

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Others: About 30 attendees including: Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) – Lisa Pimentel, Junior Class President – Julia Sayre, Junior Class Vice President – Cali Giglio

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, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, IT Director – Rick Mello, Student Intervention Coordinator – Sheryl Taylor Thompson,

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

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 6:10 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 would continue to be hybrid going forward; all votes would be taken by roll call. 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 everyone for attending and extended a special welcome to the student representatives.

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Public Comment

(Agenda Item #I)

None.

Routine Reports

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Superintendent

1. General update:

Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea said the testing program was running smoothly, returning very low numbers each week. Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley extended the mask mandate for all schools in the state until January 15, 2022. The MVRHS did not qualify for the exemption: ***if a school has 80% of the staff and students vaccinated, the school could give vaccinated individuals the option to not wear a mask.*** Superintendent D'Andrea was working with Principal Sara Dingley to incentivize students.

Vaccines will be available for ages five and over; a start time has not been determined. The vaccination bus is in the works for November and December; the schedule will be announced once established. He thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Eversource for their help and responsiveness throughout the storms the prior week.

B. Principal

1. General update:

Principal Dingley said the first quarter (Q1) ended on Friday, November 5th. Powerschool would then go dark for a week without grades visible to students so that teachers can make the necessary updates. Parent/Teacher conferences that corresponded with Q1 grades would be happening by Zoom; feedback from parents preferred this format. She was looking forward to the second quarter; classes were going well, attendance was good and it was great to have sports up and running again.

C. Student Report

1. Julia Sayre - general report of activities:

The Homecoming Dance was a great success with about 400 students in attendance. It was held outside in the courtyard where masks were recommended but not required. This was the first dance in two years; for many their first dance ever. Based on the feedback from the event, they are looking to plan either a Winter Formal to be held in January or February or a Spring Fling in April, 2022. Spirit week was planned to lead up to Homecoming Weekend. Events included PJ Day, Character Day (for Halloween), Grey and Purple Day (dress in school colors) which was dedicated to a student that recently had surgery.

Cali Giglio reported all of the fall sports teams recently traveled to Nantucket on a chartered Steamship Authority (SSA) Ferry; all went smoothly. As a result, two teams were now off to the playoffs. The Junior class concluded selling items at the concession stands during football games; it was a successful fundraiser. The next major fundraiser is Electronics Day and involves the Senior class; it was organized by Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) and will be sometime in May 2022.

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Ms. Giglio said as Q1 was ending, everyone seemed to be adjusting to in-person really well; flex time was helping.

Kris O'Brien said it was so wonderful to hear from them, and thanked them for being in person to report. She congratulated all the sports teams for their wins.

Jeremy Light said there was a fall Electronics Disposal Day scheduled for November 13, 2021.

➤ **Addition to the Agenda:**

Chair Houghton apologized for not having a presentation from the Special Education Department on the agenda, but felt strongly that a regular update from Heather Rogers-Rodrigues was important; and will be part of all future agendas.

Ms. Rogers-Rodrigues said there were always lots of good things to say about Special Education. She has begun observing the programs that serve students with motor disabilities getting a gauge of the needs of students and teachers, how the needs are being met and how engaged they are.

Academic support classes for grade 9 have begun with training and coaching around executive functions and self advocacy skills. This year for the first time, they are continuing this training for students in grade 10, allowing them to practice these skills so that by grade 11 they are more independent than ever.

Ms. Rogers-Rodrigues has been working with Julie Schmidt on the co-teaching program. After a self-assessment, the teachers asked for feedback and observation. By mid-year, the plan was to assess existing models and make changes accordingly.

She said Unified Sports is underway, the kids are pumped and ready to go. The games were great fun; Chair Houghton recommended everyone attend.

**Robert Lionette joins at 6:28 PM.*

D. Highlight in Education

1. Kim Garrison-School Based Health:

Chair Houghton introduced Kim Garrison and said she was involved with a Vineyard Fellowship, doing a feasibility study related to the development of a school-based health center.

Ms. Garrison said the study started last year but was slow going based on the pandemic. This year after much data collection, she was asking for feedback from the healthcare community, parents and capturing the voices of the students so that the health center model reflected the desired services and was inviting to students. Surveying parents and students and working with stakeholder groups, she invited Committee members to participate in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

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Implications for a school based health center relevant to the MVRHSC: Ms. Garrison said there were four main areas of cost benefits for school systems around having school based health care models:

1. Accessible health care for all students regardless of insurance and cost.
2. Regular preventative health care.
3. Keeping students in school.
4. Wrap-around support for students and families.

The Committee could help with the following for this study:

- Access: most schools invest in-kind capital to any type of school based health center, ensuring approval of spaces and funding of maintenance.
- Student Focus: hold the school and health center accountable for how the center operates.
- School Integration: educational opportunities.
- Systems Coordination: having a voice and presence in the towns advocating for resources to support the school based health centers.
- Holding sponsoring health agencies to commitments of care and financial reporting.

Chair Houghton asked for a timeline - Ms. Garrison outlined the following: a needs report to the 14 stakeholders by mid-November; student brainstorming sessions by winter break; feasibility recommendations by the end of the year. Mr. Lionette asked if models from other districts could be shared; Ms. Garrison said she would share a link with the Committee.

E. School Committee Subcommittee Reports

Facilities Sub-Committee:

Michael Watts (Chair) reviewed the building conditions. There were still a few roof leaks to sort out, but the buildings did well with the most recent storms. The Committee will firm up the budget after the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting on Thursday morning; there is currently a placeholder for buses. He said what was in the budget now seemed reasonable and looked forward to presenting it to the Budget Sub-Committee.

Budget Sub-Committee:

Skipper Manter (Chair) said the Committee was working through different sections, one of which was personnel; they are waiting for transportation and facilities updates. He reminded everyone that this was a negotiation year, there would be no direct line items for the different bargaining units; an increment line would reflect the salary increases.

Land Use Sub-Committee:

Ms. O'Brien (Chair) had no report.

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Transportation Sub-Committee:

Superintendent D'Andrea said the Committee met last week; the next meeting scheduled on Thursday (November 4, 2021) at 9:00 AM will continue review of additions and revisions in preparation of presentation to the Budget Sub-Committee.

Consents: Votes Required

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Minutes 10/6/21:

MICHAEL WATTS MOVES TO APPROVE THE 10/06/2021 MVRHSC MINUTES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINS.

B. Substitute pay:

Superintendent D'Andrea asked the Committee to consider voting to increase the substitute teacher rate immediately to \$120.00 per day, contingent upon adoption in the other Island Districts. Surrounding school districts pay anywhere from \$110.00 to \$150.00 per day; the current rate on the Island is \$90.00 per day which was established in 2014. He encouraged everyone to consider increasing the rate to \$120.00 per day immediately as finding substitute teachers has been challenging; this increased rate could help recruit more teachers. The change would be contingent upon the other Island districts voting; the Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD) had approved this increase, contingent on other districts approving.

The funding would come from the existing substitute teacher line of the budget; with the lack of substitutes the line has not been depleted; he will monitor closely and update the Committee on a regular basis presenting funding options when needed.

Discussion:

Committee members asked if current budgets would support a 30% increase and noted it was an error not examining this rate sooner. It was stated there was no data proving an increase would bring in more teachers; in response, with the goal of attracting more people it was necessary to try this step. It was also noted that a full-time substitute teacher position, with salary and benefits, did not exist.

Suzanne Cioffi said the FY22 budget for substitute teachers was \$91,272.33; there remains \$67,648.00 in that line; one long term substitute covering maternity leave is the bulk of that spending at \$21,000.00. Mark Friedman suggested the current rate did not reflect the changes of the Massachusetts minimum wage.

Principal Dingley said there was a monetary and cultural cost with the lack of subs; teachers have to give up prep-time for their students; they are paid an agreed upon coverage rate of \$50.00 per hour.

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She was not certain an increase would solve the issue; but it would put us on par with other surrounding districts.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE INCREASING THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RATE IMMEDIATELY TO \$120.00 PER DAY, CONTINGENT UPON ADOPTION IN THE OTHER ISLAND DISTRICTS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

C. Transportation employee agreement:

Tabled.

D. Grants and Donations:

None.

E. Out of State and Overnight Travel:

Mark McCarthy asked for retroactive approval for the MV Golf Team to attend the State Golf Tournament; they qualified two weeks ago at the sectional meet.

Discussion:

Robert Lionette asked if there were testing protocols in place upon return from overnight trips. Superintendent D'Andrea said he would follow up and will add these athletes to the testing pool for next week. Mr. McCarthy said required consent for mandatory testing of athletes was not in place yet. Committee members said testing could not be a precondition for this trip, as the students have already left. Chair Houghton asked Mr. McCarthy to be more timely with these requests. Roxanne Ackerman suggested finding a way to approve requests between meetings.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO APPROVE THE OUT OF STATE/OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST FOR THE MV GOLF TEAM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

➤ Re-entry Protocols Discussion

Mr. Lionette said he would not vote yes again until re-entry protocols were presented to the Committee. Committee members said clarification was needed on testing and consent policy as it relates to any school sponsored trips and events. It was unknown if all athletes have consented to testing. The Committee is thrilled these events are happening, they are just trying to keep everyone safe with these steps.

MVYPS Health and Safety Advisory Committee recommended that any students going on overnight trips must consent to testing upon return. Principal Dingley asked if there was a policy vote or was this something to discuss in the future. She said these steps could be

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implemented for the Winter Sports; expanding the number of students surveilled could be done internally.

Mr. McCarthy presented a future travel request for the Cross Country team, the last fall sport. Principal Dingley said they would make the team consent to testing as a condition, to move this forward for approval.

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVES TO APPROVE THE FUTURE REQUEST FOR THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, IF THEY QUALIFY FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS;

After lengthy discussion, Chair Houghton asked if Ms. Ackerman would accept the amendment: *requiring any overnight participant consent to the testing protocols.*

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVES TO APPROVE THE FUTURE REQUEST FOR THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, IF THEY QUALIFY FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, REQUIRING ANY OVERNIGHT PARTICIPANT CONSENT TO THE TESTING PROTOCOLS;

MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

F. Personnel:

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF SHANNON A. JOHNSON, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Finance and Facilities

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Revenue and Expenditures:

Suzanne Cioffi said the Residential Care Tuitions needed to be closely monitored. Circuit Breaker money has not been received, but estimates \$150,000.00 for new students. Hope MacLeod said there were unexpected circumstances for care; Mr. Friedman offered to present a detailed report for the next meeting to understand reimbursements and offsets for the challenges of the current budget.

(see document on file for details: V. A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures 10.29.2021)

•The state's Special Education Circuit Breaker (Grant) program reimburses local school districts for a portion of their costs above a certain threshold for educating students with severe high-needs.

B. Warrants:

Chair Houghton asked the Committee to sign warrants at the MVRHS and Superintendent's Office.

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Old Business

(Agenda Item #VI)

Chair Houghton updated the Committee on the two new positions with funds ear-marked from the Contingency Line: it is currently at \$97,025.00. She asked Ms.Cioffi to keep the Committee updated. *(Please reference the document on file: Approved MVRHSC Minutes October 6, 2021 Meeting, page 5, for details specific to use of the Contingency Line and ear-marked funding for two OYO positions.)*

New Business

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Timeline of budget presentation and approval:

SKIPPER MANTER MOVES TO APPROVE THE BUDGET HEARING TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 29TH, 2021 AT 7:00 PM BY ZOOM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS.O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Chair Houghton proposed to meet before the Public Hearing so that the full Committee could review the Budget Presentation. All were in agreement to hold the meeting on November 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM by Zoom for the full Budget Review, a one item agenda pending any emergencies.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

(Agenda Item #VIII)

Mr. McCarthy asked the Committee to consider requests for the swim team; Chair Houghton asked to table this discussion for the next meeting. She amended the agenda topics for November 22, 2021 to now include the Swim Team Requests; a two item agenda.

Executive Session

(Agenda Item #IX)

NONE (no report).

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #X)

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVES TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSC MEETING AT 7:37 PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS.O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

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Appendix A - Meetings/Events

MVRHSC – 6:30 PM, Monday, November 22, 2021 by Zoom.

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

NONE.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHSSC 11.1.21
- IV. A. Final DRAFT MVRHSC Minutes October 6, 2021 Meeting
- V. A. MVRHS General Fund Revenues 10.29.2021
- V. A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures 10.29.2021
- IV. E. Golf States
- IV. F. Shannon A Johnson ltr 10.7.21

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

November 22, 2021

Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Approved November 22, 2021