

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School
Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:30 pm
Zoom for all Participants

Present: Chair – Amy Houghton, Roxanne Ackerman, Kimberly Kirk, Skipper Manter, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts
Others: Jonathan Chatinover, Monique Clermont
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
Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Matthew D’Andrea, Asst. Superintendent – Richie Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman
Towns/County: West Tisbury – Clark Rattet
Press: MV Times – Brian Dowd, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chair Amy Houghton. 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 welcomed everyone and wished them a wonderful break over the next week, as there was much to be thankful for. Chair Houghton gave a special shout out and **‘thank you’** to Monique Clermont, a school bus driver who went above and beyond - her quick actions stopped a child from getting hit by an oncoming car. Ms. Clermont received a round of applause from the Committee in recognition of her efforts in keeping kids safe; Principal Sara Dingley gave a special **thank you** to her and all of the drivers for all that they do; she was gifting Ms. Clermont some new *SWAG*. Ms. Clermont was thankful the student was safe, and appreciated the acknowledgement.

FY23 Budget Discussion

(Agenda Item #II)

Transportation Sub-Committee:

Kimberly Kirk (Chair) said the budget was approved and included the new Drivers Agreement. Mark Friedman reviewed the highlights as follows:

- Overall the increase was \$160,856.81 or 7.65% due to salary adjustments and incentives including paid training for new drivers.

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- Maintenance line items were decreasing as a result of new vehicle purchases, keeping repair costs in check.
- The Chappaquiddick runs were now included; \$26,424.00
- FY 23 Gross Expense changes: +\$205,352.87 or 9.77%

(Please see document on file for details: FY23 Transportation Line Items V#5 11-22-2021)

Facilities Sub-Committee:

Michael Watts (Chair) said there was a meeting tomorrow November 23, 2021. Overall the budget looked good with anticipated increases for new rental buses and funding for a consultant to review the necessary steps in converting the fleet to electric; the approved budget should be available after the meeting.

Staffing Priorities:

Principal Dingley said the increase of instructional lines was 2.4% compared to a 9.5% student enrollment increase. She said the needed support in English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Learners (ELL) as well as a full Physical Education Teacher was the bulk of this increase. The student population was changing rapidly and she predicted it would continue to increase. Principal Dingley said the budget was good for now, but anticipated the student population would continue to fluctuate; she would like to seek advice from the Committee as funding pressures arise.

Special Education:

Heather Rogers-Rodrigues said the budget reflected what the student body needed; going through line-by-line all needs were represented.

Budget Sub-Committee:

Skipper Manter (Chair) said there wasn't a budget to report, information was slow coming in. He expressed frustration with the lack of information from all of Sub-Committees, including Shared Services, as it seemed there was great difficulty in getting meetings and quorums together.

Discussion:

- Principal Dingley said she didn't want this to be divisive; the administration worked long hours to meet deadlines. Committee members said the budget was late because of the School Committee, not the School Administration.
- The Public Hearing was scheduled for the following Monday, November 29, 2021; there was great concern that the budget was not reviewed and/or approved by the full MVRHSC. Members felt it should be fully vetted before going to the Public Hearing; this was an immense responsibility. It was suggested to reschedule the Public Hearing for December.

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- Members thought it strange to represent something we have not reviewed before presenting to the public; as the format would be Zoom, it was thought more people would participate.
- Mr. Friedman said the High School Regional Agreement speaks to the first Monday in December for the School Committee to certify a budget for the following year. With greater issues under consideration each year, the past five years certification had been pushed into January. He recommended that the delay should be no later than the middle of January as the Towns begin to look for the regional numbers then.
- Chair Manter said it should be acknowledged that we have missed the date of this agreement, and to move forward as quickly as possible to complete the process.

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVES TO CHANGE THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FROM NOVEMBER 29, 2021 TO DECEMBER 14, 2021 AT 7:00 PM BY ZOOM; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES: 5 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

Comments:

- Mr. Watts recommended as a courtesy, to notify the Towns with the Public Hearing date change.
- Chair Houghton looked forward to Mr. Manter's leadership in driving the FY23 budget process forward. She asked all Sub-Committee Chairs to provide their budget recommendations to Mr. Manter by November 30, 2021.
- Chair Houghton asked the Committee to make every effort to be in person for the December 6, 2021 MVRHSC meeting, she felt results were much better when discussions happened in person.

Consents: Votes Required

(Agenda Item #III)

A. Minutes 11/1/21:

MICHAEL WATTS MOVES TO APPROVE THE 11/01/2021 MVRHSC MINUTES; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

B. Sports Waivers:

Mark McCarthy asked for approval of the two annual requests:

- ★ Waiver for students in 7th and 8th grade to participate on the High School swim team.
- ★ Request to continue the co-op with the Charter School to allow student participation on the High School swim team.

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Current registrations were eight boys and six girls; Mr. McCarthy laments this was not enough to compete as a full team. With approval, students from the middle schools would increase the teams to ten boys and eight girls with hopes of more participation in the pipeline.

*KIMBERLY KIRK MOVES TO APPROVE THE ATHLETIC WAIVER FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS TO COMPETE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM;
ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*KIMBERLY KIRK MOVES TO APPROVE THE CO-OP WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL, TO ALLOW STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM;
ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

(Agenda Item #IV)

None.

Executive Session

(Agenda Item #V)

No Report.

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #VI)

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVES TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSC MEETING AT 7:27 PM;
KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDS; MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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Appendix A - Meetings/Events

MVRHS Budget Sub-Committee – 6:30 PM, Tuesday November 30, 2021 by Zoom
MVRHSC – 6:00 PM, Monday, December 6, 2021 in person* and (hybrid for families).

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

PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00 PM, Tuesday December 14, 2021 by Zoom

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks

Sub-Committee Chairs provide their budget recommendations to Mr. Manter, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee, by November 30, 2021.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHSSC 11.22.21

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

December 6, 2021

Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matt D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Approved December 6, 2021