

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)/ *Special Meeting*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Library or Zoom

Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Roxanne Ackerman, Jennifer Cutrer, Skipper Manter, Kathryn Shertzer
Zoom: Vice Chair (VC) – Kimberly Kirk*, Louis Paciello*, Michael Watts
Others: About 12 attendees including: Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) - Andy Italiano
Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi
Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman,
Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod
Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet
Press: MV Times – Eunki Seonwoo, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski **Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHS SC members*

*Kimberly Kirk left at 7:02 PM

*Louis Paciello arrived at 7:03 PM

Call to Order

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 6:34 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 thanked everyone involved with this budget; they were asked to work through difficult requests and followed through with each.

Use of Contingency Funds for Collective Bargaining Agreements - *Vote*

(Agenda Item #II)

Mark Friedman said there were 120 qualifying individuals, a one time payout of \$120,000 in estimated costs; this was not included in the current budget. Members discussed earmarking these funds as an option.

KIMBERLY KIRK MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF CONTINGENCY FUNDS FOR ANTICIPATED EXPENSES UP TO \$120,000; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

FY24 Budget Discussion & Approval

(Agenda Item #III)

Suzanne Cioffi screen shared the FY24 Budget Highlights 12.14.2022 as Principal Sara Dingley reviewed the changes. (*Please see document on file for details: APPROVED Budget Sub-Committee Minutes 12.14.22.pdf, FY24 Draft Budget Discussion: (Agenda Item #III), pgs 1&2*)

THE PROPOSED TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES BUDGET INCREASE WAS **2.11%**;
TOTAL OVERALL ASSESSED INCREASE WAS **3.46%**.

Principal Dingley said she was proposing to move the purchase of one Special Education Van from the FY24 budget and to use FY23 contingency funds [which would ultimately be approved by this Committee] to have it in time for next year. Members discussed the process for approval; Chair Lionette said he would include this on the January 9, 2023 agenda.

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting*
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. Cioffi reviewed the changes that had been recommended [specific to the two warrant articles] at the 12/15/22 Facilities Sub-Committee meeting. *(Please see document on file for details: Minutes Facilities Sub-Committee December 15, 2022.pdf, FY24 Budget Update: (Agenda Item #IV), pg 2)*

JENNIFER CUTRER MOVED TO APPROVE IN DRAFT FORM, VERSION 8 OF THE MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE,, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

Chair Lionette recessed the MVRHS SC meeting at 6:59 PM; to reconvene immediately following the Public Hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 (FY24) BUDGET**

★ *CHAIR ROBERT LIONETTE OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM.*

Principal Sara Dingley thanked the Finance Staff, Suzanne Cioffi and Dawn Feinsmith, and the leadership of Samuel Hart and the support of Mark Friedman; it was a lot and a crunch; she thanked the teachers and staff as well.

Principal Dingley said ‘*We were all things to all people*’ on the Island; it was a tall order and took it very seriously resulting in finances of the MVRHS that were complex and hard to digest.

THE PROPOSED TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES BUDGET INCREASE WAS **2.11%**;
TOTAL OVERALL ASSESSED INCREASE WAS **3.46%**.

Priorities for Current and Future School Years:

- Continue to support our teachers and instructional needs
- Address COVID related losses and regain pre-COVID levels of achievement and momentum
- Continue to support our long term goals and plans
- Continue to support our growing population of English Language Learners (ELL)
- Maintain necessary preventative maintenance to our facility and grounds.
- Strengthen our workforce pathways
- Support alternative pathways to graduate
- Ensuring supervision of after school student activities/events
- Ensure we can utilize In School Suspension (ISS) rather than Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Other FY24 Budget Considerations:

- Contractual/Personnel Increases are based upon new contract which eliminated lower steps and added a higher step AND 3-5% overall
- Residential placements
- Increase costs in goods and services for supplies
- Reducing capital investments in consideration of the building project
- Maintaining contractual class sizes while accommodating a growing student population

(Please see document on file for first Public Hearing: MVRHSC_Public Hearing Minutes November 29, 2022 Meeting.pdf)

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting*
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Principal Dingley reviewed by line, each change that impacted the overall number from the Budget Highlights worksheet and the Excess & Deficiency (E & D) offsets that impacted the assessed increase amount. *(Please see documents on file as referred to during the meeting: FY24 Budget Highlights 12.14.2022.pdf AND FY24 Budget Version8 12.14.2022.pdf)*

★ *CHAIR ROBERT LIONETTE CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:20 PM.*

Chair Lionette reconvened the MVRHS SC meeting at 7:21 PM.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements (Agenda Item #IV)

Chair Lionette said he had received feedback from members of Select Boards, FinComs and others around the Island specific to putting \$500,000 of E&D to lessen the amount for the Feasibility Study. The idea that having an E&D amount had value if we were going to bond for the building project. He said it was worth considering and would add it to the January 9, 2023 agenda.

Mr. Friedman shared information about this in an email dated Fri, Dec 16, 2022:

Hi Mark- I have spoken to bond counsel, Rick Manley, and he has suggested that the vote not commit E&D in the vote language. Rather, the District should just vote the E&D to the project on an annual basis. Tying E&D to the project through the project vote, may commit E&D funds permanently.

Also, keep in mind, the District will need to obtain a bond rating from S&P Global Ratings. While the E&D is restricted under State statute to 5%, a further restriction on E&D for project funding would be a red flag for the rating.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Regards, Lynne

Lynne A. Foster-Welsh, Vice President/Senior Advisor
UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. 49 Church Street-Whitinsville, MA 01588
Office: 508-849-4223 Cell: 508-494-2980

Adjournment (Agenda Item #V)

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:26 PM;
KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 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.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHS SC 12.21.22.pdf
- NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 12.21.2022.pdf
- FY24 Budget Highlights 12.14.2022.pdf
- FY24 Budget Version8 12.14.2022.pdf
- Fwd ED.pdf
- participants_87662586340 (4).csv

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting*
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

February 6, 2023

Date

Robert Lionette – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Richard M. Smith, Ed.D – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 2023