Executive Session:

(Agenda Item #X)

NONE (no report).

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Adjourn:

(Agenda Item #XI)

KRIS O’BRIEN MOVES TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSC MEETING AT 7:56 PM, KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE & MR. MANTER—AYE.

Appendix A - Meetings/Events

MVRHSC – 6:00 PM, Monday, August 9, 2021 – Zoom

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

-Proposed Schedule Changes: Principal Dingley is asked to provide examples of School Districts where there are successful, working models, so the Committee is better informed and able to vote at the August meeting.

-DEI Proposed Position: Chair Houghton asked Principal Dingley to include this position on the next agenda to encourage discussion and proper approval in making the position sustainable.

-Subcommittee review: For the August meeting, Committee members are asked to be ready to discuss subcommittee restructuring and new meeting times. All are encouraged to consider joining and/or stepping into Chair positions.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda (1 p.) 07/19/21
- MVRHSSC Meeting Calendar 2021-2022 Draft
- Seth Karlinsky Ltrr.pdf
- Jonah Kaplan-Woolner.pdf
- Francis E. Scott Retirement Ltrr.pdf

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Secretary

August 10, 2021

Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Minutes approved 08/09/21.