

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

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

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

Others: About 50 attendees including: Dr. Lorna Andrade, Jocelyn Coleman Walton

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Research Specialist –
Kim Garrison, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Administrator of Special
Education – Heather Rogers-Rodrigues, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,
IT Director – Rick Mello, English Language Learners (ELL) – Jonah Kaplan-Woolner

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: West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MVTV, MV Times – Lucas Thors, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

Recorder: 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 7:04 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 #I)

Chair Houghton expressed gratitude to the administration and staff for all the amazing opportunities made available to the student population and the exciting sporting events underway.

Public Comment:

(Agenda Item #II)

None.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Routine Reports:

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Superintendent

1. COVID testing update:

Surveillance Testing began this week, a total of 450 individuals, including staff and students. Molly Houghton is working with Dr. Michael Stoto to determine the best weekly-target testing number. Superintendent D'Andrea estimated 600; only those that have signed consent forms are being tested. Test & Stay is in use for those identified as close contacts, if unvaccinated, instead of quarantining. The process is to test for five consecutive school days; if asymptomatic and test negative, they remain in school. Approximately 50% of the Island students and staff have consented to testing; Superintendent D'Andrea will continue to reach out to families.

Discussion:

Robert Lionette expressed concern over the 50% that have not consented, what was the plan of action? Superintendent D'Andrea said outreach, including his weekly forums to advocate for consent forms, continued. He had a sense parents were not resisting, just a low priority to get the paperwork back to the school. Consent will be required for athletics; he will probably add extra-curricular activities as well. Chair Houghton said the schools are following the state requirements as it relates to testing and are not not permitted to require people to test if they have not consented.

2. Mask update:

Education Commissioner Jeff Riley extended the mask mandate for all schools in the state until November 1. Later this month he will determine the next steps. There is one caveat: if a school has 80% of the staff and students vaccinated, the school could give vaccinated individuals the option to not wear a mask. At this time, the only school that could do this would be the High School, but Superintendent D'Andrea has mixed feelings about this. The Mask policy would have to be revised with school committee approvals. He will continue to review with Principal Sara Dingley and the Health and Safety Committee.

Staff wondered if there would be a clinic to get a booster shot; Superintendent D'Andrea said not at this time, but plans to work with the Hospital in the future.

B. Principal

1. September report of activities:

Principal Dingley gave a shout out to Mary Korba for all her efforts in managing communications including the monthly newsletter and two press releases as follows:

- The MVRHS was commended school for inclusion with the Special Olympics.
- Two exemplary senior students were recognized through the National Merit Scholarship Program as commended scholars.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Principal Dingley congratulated all that were involved with the Pep Rally, it was lots of fun; she said it was an offshoot of Student Government. A Club Fair was held in the gym: freshman and sophomores were required to attend; for juniors and seniors it was optional. Professional development for faculty continues with 'Vision of the Graduate', the overall skills for the student to develop as a whole; workshopping with the faculty continues weekly, throughout each month. The Culinary department has started "Back Door Bistros" which continue to sell out each week.

Heather Rogers-Rodrigues shared many positive happenings within the Special Education Department. The High School is home to four programs, all of which are underway and busy. There was a focus in targeting the co-teaching model to improve service to the students. Jen Woods and the Voyager Program have a new home/kitchen at the Boys and Girls Club in Edgartown, and are cooking up Purple Paws.

Jeremy Light said the sports teams are handling themselves really well on the fields; officials are taking notice. Chair Houghton explained, because of an incident at a soccer game a few years ago, it was now required that an administrator attend every game, home and away. Principal Dingley recognized all the work Mark Rivers and the Transportation Department have provided for the Athletics Department; they have gone above and beyond to make things happen.

2. Student census:

Principal Dingley explained there was a significant number of new students this year. Total population (2020) **689**, Total population (2021) **720**. Approximately 67% of these new students were English Language Learners (ELL) The student enrollment continues to change, this is a fluid situation. *(See document on file for the detailed census.)* There is an increased need for English as a second language (ESL) student programs, requiring a different level of support from the teaching staff. These numbers are what influenced the staffing requests later on this agenda. *(See Agenda Item IV, section B & C.)*

C. Student Report

1. Julia Sayre - general report of activities:

Tabled.

D. Highlight in Education

1. Early Education Program:

Samuel Hart thanked the Career Technical Education (CTE) Director Jack O'Malley and Deb Maher, who is teaching the Early Education Program to seven enrolled sophomores; Leslie Frizzell is teaching the freshman exploratory group. Mr. Hart explained the process for Chapter 74 approval can take over a year, and expects the approval in spring 2023. This course is being offered for dual enrollment with the Cape Cod Community College (CCCC).

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

2. Dual Enrollment - Cape Cod Community College:

Ms. Maher is also the Coordinator for the CCCC. The Early Education Program is being offered for three college credits, Intro to Early Childhood Education at CCCC; this is a very exciting opportunity for these students.

3. Perkins grant opportunity:

The total grant application was submitted for \$28,128.00. Approximately \$17,000.00 is for CTE program equipment, mostly for Health Assisting, \$7000.00 is to purchase a Zero-Turn mower for Horticulture and \$3000.00 is for Professional Development. Mr. Hart will update the Committee as he gets information.

E. School Committee Subcommittee Reports:

Facilities Sub-Committee update: Tabled.

Budget Sub Committee Update: Kris O'Brien said the committee outlined the calendar topics by meeting; each agenda will be posted with the content of that meeting's focus so that the community will be aware of the budget discussion; a new chair needs to be chosen.

Transportation Sub-Committee Update: Kimberly Kirk said the first meeting is scheduled for next week; she anticipates discussion around fleet planning and the challenges of hiring bus drivers.

Consents: *Votes Required*

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Minutes 9/13/21:

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE 09/13/2021 MVRHSC MINUTES;
MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS.
MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE,
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE
& MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. MCCracken—ABSTAINS.*

B. Transfer of Funds for ESP position:

The result of the discussion is a combined request. (See Agenda Item IV, section C.)

C. Transfer of funds for ELL teacher position:

Principal Dingley asked to transfer funds in the amount of \$177,000 (estimating at the high end with benefits) from the \$600,000 Contingency line of the budget to the Salary line. This would accommodate the two, one year only (OYO) positions. With the need to hire one Education Support Professional (ESP) and one ELL, there wasn't funding in the current Salary line to do this. Superintendent D'Andrea stated, with this approval, Principal Dingley could post and hire into these two positions. Once hired, we would have hard numbers to discuss. With the urgency to hire now,

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

ear-marking the money would not make it an official transfer; funds could come from other places when this was realized in the spring. Once the transfer was completed, he would alert the Select Boards.

After a great deal of discussion to determine the estimated salary needs for these two positions, there was concern that Contingency funds would be mis-used. Committee members said the use of the Contingency line was set up for facility emergencies and residential placements only; Superintendent D'Andrea quoted from November 25, 2019 minutes that these were listed as examples, the phrasing "such as" was interpreted to be "an example" for this line.

The recorder found this information after the meeting, specific to the Contingency Line of the budget:

The FY22 Budget carried forward the two FY21 Contingency lines: \$500,000 for such unknowns as (but not limited to) facility emergencies and residential placements; and \$100,000 for Covid-19 contingencies.

(Document on file: MVRHSC Meeting Tuesday, December 22, 2020, 7:00PM, page 3 bullet 3.)

KELLY MCCRACKEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE TWO NEW OYO POSITIONS, EAR-MARKING \$177,000 DOLLARS FROM THE CONTINGENCY LINE TO THE SALARY LINE OF THE BUDGET; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 7 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—NAY.

D. Grants and Donations:

Suzanne Cioffi asked the Committee to approve the donation from the Martha's Vineyard Marathon/USA Endurance Events to the MVRHS, in the amount of \$1509.00.

KRIS O'BRIEN WITH GRATITUDE, MOVES TO APPROVE THE DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1509.00 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD MARATHON/USA ENDURANCE EVENTS; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Mark Freidman asked the Committee to approve the \$30,000 Systems for Student Success (SfSS) continuation grant, from the State, which may be used for staff stipends, consultants, substitutes, professional development and materials to be used in the implementation of system-level changes. *(See document on file for more details: IV. D. 100421 MVHRS School Committee Grants Memo)*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

KELLY MCCRACKEN MOVES TO ACCEPT THE S/SS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Mr. Freidman asked the Committee to approve the FY2022: Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Secondary Allocation Grant award of \$28,128. This grant is intended to purchase equipment. *(See document on file for more details: IV. D. 100421 MVHRS School Committee Grants Memo)*

ROBERT LIONETTE MOVES TO ACCEPT THE PERKINS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,128 FOR THE CTE PROGRAM; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

E. Mask Policy Amendment (3rd reading):

Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea informed the committee there were no changes to the mask policy.

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO APPROVE THE MASK POLICY AMENDED, 3RD READING; KELLY MCCRACKEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

F. Out of State and Overnight Travel:

Mark Mearthy asked for approval of overnight travel for two sports teams:

- ❖ The Boys Golf Tournament on Friday October 15th, 2021 at the Willowbend Golf Club on Cape Cod; 3 players, 2 chaperones. The overnight stay would be required based on the morning tee times.
- ❖ The Boys Hockey Tournament over Christmas Break at the University of New Hampshire (UNH); 20-22 players, 2 coaches (who also serve as chaperones).

Members discussed whether there were re-entry protocols for COVID testing in place; it was decided to add this to a future agenda.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE TWO OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUESTS; KELLY MCCRACKEN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Finance and Facilities:

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Changes of expenses were within payroll only; details to follow at the November Committee Meeting.

B. Capital Needs

No Change.

C. Warrants

Available in the CADR, to view the expenditures.

Old Business

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Track and Field Project Update:

As the elected representative for the MVRHS for this project, Kris O'Brien said both the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and Oak Bluffs Planning Board have approved the project. Ms. O'Brien expressed gratitude to those that have brought the project this far. Throughout the review process, modifications and improvements were made; the next steps are to get a building permit and to launch the Capital Campaign.

New Business

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. School Based Health Center - Kim Garrison:

Tabled.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

(Agenda Item #VIII)

- Kelly McCracken expressed great concern over recent events: the displacement of the Girls Field Hockey Team from their locker room was done in a dismissive and inconsiderate manner. This was done so that a boys visiting (off Island) team could be accommodated; they left the locker room a mess upon departure. She asked for awareness and that everyone involved be more respectful.

A lengthy discussion occurred between Committee Members and School Administrators to find understanding as to what circumstances lead up to the events. Apologies were made and corrections were considered, including improved communications to ensure this would not be an issue moving forward. Due to space constraints visiting teams would continue to use each other's locker rooms. Chair Houghton offered to review this in the future to see if a policy was needed.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

- Chair Houghton welcomed Jocelyn Coleman Walton, the co-chair of the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) Education Committee. Ms. Coleman Walton shared the "Action Program" her committee is developing, to support the school committees throughout the Island.

It focuses on four areas:

1. Replace C - day on school calendars with Indigenous Peoples Day.
2. Incorporate November, National Native American Heritage Month, into programs and activities within the schools.
3. Daily acknowledgement of the privilege of living on this Island of Indigenous People, the Wampanoags.
4. Creating and funding a year round, Island-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) position.

She announced the Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration October 11, 2021 at Felix Neck sponsored by Sassafras Earth Education and the Aquinnah Cultural Center and invited everyone to join their Committee meetings, the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 4:00 PM.

- Ms. Sherzter asked for clarification of the following:

- Faculty Manager, is this a new position? Principal Dingley explained this was not a new position, the way it was posted was confusing. Additional (chaperone) help is needed for events. This is a stipend, hourly position, and is currently still open.
- New policy of lunchtime detention? Jeremy Light indicated his wording was wrong; he was looking for ways to be more restorative and thought this could be a solution to have conversations during school/lunchtime vs. afterschool. Mr. Light said it was not the intention to change policy. Concerns were voiced as to how this could interrupt the only wholesome meal the student would have during the day. Mr. Light said he was very aware; conversations happen once the student finishes eating. He said they are trying this out now and will adjust if needed.

- Committee members discussed meeting start times as well as to consider a hard stop/meeting end time in pursuit of efficiency and work - life balance.

Executive Session

(Agenda Item #IX)

NONE (no report).

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #X)

*KIMBERLY KIRK MOVES TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSC MEETING AT 9:09 PM;
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0
ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE,
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MCCRACKEN—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE,
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Appendix A - Meetings/Events

MVRHSC – 6:00 PM, Monday, November 1, 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 10.6.21
- Agenda MVRHSSC 10.4.21
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHSC Minutes September 13 Meeting
- IV. D. Donation 10.04.2021
- IV. D. 100421 MVHRS School Committee Grants Memo
- IV. E. Mask Policy MVRHS Revised 3rd Reading
- IV. F. golf School boys

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

November 1, 2021

Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED NOVEMBER 1, 2021