

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)/ *Special Meeting*
Joint School Committee and Towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs,
Tisbury and West Tisbury Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 6:00 pm
In Person Meeting for Committee Members Select Board - Library
In Person or Zoom Link option for other Participants

Present: Chair – Amy Houghton, Roxanne Ackerman, Kimberly Kirk, Robert Lionette, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts. *By Zoom:* Skipper Manter

Select Boards: *Aquinnah:* Gary J. Haley–Chair, Juli Vanderhoop, Jeffrey Madison–Town Administrator
Chilmark: James M. Malkin–Chair, Warren M. Doty–Vice Chair
Edgartown: Margaret Serpa, Arthur Smadbeck, James Hagerty–Town Administrator
Oak Bluffs: Jason Balboni, Gail Barmakian, Emma Green-Beach, Deborah Potter–Town Administrator
Tisbury: Jeff Kristal–Chair, Roy Cutrer–Clerk, John W. Grande–Town Administrator
West Tisbury: Skipper Manter–Chair, Cynthia Mitchell, Jennifer Rand–Town Administrator

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,
IT Director – Rick Mello, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director – Mike Taus

MVEA Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) Co-President – Nedine Cunningham

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Superintendent – Richie Smith,
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

Towns/County: Dukes County Commissioner – Christine Todd, Aquinnah – Allen Rugg,
Oak Bluffs – Robert Gaffey, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Oak Bluffs – Richard Weiss,
West Tisbury – Clark Rattet, West Tisbury – Doug Ruskin

Press: MV Times – George Brennan, MVTV – Shavanáe Anderson, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader,
Vineyard Gazette – Ray Ewing

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School School Committee (MVRHSSC) was called to order at 6:04 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 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 MVRHSSC 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.*)

Chair James M. Malkin called the Chilmark Select Board to order at 6:05 PM.
Jason Balboni called the Oak Bluffs Select Board to order at 6:05 PM.
Chair Jeff Kristal called the Tisbury Select Board to order at 6:06 PM.
Chair Skipper Manter called the West Tisbury Select Board to order at 6:06 PM.

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Welcome - Chair:

(Agenda Item #I)

Chair Houghton was excited to see everyone and hoped they shared the enthusiasm for this project; an opportunity for the Island to support and listen to each other, to hear concerns and come together to meet the needs of students and staff. She explained how difficult it has been with the Tisbury School project, building a school without The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and said how fortunate we were to have them for the MVRHS project.

MSBA Timeline and Deliverables:

(Agenda Item #II)

Please see Agenda Item #III

Regional Agreement: Next Steps:

(Agenda Item #III)

As Chair Houghton began her introduction describing what needed to be accomplished at this meeting, Arthur Smadbeck interrupted her and said to let the six Select Boards come up with the solution and to not use this grant to leverage something else. Chair Houghton said this meeting would not be an impediment to that process.

Chair Houghton explained that the Regional Agreement/Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (RA/MVRHS) had compliance issues with the state; the copy on file had the first amendment only, no other amendments since - the working copy for the MVRHSSC had the additional amendments. This RA/MVRHS provided guidance for the Committee, it was not just the capital formula. In 2007, the state created guidelines for regional agreements, that all amendments had to be approved by the state; since the amendments were made prior to the change, they were grandfathered in - future changes would have to be approved.

Our agreement does not meet the state Regional Agreement Compliance; our agreement is not invalid because it has been grandfathered in.

Kimberly Kirk said the importance of the agreement was that it was needed for financial approval to borrow money.

Red-line review would be done at the May MVRHSSC meeting; the state had provided a checklist which the school council had reviewed; 14 pages of guidelines. Chair Houghton suggested a joint meeting if that was preferred.

Chair Houghton recommended May 15, 2022 as a deadline to bring the RA/MVRHS into compliance and the agreed upon funding as determined by the Select Boards/towns. Once this was done, the next steps would be for the legal team to review and then move to the state. She said it would be submitted as one document; up to snuff for lenders AND in compliance with the state with adding the funding amendment/addendum. Outside help was available as a resource for this agreement process, if needed.

Samuel Hart clarified there were four steps involved with any changes to the formula, and therefore by extension the RA/MVRHS:

1. Preliminary approval by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
2. Approval by the MVRHS SC
3. Approval from all six towns
4. Approval by the Commissioner

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Creation of Regional Agreement Sub Committee:

(Agenda Item #IV)

Mr. Malkin and Mr. Smadbeck proposed the following members, a total of 13:

- Select Board member from each town (6)
- Town Administrators (6)
- School Superintendent (1)

Our job was to come up with a reasonable approach that each town would understand and support. There was consensus from all six towns that the May 15, 2022 deadline was agreeable; they were in favor of getting this done. Mr. Kristal said it would be helpful if Mark Friedman could put together some ideas that were determined in other Massachusetts School Districts for us to review and assist with this process.

Chair Houghton expressed how happy she was and looked forward to having something to bring it all together, whatever can be done to make this work. She thanked everyone for joining this evening; the meeting would continue with one more agenda item for the Committee to review.

THE SELECT BOARD MEETINGS OF EACH TOWN ADJOURNED AT 6:49 PM.

Jr. High Softball Waiver:

(Agenda Item #V)

Sammi Burns shared how the High School Softball Team was coming together; there were ten girls on the team.

Ms. Burns wanted to support the students interested to play and build a full team; the pandemic impacted the amount of players over the last two years. Exposure to the sport for the younger players was coming from the Sirens Softball League (<https://mvsirens.org/>). The waivers would help build the sport/team; it would take a few years to see the benefits.

Discussion:

- ❖ Teams made up of players from 7th through 12th grade were becoming more common in all schools.
- ❖ Members were not comfortable with ages 12 and 18 on the same team.
- ❖ The 2020 team would have been a good team; the sport could not be evaluated on the tail end of a pandemic, a few more years were needed to fully evaluate.
- ❖ Ms. Burns did not anticipate any overnight trip requests.
- ❖ The enthusiasm for the sport should come from the community, interest level should be monitored closely to determine waiver continuation.

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATHLETIC WAIVER FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS TO COMPETE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM; AMY HOUGHTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—NAY.

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CO-OP AGREEMENT WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL, TO ALLOW STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

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Ms. Kirk had a request for a same day trip to Providence, RI on April 2, 2022 for a 4x1 track event at the Providence Track Association from Head Coach Donald Brown. 11 students in total; not certain if there would be one or two chaperones. Mr. McCarthy explained the last minute request was because Coach Brown was new in his position.

MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO ALLOW THE TRIP TO PROVIDENCE, RI FOR THE TRACK TEAM ON APRIL 2, 2022, CONTINGENT ON HAVING TWO CHAPERONES; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Adjournment:

(Agenda Item #VI)

KIMBERLY KIRK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSSC MEETING AT 7:17 PM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Documents on File:

- 1) Agenda MVMVRHSSC Agenda 3.30.22.pdf

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

MAY 2, 2022
Date

Amy Houghton – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Matthew D’Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED MAY 2, 2022