

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 20, 2022, 8:30 AM
Zoom

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman***, Amy Houghton*, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts*

Others/Staff: Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) Administrator – Angela E. Gompert, Island Climate Action Network (ICAN) – Noli Taylor, Climate Advisory Committee Chair, West Tisbury – Kate Warner, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) Program Administrator – Jade Lu, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Transportation Director – Marc Rivers, Transportation Assistant – Chyenne Ward, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Kris O'Brien, Brianna Walsh

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

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski

**Late arrivals or early departures of Sub-Committee members **Note: there was a power outage in Aquinnah.*

Roxanne Ackerman joined at 8:52 AM and left at 8:59 AM.

Amy Houghton left at 9:31 AM.

Michael Watts joined at 8:45 AM and left at 9:02 AM.

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 8:41 AM on Thursday, January 20, 2022. 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: (Agenda Item #II)

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2021, NOVEMBER 4, 2021, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 AND NOVEMBER 22, 2021 AS WRITTEN; AMY HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE.

Drivers Agreement: Discussion and Vote: (Agenda Item #III)

Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea reviewed two changes:

- 1.) The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Cap/Max would be 5%
- 2.) High School to/from school to \$36/run. *(Please see document on file for details: Bus Agreement Proposal.docx)*

AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DRIVERS AGREEMENT PROPOSAL; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE.

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Update on Consultant for Electric Bus Plan: (Agenda Item #IV)

Mark Friendman said the MVRHS FY23 budget had \$25,000 for a consultant. He advised the Committee to develop a spec over the next few months with the necessary qualifications and areas of expertise to recruit/hire into the role; someone who would advise the transition including Mass General Law (MGL) Chapter 30B (procurement laws). Work would not begin before July 1, 2022, but a contract could be in place by late spring. Chair Kirk said this would be a future agenda item for the Committee to refine and set in motion.

Information Session on Electric Fleet Models: (Agenda Item #V)

Noli Taylor was excited about the conversion of school buses to electric as part of the Island-wide effort to address climate change. She said private companies were available to help with the transition, to relieve the burden and make the process less daunting.

Angela Gompert said the MVRHS was looking at stages: Phase 1: Immediately, with two buses on the way, the needs were focused on charging, training and costs. Phase 2: Fleet replacement. Phase 3: Transition of the fleet, big picture.

Ms. Gompert said she wanted this transition to be successful and recommended spending money to set up charging stations for the two electric buses arriving in the spring of 2022; she asked to reconsider the leasing of two new gas buses. Ms. Gompert said the existing power on site from the diesel heaters could be used - the installation costs would be \$7000 for the charger, \$3000 for electrical work; chargers could be moved as needed and support up to six buses.

The Volkswagen (VW) grant, funding the two electric buses, stipulated that buses replaced had to be decommissioned. Marc Rivers said he would integrate these into the fleet for September and roll them everyday to learn what was involved. Mr. Friedman said the lead time for purchasing new electric buses was 12 months.

Information Session on Potential Collaboration with VTA: (Agenda Item #VI)

Ms. Gompert encouraged moving forward quickly to take advantage of available funding; she explained grant research was part of her job at the VTA and could assist the District. She said the adoption of electric vehicles needed to come from the top down so everyone would buy-in. Chair Kirk said she was thankful for Ms. Gompert's advice and said this Committee needed to gather all the information available so that smart decisions could be made to guide the process.

Superintendent D'Andrea said expanding the partnership with the VTA would be beneficial. Chair Kirk said she was not aware of any agreement and asked if separate meetings were held. Committee members were at a disadvantage as they were not part of these discussions and could not comment on the letter requested for expanded collaboration with Ms. Gompert and the VTA.

Members expressed frustration that changes to replace the old buses were not discussed at Committee meetings. Superintendent D'Andrea said he met with Mr. Rivers to see if he could run another year without any new buses; Mr. Rivers confirmed he could manage another year. *(Please see detailed discussion around buses: APPROVED MVRHSC Minutes January 3, 2022 Meeting.pdf, Agenda Item III, section B, page 4.)*

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

Chair Kirk invited Ms. Gompert and Ms. Taylor to join the next meeting to continue this discussion.

Adjournment: (Agenda Item #VIII)

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE TRANSPORTATION
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 9:36 AM; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDED;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events: (by Zoom)

- Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting: February 3, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Documents on File:

- 1) 1.20.22 Transportation Sub Committee.pdf
- 2) Bus Agreement Proposal.docx

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

March 10, 2022

Date

Kimberly Kirk – Transportation Chair

Date

Matthew D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Approved March 10, 2022