

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:00 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**

Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Roxanne Ackerman, Louis Paciello, Kathryn Shertzer  
*Zoom:* Vice Chair (VC) – Kimberly Kirk, Jennifer Cutrer, Skipper Manter\*,  
Michael Watts

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,  
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,  
Research Specialist – Kim Garrison, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,  
IT Director – Rick Mello, Music Teacher – Ray Fallon, Facilities Director –  
Mike Taus, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy

Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.,  
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Mary Ellen Larsen,  
West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Others: CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP / CPA, Managing Principal – Chris Rogers

Press: MV Times – Eunki Seonwoo, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski \*Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHS SC members

*\*Skipper Manter arrived at 6:06 PM.*

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Robert Lionette; 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 MVRHS SC members or Administrators or when actively participating; attendees were asked to identify themselves with first and last names. *(Recorder’s Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).*

**Welcome - Chair**

(Agenda Item #I)

Chair Lionette said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) required a quorum at a public hearing; the MVRHSC Public Hearing held November 29, 2022 did not have one and therefore it had been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

He thanked VC Kimberly Kirk for sharing with the Committee information from the Friday hearing with our Lawyer in Land Court; VC Kirk said she would look into gaining access to the recording; she recommended adding an agenda item in the future for a *Litigation Review Session* to look at all the pending litigation.

**Public Comment**

(Agenda Item #II)

Susan Desmarais referenced the artificial turf/Dover Amendment case story in the MV Times; she was concerned about precedent being set on this Island. She asked to rethink and be aware that the Committee had the power and guidance over the next generation of citizens and to set more of an example by behavior than words; she thanked those that voted in a more collaborative way.

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Elizabeth O'Connor wanted to understand the billing/payments to date for the Dover Amendment case and what happened when the \$30,000 cap was reached; she asked the Committee to relay that specific information to her; she provided an email in the chat: [boconnor@aac-us.com](mailto:boconnor@aac-us.com)

**Routine Reports**

(Agenda Item #III)

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities:**

Principal Sara Dingley said the Junior Class Vice President was not present and could send a written report.

**B. Principal**

**1. FY24 Budget Follow Up Conversation**

Principal Dingley said the new proposals were specific to the warrant articles; she wanted to determine if a Budget Sub-Committee working meeting would be appropriate. Skipper Manter, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee, said he would look at the calendar to set up a meeting before the Public Hearing. Members discussed keeping three warrant articles on the town calendars; it was easier to pull back as needed. *(Please see document on file for warrant discussion details: Minutes MVRHS SC NOVEMBER 28, 2022 Special Meeting.pdf, FY24 Budget: (Agenda Item #IV), pgs 3 & 4)*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO FORWARD TO THE TOWNS PLACEHOLDERS FOR TWO WARRANTS; (1) THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND (2) PERFORMING ARTS CENTER HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC); ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**C. Superintendent**

**1. General Report:**

Superintendent Richard M. Smith screen shared a photograph of the Nantucket Superintendent wearing a MVRHS t-shirt; she was a great sport.

**2. Non-Union Salary Adjustments - Discussion & Vote for Approval**

Superintendent Smith screen shared his recommendations and recapped his reasoning for this proposal; the overall increase was 3% for most with a few exceptions; the increases were accounted for in the FY23 budget. He said this was a very thoughtful, objective process; all raises were retroactive.

**Discussion:**

- ❖ We should know the base for each position to ensure pay equity issues are addressed.
- ❖ We hold up non-union people during union negotiations; we are always playing catch up to keep salaries competitive; we need to find a better approach so this is not delayed in the future.
- ❖ Starting salaries should be consistent with comparisons within the region, state and/or national.
- ❖ Job descriptions and comps would be very useful.

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*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST AS PRESENTED;  
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED.*

Kathryn Shertzer asked to make a friendly amendment to increase Mike Tuas to 6%. Ms. Ackerman did not accept the amendment as she felt Superintendent Smith's recommendations were best.

*MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE,  
MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE (WITH RESERVATIONS), MR. LIONETTE—AYE,  
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.  
MR. PACIELLO—ABSTAINED.*

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO CHANGE THE INCREASE FOR FACILITIES DIRECTOR  
MIKE TAUS TO 6% (FROM THE 3% AS PRESENTED); KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDED.  
MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS., MS. CUTRER—AYE,  
MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE &  
MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. ACKERMAN—NAY & MR. LIONETTE—NAY.*

**Consents: Votes Required**

(Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Minutes:**

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 27, 2022,  
NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2022 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN;  
SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS,  
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE,  
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE  
& MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**B. Personnel:**

Principal Dingley said they were trying to find the best fit Amy Crawford; no action was taken.

**C. Grants and Donations:**

Ray Fallon said the The Kathryn Goodman Foundation, an existing donor, would like to donate to the MVRHS Music Program [in new condition] six saxophones, four trombones and four trumpets with an appraised value just under \$50,000.

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT, WITH EXTREME GRATITUDE, THE  
INSTRUMENT DONATION TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.  
MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE,  
MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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Suzanne Cioffi presented a \$1600 donation for the cafeteria kitchen, from a group that used the space during the holiday weekend.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT \$1600 AND TO LET THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINE THE BEST PLACE TO USE; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**D. Out of State and Overnight Travel:**

Ski Club/30 Students/3 Chaperones                      03/10/23-03/12/23 traveling to New Hampshire

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**E. Waiver 7th & 8th Graders for Boys & Girls Swimming**

Members discussed how to balance the opportunity of building a team/program with asking for waivers to be granted year after year; Chair Lionette suggested the newly formed Athletic Sub-Committee review the program for greater understanding, to begin the conversations.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CO-OP WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL, TO ALLOW STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATHLETIC WAIVER FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS TO COMPETE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. KIRK—NAY & MR. LIONETTE—NAY.*

**F. Certification of FY24 Budget**

Tabled.

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**Finance**

(Agenda Item #V)

**A. Audit Report:**

Chris Rogers reviewed the results of the *Year Ended June 30, 2021 MVRHSD Audit* with a high level summary in each of the following areas:

1. Terms of Engagement
2. Executive Summary
3. Financial Highlights
4. Uniform Guidance Report
5. Management Letter

*(Please see documents on file for details: VI. B. 2021 Signed Final Report and Financial Statements MVRHS.pdf, VI. B. 2021 Signed Governance Communication MVRHS.pdf, VI. B. 2021 Signed Management Letter MVRHS.pdf, VI. B. Martha\_s Vineyard Regional Signed Final Single Audit Report.pdf)*

Members discussed the findings and what steps would need to be taken to resolve the following issues:

- ❖ Information Technology (IT)/Repeat: Mark Friedman said the outstanding issues throughout the District had been addressed; the next go around, all should be resolved.
- ❖ Procurement Policy/Repeat: Mr. Friedman said this Agenda included a discussion for Federal Grants Procurement and Accounting Policies & Procedures to address this.
- ❖ Dormant Funds/Repeat: Mr. Friedman said they were resolved last spring.
- ❖ Cash Reconciling Items/New: Mr. Friedmans said he would work with the Treasurer and staff to identify and resolve.

A lengthy discussion ensued, topics included but were not limited to: how much should be held in reserve for bonding/bond ratings for the future borrowing amount; how to handle Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) and if a payment policy was needed; Mr. Rogers offered his opinion on how to approach each.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 30, 2021 MVRHSD AUDIT AS PRESENTED; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**B. Revenue and Expenditures:**

Tabled.

**C. Federal Grants Procurement and Accounting Policies & Procedures:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT AS THE FIRST READING; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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**MSBA/ Regional Agreement**

(Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Update:**

Samuel Hart said there was nothing new to report for the new Regional Agreement; he felt they were in a good place for when the Annual Town Meetings started.

The first Building Committee meeting was anticipated to be scheduled before the December recess for introductions and orientation (23 members to date).

Five of the nine deliverables for May 29, 2023 had been executed and sent to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) .

**B. Massachusetts School Building Authority Feasibility Study Warrant Article Request And Vote:**

Mr. Friedman said the Committee was being asked for a vote *TO ASK THE TOWNS TO PUT A PLACEHOLDER IN THEIR SPRING TOWN WARRANTS FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY VOTE*; this would not be the official vote to borrow the money. Members discussed the appropriate level of funding to put forth; Mr. Friedman reviewed the findings based on research. *(Please see document of file for details: Minutes MVRHS SC NOVEMBER 15 Special Meeting.pdf)*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO TRANSMIT THE DRAFT WARRANT ARTICLE LANGUAGE TO THE TOWNS WITH THE AMOUNT OF \$2M; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**SubCommittee Update**

(Agenda Item #VII)

Facilities Sub-Committee Chair Michael Watts said there would be a meeting next week; the electrical work on the street was underway for the bus depot.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements**

(Agenda Item #VIII)

None.

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #IX)

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:26 PM; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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**Appendix A - Meetings/Events**

- MVRHS SC – Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM
- PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM
- Athletic Sub-Committee Meeting TBD

**Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks: NONE.**

**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda MVRHS SC 12.5.22.docx
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC NOVEMBER 15 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC OCTOBER 27 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes November 7, 2022 Meeting.pdf
- IV. B. Amy Crawford Ltr. 12.2.22.docx
- IV. C. Federal Grants Manual MVYPS Grants Draft FY23 - 12-02-2022.docx
- IV. D Donations Kitchen and PAD Donations 12.5.2022.pdf
- IV. D. Out Of State Travel Seabourne.pdf
- IV. E. 2022-23 Swim roster.docx
- IV. E. Boys Team Roster 2020.pdf
- IV. E. Girls Team Roster 2020.pdf
- IV. E. MVRHS Boys SWIM roster 21-22\_.docx-2.pdf
- IV. E. MVRHS Girls SWIM Roster 21-22\_.docx-2.pdf
- VI. B. 2021 Signed Final Report and Financial Statements MVRHS.pdf
- VI. B. 2021 Signed Governance Communication MVRHS.pdf
- VI. B. 2021 Signed Management Letter MVRHS.pdf
- VI. B. Martha\_s Vineyard Regional Signed Final Single Audit Report.pdf
- VI. B. MSBA Orientation Packet.pdf

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
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**Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder**

February 6, 2023

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**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert Lionette – MVRHS SC Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Richard M. Smith, Ed.D. – MVRHSD Superintendent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

*APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 2023*