

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, 8:30 AM
Zoom

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts
Others/Staff: Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Coordinator of Pathways & Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Transportation Director – Marc Rivers, Roxanne Ackerman
Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Superintendent – Richie Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski
**Late arrivals or early departures of Sub-Committee members (see * in text)*

Call to Order: (Agenda Item #I)

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Transportation Sub-Committee was called to order by Chair Kimberly Kirk at 8:32 AM on Wednesday, October 13th, 2021. Participation was available remotely by Zoom. To preserve bandwidth, it was suggested that participants join via the Zoom audio and reserve video links for Committee members and administration. In order to facilitate the technology, the meeting was recorded.

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

Approval of Minutes 6.15.21: (Agenda Item #II)

MICHAEL WATTS MOVES TO APPROVE THE 06/15/2021 MINUTES; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE & MS. KIRK—AYE; MS. SHERTZER ABSTAINS.

Overview of Staffing Issues: (Agenda Item #III)

Marc Rivers has focused on recruitment but stated the response has not been strong; even with “Paid Training” listed in the job postings. Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea said he has been working on an incentive/retention program for drivers, and will present it to this Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

Fleet Planning: (Agenda Item #IV)

Mark Friedman shared with the committee a proposed line item detail of the FY23 Transportation Budget. The committee stated more time was needed to review and continue the discussion in support of new vehicle purchases, as the information of fleet planning was presented for the first time at this meeting.

Discussion:

- On average, to keep the fleet safe and “road ready”, 2-3 buses should be replaced every year. With the two new electric buses slated to arrive sometime in March as well as ongoing vehicle leasing, the fleet was in good shape; no other buses would need to be replaced.

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- If the fleet was outsourced, then the responsibility of purchasing, management and maintenance would not be an issue. It was recommended to continue exploring this as an alternative. The shortage of drivers is impacting outsourcing companies as well.
- The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) has agreed to allow the use of their charging stations and support for maintenance of the new electric buses.
- The window to apply for a new grant is very tight with a deadline of November 1; there are no grants secured for any buses at this time.
- Committee members agreed to hold off purchasing additional electric buses until there was a better understanding of the needed infrastructure. There was not enough information to make a good decision with such a big price tag. The planning hasn't caught up with the purchases; feeling too rushed to move forward.
- Once the new electric buses are in use, there will be a better understanding of what is involved to inform future purchase decisions.
- More information was needed to understand the cost benefits and differentials between electric and diesel/gas vehicles.
- Facility based planning for electric buses is complex; should we bring an outside expert/third party who could advise/review what is needed for the conversion?

New Transportation Policy and Guidelines: (Agenda Item #V)

No issues at this time.

Tracking Technology Discussion: (Agenda Item #VI)

Mr. Rivers said the manufacturer of this technology would like to demonstrate the capabilities and benefits of this tracking system so the Committee could see the possibilities. Start-up costs to outfit the fleet are approximately \$150,000; tiered plans are available based on needs to make operations more efficient. Chair Kirk asked to set up a demonstration. She cautioned the turnaround time was short to get this on the budget for consideration this year.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: (Agenda Item #VII)

Chair Kirk, on behalf of Edgartown parents, expressed frustrations regarding unclear bus routes and issues with the website. Superintendent D'Andrea stated he will send a letter to all parents with Transportation Updates, new Policies and Guidelines as well as contact information for any questions or concerns.

Executive Session:For preparation of contract negotiations: (Agenda Item #VIII)

NONE.

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Adjournment: (Agenda Item #IX)

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO ADJOURN THE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 9:14 AM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.


Meetings/Events: (by Zoom)

- Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting, October 20, 8:30 AM

Documents on File:

- Transportation Sub-Committee 10.13.21 agenda

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

October 26, 2021

Date

Kimberly Kirk – Transportation Chair

Date

Matthew D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date