

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School
Monday, September 13, 2021, 6:00 PM

In Person Meeting for Committee Members - Culinary Arts Dining Room
Zoom Link for Participants

Present: Chair – Amy Houghton, Kimberly Kirk, Robert Lionette, Kris O'Brien, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts
By Zoom: Roxanne Ackerman, Skipper Manter*

Others: About 50 attendees including: Dr. Lorna Andrade, Patty Favreau, Jocelyn Coleman Walton, Dhakir Warren

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Administrator of Special Education – Heather Rogers-Rodrigues, Student Intervention Coordinator – Sheryl Taylor, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, IT Director – Rick Mello, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Department Chair Social Studies – Olsen Houghton, MVEA – Spencer D'Agostino

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 Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

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 6:04 PM by Chair Amy Houghton. Board Members and Administrators were thanked for being in person. Zoom was monitored for questions and technical issues; the meeting structure will continue to be hybrid going forward - this model was a work in progress. Public participation was encouraged, and asked to use the Zoom ‘hand raise’ feature to be recognized.

The meeting was recorded; video cameras were asked to be turned 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).

Welcome - Chair:

(Agenda Item #1)

Chair Houghton thanked the staff for their efforts over the last 18 months in support of students and families; for all of the new changes around the building both interior and exterior, making it a welcoming place; to the families for supporting their students and teachers. She welcomed new staff members that have joined the team and looked forward to working with them.

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Public Comment:

(Agenda Item #II)

Dr. Lorna Andrade asked for new staff introductions. Principal Sara Dingley listed the following:

- Administrator of Special Education — Heather Rogers-Rodrigues
- Student Intervention Coordinator — Sheryl Taylor
- Finance Director — Suzanne Cioffi
- Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects — Sam Hart.

Jocelyn Coleman Walton, Co-Chair of the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) Education Committee wished everyone best wishes for a successful year. Ms. Coleman Walton expressed enthusiasm to work together with all the Island schools; Chair Houghton concurred.

Routine Reports:

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Superintendent:

1. School Reopening/testing:

Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea seconded Chair Houghton's sentiments in her welcome message, thanking parents, staff, administrators and school committee for their support of the students as well as the smooth school opening. He noted the transportation department had great challenges, and added a special thanks to Transportation Director, Mark Rivers.

Highlights:

(current at time of meeting)

- Total student enrollment 2197: 714 at the High School, 1483 at the Elementary Schools.
- Staff vaccination survey: received 442 responses; 96.8% of the 442 people that responded were fully vaccinated. *The Biden vaccination mandate does not apply to schools at this time.*
- Hospital vaccination numbers:
 - 75% of Island residents were vaccinated.
 - It is estimated that 70% of eligible teenagers were vaccinated - there are challenges in getting an accurate number with seasonal visiting teenagers in the mix.
 - Anticipated by the end of month, a vaccine will be approved for younger students.
- Masking was going very well; students and parents were thanked for their cooperation.
- The first shipments of testing materials were received:
 - Test & Stay tests by Abbott BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag Card (which gives rapid results).
 - Surveillance tests which are Broad Institute nasal testing kits (coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health).

Ongoing meetings continue with the testing companies and DESE to ensure all supply needs are being met.

- Every Thursday, an updated outline of the number of positive COVID cases by school will be posted to the MVYPS.org website.
- Community Forums will be held each Tuesday at 5:00 PM with the participation link provided on the District Calendar.

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Ms. Houghton encouraged everyone to sign and return consent forms, as they were required for all student and faculty testing. All athletes were asked to consent to weekly testing; sports as an after-school activity had more flexibility with consent requirements. Committee members asked if a symptomatic child did not have a signed consent form what would happen? Superintendent D'Andrea explained there were two choices: 1. The parent would be contacted for consent, 2. The child would be sent home and the family would consult with their own physician.

**Skipper Manter joins at 6:19 via zoom*

2. Other District News:

NONE.

B. Principal:

1. Welcome

Principal Dingley thanked staff and students for a smooth beginning to the school year; they are working hard to orient all the new staff members.

New year-long courses of study have been put in place for both Sophomores and Seniors - these are required. Many course offerings reflect life before COVID for all class levels.

Discussion:

- Parents were concerned about the additions to the student schedules for the required PE classes and how those may impact after school activities and needed electives.
- To start the conversation at home, an outline of topics covered in the Health Classes would be very helpful for parents to have in hand..
- There was concern about the diversity with the new staff hires, does it fully represent the student body?

Assistant Principal Jeremy Light was excited to see kids back in the fields and reported so far 218 students have signed up for sports.

C. Student Report:

1. Introduction of Junior Class President (School Committee Liaison)

Chair Houghton thanked Ben Mulvey (last year's Junior Class President and student representative for the School Committee) for all of his time and effort working with them. Mr. Mulvey introduced his successors Junior Class President Julia Sayre and Junior Class Vice President Cali Giglio. The Committee eagerly welcomed both.

Ms. Sayre reported the following:

- Student Government elections were underway for all grades.
- The Junior class was focused this year on fundraising for their Senior Prom.
- They are in the planning stages for the Homecoming Dance and Pep Rally.
- Discussion has begun for a possible Winter Formal in January/February.

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D. Highlight in Education:

1. Civics Class for Seniors

Olsen Houghton presented the course outline for the Senior Civics and Current Issues (CCI) program which includes eight topics:

1. Climate Change
2. Government and Politics
3. Human Rights
4. Civil Rights
5. Globalization
6. Global Economies
7. Island History
8. Wellness and Give Back Day

To date, two classes have been held; students and teachers have been very excited.

Scientists from The Woodwell Climate Research Center, who advises the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change spoke with students.

Protect Our Winters (POW) will engage with students on October 1st. The main message from this group is "Passion to Policy". They help passionate outdoor people protect the places and lifestyles they love from climate change - a community of athletes, scientists, creatives, and business leaders advancing non-partisan policies that protect our world today and for future generations.

Mr. Houghton continues outreach with Island groups for student opportunities and welcomes all community group involvement in preparing students for the public sector.

Dr. Lorna Andrade asked if the Civics Program was engaging with any outside groups for input such as the League of Women Voters (LWV) and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Mr. Houghton said they have connected with LWV; he would appreciate involvement with NAACP and looks forward to connecting with them.

Patty Favreau asked what type of training teachers have received to handle conflict resolution and facilitate productive conversations around tough issues, eg. Black Lives Matter. Principal Dingley outlined the various training their teachers have received, including how to set ground rules and parameters for meaningful discussion.

E. School Committee Subcommittee Reports:

Chair Houghton asked all Subcommittees to send their schedules, newly elected Chairs and meeting format (in person or by Zoom) to Noelle Warburton as soon as possible.

Members discussed if meeting documents should remain in the electronic format. It was decided to print the agenda for in person MVRHSC meetings; all other documents would remain electronic.

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Consents: *Votes Required*

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Minutes 8/9/21

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE 08/09/2021 MVRHSC MINUTES; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS; MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINS.

B. Mask Policy Amendment (2nd reading)

The amended policy allows students to remove their masks when individuals are outside the school building. Superintendent D'Andrea asked to include a revision on page two, removing the line "...or the student may be removed from the school building for remote learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.". Remote learning is not being offered this year. *(Please see attached file for details: IV. B. Mask Policy MVRHS Revised 2nd reading)*

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE MASK POLICY; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

C. Overnight Field Trip Request - Project Vine

Approval of the annual trip is contingent on any safety issues that might arise at time of departure and that all prerequisites are met.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE PROJECT VINE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

D. Non - Union Salary Recommendation

Superintendent D'Andrea asked for approval of the adjustment for Suzanne Cioffi, which brings her salary more in line. The budget has sufficient money on the salary line to cover this increase, as there was savings from new hires.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR FINANCE DIRECTOR SUZANNE CIOFFI TO \$80,000; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS; MS. ACKERMAN—ABSTAINS, MR. MANTER—NAY.

E. Surplus Technology, Furniture and Driving Simulators

Principal Dingley detailed aged items and equipment, all valued at \$0.00. She asked for the committee to declare these items as *Excess*, so that the MVRHS could take the next steps to distribute, sell, etc. these items to interested parties.

KIMBERLY KIRK MOVES TO APPROVE THE REQUEST DECLARING THE LISTED ITEMS AS EXCESS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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F. Leave requests/Retirements

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

.Grants and Donations

Mark Friedman reviewed the recent grants for School Committee acceptance.

(Please see attached file for details: IV. G. MVHRS School Committee Grants Memo)

ROBERT LIONETTE WITH GREAT APPRECIATION, MOVES TO ACCEPT THE GRANTS; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES WITH GRATITUDE, TO ACCEPT THE \$1000.00 DONATION FOR THE GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA) FUND; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Finance and Facilities:

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Chair Houghton indicated that starting with this meeting, the budget would be reviewed line by line twice a year. All other meetings, budget review would be at a higher level to allow time for other important topics that needed to be addressed by this Committee. Financial documents were included with the meeting materials for detail review, and discussions would ensue as needed. Committee members challenged this change, stating in depth analysis should be done every month to monitor expenditures closely.

B. Capital Needs

Chair Houghton asked the Facilities Subcommittee to be ready to report capital needs/expectations for the balance of the year at the October MVRHSC Meeting.

C. Warrants

Chair Houghton indicated the importance for all Committee members to become familiar with the monthly warrants, to help in the review and signing now that meetings were in person.

Old Business:

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Track and Field Project Update:

The town of Oak Bluffs Planning Board will review the project at the September 15th meeting; agenda item - Applicability of Zoning By-Law 8.2 / Water Resource Protection Overlay District on the Martha's Vineyard School District Field project. A special permit was not needed in prior approvals and project evaluations; if that changes many steps would have to be redone - the process is not clear at this time to move forward.

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New Business:

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. School Committee Retreat, Establishing Goals and Self Evaluation Process:

With the start of a new year, a more formalized, structured approach with set goals for the MVRHSC could be established. Chair Houghton recapped her research of what others around Cape Cod and Boston are doing to stay on track with their goals and priorities, including the new agenda style adapted for this meeting. School districts around the state hold retreats to set annual goals for the school committees including a self evaluation process; many have a school committee webpage which includes contact information, annual goals and priorities.

B. Establishment of Policy Committee

Chair Houghton proposed the formation of a Policy Subcommittee to assess school policies; to standardize and organize existing policies. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) provides tools and services to streamline access to policies.

Committee members saw this as great added value including the creation of a webpage with easy accessibility for the public. Many of the policies are Island wide, should this be on the All Island School Committee (AISC) agenda? A subcommittee would sort out the questions and get answers.

Superintendent D'Andrea stated this was long overdue and would be valuable for everyone. He will research the cost as well as what is included with this MASC service. The need to organize all established policies will be worth the expense.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by The Chair:

(Agenda Item #VIII)

1. Asst. Superintendent Ritchie Smith, on behalf of the MVDC, requested that they be allowed to present regarding Native American Heritage at the next MVRHS School Committee meeting.
2. Hope MacLeod asked that District Snapshots be included on the next AISC agenda.
3. Principal Dingley made the Committee aware of a trip to Portugal and Spain in the planning stages and will need approval. *(Please see attached file for details: IV. C. SPANISH TRIP Travel Request)*
4. September 18th, 10:00 AM - Dedication for Ed Jerome will be held at the Edgartown School.
5. Upcoming MASC events:
 - a. September 17th at noon:
Free webinar "Making the Most of Your Superintendent's Evaluation"
 - b. The three day, annual conference will be held in November in Hyannis.

Executive Session:

(Agenda Item #IX)

NONE (no report).

Adjourn:

(Agenda Item #X)

ROBERT LIONETTE MOVES TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSC MEETING AT 7:39 PM, KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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Appendix A - Meetings/Events

MVRHSC – 6:00 PM, Monday, October 4, 2021 in person* and (hybrid for families).

*Review of circumstances as the date approaches, and adjust accordingly for health and safety.

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

NONE.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHSSC 9.13.21
- IV. A. MVRHSC Minutes August 9 Meeting DRAFT
- IV. B. Mask Policy MVRHS Revised 2nd reading
- IV. C. SPANISH TRIP Travel Request
- IV. C. Proposal_ Project Vine Fall Penikese Trip 2021 (1)
- IV. F. Kendall Robinson Ltrr
- IV. F. Marc Brasefield. Ltrr.
- IV. G. MVHRS School Committee Grants Memo
- IV. G. Donation to GSA
- V. A. Student Activites 9.10.2021
- V. A. YTD General Funds 9.10.2021
- V. A Revenue Posting YTD 9.10.202

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruśzewski – Secretary

October 28, 2021

Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED OCTOBER 6, 2021