

**ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #19**  
**Edgartown School Committee**  
**Oak Bluffs School Committee**  
**Tisbury School Committee**  
**Martha’s Vineyard Regional School District**  
**Up Island Regional School District**

**6:00PM, Thursday, October 20, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Present:	Chair – Skipper Manter (UI), Vice Chair – Michael Watts (TIS)
Up-Island	Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop
Tisbury	Jennifer Cutrer, Amy Houghton
Oak Bluffs	Kathryn Shertzer, Kris O’Brien
Edgartown	Kimberly Kirk
Shared Services Office	Superintendent –Richie Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Administrative Assistant – Ellie Parece
Recorder	Juliet Mulinare

**I. Call to Order**

The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 6:13pm by Chair Skipper Manter.

Agenda Item 4E [Collective Bargaining Ratification of Teachers & ESP Contracts] was moved to the top of the agenda for discussion.

**TEACHER CONTRACT:** Mr. Smith screen-shared the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Martha’s Vineyard Educators Association Teachers Unit and the Martha’s Vineyard School Committee, dated October 12, 2022. He described the sections of the contract that have been changed from the previous agreement including the salary schedule adjustments, longevity adjustments, the school year schedule and professional development, terms for Leave, and class sizes. There will also be National Certification for Occupational Therapy in CAGS. Mr. Watts then spoke about the process of reaching a consensus among the parties; it was a long road but everyone made compromises and they were able to avoid arbitration.

**MR. SALOP MOVED TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MVEA TEACHERS AND THE AISC; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**SHERTZER – AYE, O’BRIEN – AYE, KIRK – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, SALOP – AYE, WATTS – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, HOUGHTON – ABSTAIN, MANTER – AYE. Motion carries (9-0-1).**

**ESP CONTRACT:** Mr. Smith screen-shared the Memorandum of Agreement for Education Support Professionals between the Martha’s Vineyard Educators Association and the Martha’s Vineyard School Committee, dated October 12, 2022, for the period of July 1, 2022 – August 31, 2025. Mr. Smith stated that some of the existing steps were below what they should be and the goal of this process was to rectify that, as well as to take care of the staff during this high inflationary period. Mr. Smith described the salary adjustments (COLA) for each of the three years of the contract as well as the step changes that will be applied. Like the teachers, ESPs will receive a one-time payment for Covid relief. There will also be an increase (\$1/hr) to the hourly pay differential for those working with students with intensive special needs. The schedule, sick leave and longevity were updated as well. With this updated agreement, ESPs will be eligible for reimbursement for additional coursework towards obtaining a teacher’s license.

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Mr. Friedman spoke to the implications on the budget inherent with the ratification of these agreements: these agreements will take effect July 1 of this year (retroactively), however, the increases have been accounted for in this years' budget and Mr. Friedman does not anticipate any adverse effects on the FY23 budget. With the cost of living adjustments in subsequent years, they will have to work hard to keep the budget increases under 2.5% but Mr. Friedman said he's confident it can be done.

*MR. SALOP MOVED TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MVEA ESPs AND THE AISC; MS.*

*ACKERMAN SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*SHERTZER – AYE, WATTS – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, HOUGHTON – AYE, KIRK – AYE, CUTRER – ABSTAIN, SALOP – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, MANTER – AYE. Motion carries (9-0-1).*

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: August 31, 2022.

*MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF 8/31/2; MS. CUTRER SECONDS, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*WATTS – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE, HOUGHTON – ABSTAIN, ACKERMAN – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SALOP – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, MANTER – AYE, KIRK – AYE. Motion carries (9-0-1).*

Mr. Manter recognized the service of Kate DeVane to the School Committee. She is not seeking reelection this year. Ms. Houghton highlighted Ms. DeVane's impact on improving policies regarding children with special needs. The Committee thanked her for her years of service.

## **III. Superintendent's Report**

MCAS: Mr. Smith reported that after a couple of atypical school years due to Covid, the MCAS results from testing last spring show that Vineyard Schools are above the State average. Mr. Smith also reported that student growth was "typical", which is noteworthy considering how atypical the past few years have been. Mr. Smith attributed the reason for maintaining this typical growth to the teachers, ESPs and other staff; their hard work and commitment to the students during the periods of fully remote and hybrid learning kept the students engaged and present.

GENERAL UPDATE: Mr. Smith informed the Committee that two former (retired) employees of the School system have been hired on an interim basis to provide assistance to the Superintendent's Office while they reorganize the job description of the Assistant Superintendent. The two individuals who were hired are Marge Harris and John Stevens. Ms. Harris will be looking at curriculum structure and professional development and will serve as a resource for curriculum initiatives; she will also provide cultural response leadership for the MVYPS staff. She will also make sure the Superintendent's checklist is in compliance. Mr. Stevens will be overseeing operations including daily management, transportation, facilities and special projects. These positions will run until June 30, 2023.

Mr. Smith encouraged the Committee to review his entry plan which lays out his goals and priorities for the next 3-5 years.

AISC MUSIC COORDINATOR POSITION: Mr. Smith stated that he is seeking approval for funding for an island-wide music coordinator and teacher. The position would be funded with a \$4,000 stipend and would start immediately. This teacher would offer vocal music instruction once a week at the High School, most likely in the

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afternoon due to transportation issues in the morning. He said details still need to be worked out, which they will take care of if the Committee approves the position. Mr. Lionette suggested conducting a one-year pilot program at the High School before opening up the opportunity to the elementary schools as well. Mr. Smith deferred to Ms. Abigail Chandler to answer the question. Ms. Chandler stated that the need for vocal music instruction is greatest at the middle school level. This is an important time developmentally and also a time when kids can choose not to participate in musical programming. Ms. Chandler said none of the elementary schools on the island have a chorus anymore; this position would expand access and increase equity for island children to engage in vocal music during a critical period in their development. The Committee expressed some concerns about the ability to transport students to and from the High School for this opportunity. Mr. Smith responded that if the details are not able to be worked out to solve those potential issues, this would not move forward, but he needs the Committee to approve the position before he can take the time to work out the details. Chairman Manter opened up the floor for public comment and numerous people spoke in favor of creating the position. Ms. Maura McGroarty (OB FinCom member) said she was concerned about the ad hoc creation of a new position outside of the budget process. Chairman Manter asked where the \$4,000 stipend would come from. Mr. Smith responded that it would come from the \$77k leftover from the vacant Assistant Superintendent position. Chairman Manter reiterated Ms. McGroarty's point about the proper processes to be followed.

*MR. SALOP MOVED TO CREATE THE POSITION OF MUSIC COORDINATOR, FUNDED WITH A \$4,000 STIPEND. MS. KIRK SECONDED THE MOTION. DISCUSSION:*

Ms. Kirk asked Ms. Chandler if the MV Children's Choir still existed, Ms. Chandler said it does not. Ms. Shertzer asked whether the motion should be amended to a one-year only stipend. After some discussion on whether the amendment was necessary, Chairman Manter called for the vote.

*ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*KIRK – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, HOUGHTON – AYE, WATTS – AYE, SALOP – AYE, MANTER – NAY. Motion carries (9-1-0).*

**ADDITIONAL HOURS IN FINANCE DEPARTMENT:** Mr. Smith stated that he has two more requests regarding filling positions of immediate need. The first request is for up to \$10,000 to hire someone to assist Mr. Friedman in the central office with procurement requirements. These funds will also come from the Asst. Superintendent salary; Mr. Smith screen-shared a breakdown of how he has budgeted the unused Asst. Superintendent funds for other needs he has identified. Ms. Houghton requested that Mr. Smith put together an organizational chart of the existing positions in the Superintendent's Office, as well as areas where additional help is needed, so the Committee can have a clear idea of where things stand and what changes Mr. Smith would like to make. Mr. Smith responded that there are a number of large construction projects in the pipeline, and thus, the needs of the central office are constantly shifting. Mr. Salop questioned whether a contracted individual would be more appropriate to assist with the upcoming construction projects. Mr. Friedman responded that this money will fund an immediate administrative need, it is not meant to be a long-term solution for the larger projects. The procurement and contract management needs are growing and currently, Mr. Friedman is the only person managing them. He is looking to strategically increase some of the hours of the current staff, and also to use the money to cover the costs of State-level procurement training. Committee members expressed concern with the impact that these added positions might have on future budgets and whether they should be considered as one-time stipends. Mr. Smith asked the Committee to consider the impact that these large construction projects have on a staff that has, historically, not had to deal with anything of this magnitude. Mr. Manter said the larger construction projects should have administrative costs built into the cost of the

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project and once the project has been completed, so is the role of the project manager. Mr. Smith said he was working within the confines of the budget when he put in this request and recognized that it's reactive, not proactive, but he's trying to address an immediate need that he and Mr. Friedman have identified.

*MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO RELEASE THE FUNDS ON A STIPEND BASIS TO BE USED AS DIRECTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT. MR. SALOP SECONDED THE MOTION. DISCUSSION:*

Brief discussion to confirm that a stipend is a viable alternative.

*ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*ACKERMAN – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SALOP – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE, HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, WATTS – AYE, MANTER – NAY. Motion carries (8-1-0)*

ADDITIONAL SHARED PROGRAM TEACHER: Mr. Smith informed the Committee that, currently, there is one unfilled ESP position in each of the three specialized programs (Edg Bridge, WT Bridge, OB Compass). Each of these programs has additional students this year. Mr. Smith said there have been some challenges that have come up due to staffing shortages. He continued that this request is more about the creation of one-year-only special education teaching position that would grant him the flexibility to reorganize the other ESPs. The amount being requested is up to \$20,000.

*MS. HOUGHTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE REQUEST FOR UP TO \$20,000 TO BE USED TO HIRE A ONE-YEAR-ONLY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER. MS. O'BRIEN SECONDED THE MOTION. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*LIONETTE – AYE, SALOP – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, HOUGHTON – AYE, WATTS – AYE, MANTER – AYE. Motion passes unanimously (9-0).*

## IV. Old/New Business

USE OF GENERAL FUNDS MONEY TO OFFSET FEDERAL GRANT EXPENSES: Mr. Smith explained a bit about the application process for the Title 1, 2, 3 & 4 consolidated grants. These grants fund portions of the payroll but due to the complicated application process and short window, the first payroll payment this year was made before the money was received. This request is to create a buffer of money that would allow the first payroll payment (\$29,000) to be made from the General Fund. Mr. Smith stated that this isn't absolutely necessary but it is good practice. Mr. Friedman provided further explanation and stated that this is a one-time ask that will allow them to rectify a situation that is causing non-compliance with the grant and also to be able to remain in compliance in future years, as the grants are recurring. Mr. Friedman confirmed that the auditors have been consulted on the matter.

*MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO MOVE \$29,686.66 TO COVER THE ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT FOR THE CONSOLIDATED GRANTS. MS. CUTRER SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*ACKERMAN – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, SALOP – AYE, O'BRIEN – AYE, SHERTZER – ABSTAIN (NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE), CUTRER – AYE, WATTS – AYE, MANTER – ABSTAIN. Motion carries (6-0-2).*

HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES, PROTOCOLS AND POLICY – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: The previous reading of this policy took place in August. There have been no changes to the policy.

*MR. LIONETTE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICES, PROTOCOLS AND POLICY. MR. SALOP SECONDS THE MOTION, NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

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*O'BRIEN – AYE, SALOP – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS – AYE, SHERTZER – ABSTAIN (NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE), MANTER – AYE, CUTRER – AYE.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

Discussion on whether a quorum was still present. After determining a quorum was no longer present, *AT 8:42PM, MR. LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY MS. O'BRIEN. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:*

*ACKERMAN – NAY, O'BRIEN – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, WATTS – AYE, LIONETTE – AYE, SALOP – AYE, MANTER – AYE. Motion carries (6-1-0).*

**Documents on File:**

- AISC Agenda 10.20.22
- DRAFT Minutes AISC August 31, 2022
- Federal Grants Compliance MVYPS – Payroll FY23
- Health & Safety Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Minutes Submitted by: Juliet Mulinare