

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)/ *Special Meeting***  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**

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

Others: About 50 attendees including: Chief Executive Officer of Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) – Elizabeth Folcarelli, Executive Director Harbor Homes Martha’s Vineyard (HHMV) – Sue Diverio, HHMV Winter Shelter Coordinator – Lisa Belcastro, Oak Bluffs Police Chief – Jonathan Searle, Martha’s Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) - Andy Italiano

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Facilities Director – Mike Taus

Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod

Towns/County: Edgartown Town Administrator – James Hagerty, Oak Bluffs Select Board Chair – Ryan Ruley, Oak Bluffs Town Administrator – Deborah Potter, Vice Chair Chilmark Select Board – Warren M. Doty, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy, 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*

**Please note: All business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Robert Lionette. The meeting was recorded; video cameras were asked to be turned off except for MVRHSC 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 MVCS and HHMV would make their presentations first and then open discussion would follow.

**Harbor Homes Discussion and Vote:**

(Agenda Item #II)

Elizabeth Folcarelli kicked off the discussion by saying this was a great opportunity to share the importance of having a homeless shelter in the community. She appreciated the endorsement from the Committee for the shelter last year, as the location worked really well as a peaceful, safe, effective usage of the space. She spoke to the concerns expressed by Members at a prior meeting; she reviewed in detail how each was handled. (*Please see documents on file for previous discussions: APPROVED MVRHS SC Minutes November 7, 2022 Meeting.pdf, Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements (Agenda Item #VII), pg 5 AND APPROVED Minutes MVRHS SC NOVEMBER 15 Special Meeting.pdf, Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements: (Agenda Item #IV), pg 3*)

Deborah Potter directed her comprehensive list of questions to the Committee; they were related to the implementation of the shelter, the technical concerns that impacted the operations of the Town. She said the Town of Oak Bluffs was not involved with the agreement last year and was ensuring that would not be the case this time.

Police Chief Jonathan Searle said there were a total of 8 incidents last year (January 22 thru March 15, 2022), most involving alcohol, mental illness or medical calls.

Ryan Ruley said the rate of calls seemed high based on the weeks the shelter was open; he was concerned the Town was taking on the responsibility of absorbing costs for an additional regional service.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting***  
**Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

Chair Lionette asked the appropriate person/s to respond accordingly to each of the questions, to ensure Ms. Potter was satisfied with the answer/s.

A lengthy discussion ensued over the pro's and con's of using this facility. The shelter agreement was reviewed in detail; the discussion included hours of operation; the level of staff coverage; incident reporting and the process to keep the MVRHS informed; background checks and creating protocols/standards for Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks; the responsibilities (including budgetary impacts) of another regional facility within the Town of Oak Bluffs.

Members said they were frustrated over the timing of this request; being a landlord was difficult and making this choice was very difficult. They were adamant about having a process in place for notification of incidents, as nothing was reported to the MVRHS during last year's operation. There was an obligation and priority to ensure student safety.

*KIMBERLY KIRK MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE AGREEMENT: THE SUPERINTENDENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OPERATIONS AT ANY TIME, POSTING A MVRHSC MEETING WITHIN 24 HOURS TO MEET WITHIN 5 DAYS TO CONSIDER ANY TYPE OF CHANGE; 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, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE AGREEMENT: PRESENT CAPACITY WOULD BE 20 ADULTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVISIT IF A CAPACITY INCREASE WAS NEEDED; 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, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he would be comfortable if the Committee approved this agreement as he believed everyone here was in support of this shelter; we could be truly vigilant for safety concerns with the changes added to the agreement. Principal Sara Dingley said they took safety incredibly seriously, they had great support from the police department as there was a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the building every day; she was comfortable with the approval of this agreement.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ALLOW THE MARTHA'S REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HARBOR HOMES MARTHA'S VINEYARD (HHMV) AND MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES (MVCS) TO ALLOW THE HOMELESS SHELTER TO OPERATE AT THE MVCS PROPERTY FOR THIS YEAR ONLY EXPIRING APRIL 1, 2023; AND FOR MVCS AND HHMV TO REPORT ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS; AND THE RENEWAL REQUEST FOR THE 2023/2024 YEAR BE PRESENTED NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2023; KIMBERLY KIRK 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, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*A recess was called at 7:29 PM and the meeting reconvened at 7:34 PM*

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting***  
**Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

*\*Roxanne Ackerman left at 7:30 PM*

**Building Committee Member Vote:** (Agenda Item #III)  
Chair Lionette recommended leaving the School Committee Member position open and to fill it as needed.

*KRIS O’BRIEN MOVED TO ADD AMIRA MADISON, SALLY RIZZO, GEOGHAN COOGAN AND ELSBETH TODD AS MEMBERS TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**FY24 Budget:** (Agenda Item #IV)

Skipper Manter, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee, recapped the steps taken throughout the process that resulted in the decisions presented this evening; the Public Hearing was scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

It was decided after much consideration, including input from those involved with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process, to create two warrant articles for one time capital expenditures. *(Please see document on file for details: APPROVED Budget Sub-Committee Minutes 11.22.22.pdf, FY24 Draft Budget Discussion: (Agenda Item #III), pgs 1 and 2)*

**Warrant Article 1: \$118,000 for Capital Improvements**

- \$30,000 JV Baseball Field wellhead pump
- \$8,000 Storage Pod/outdoor shed
- \$10,000 Window Repairs
- \$20,000 Doors Frames and Bars
- \$50,000 Shingling

**Warrant Article 2: \$300,000**

Performing Arts Center (PAC) Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) System

*KRIS O’BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PROCEDURE FOR THESE TWO ARTICLES AND THAT DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BASED ON TIMING, TO APPROVE PURSUING THIS PRACTICE FOR THE BUDGET CYCLE; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*KRIS O’BRIEN MOVED TO PUT \$375,000 INTO THE EXCESS & DEFICIENCY (E&D) REVENUE OFFSET LINE; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO TAKE \$500,000 FROM EXCESS & DEFICIENCY [REDUCTION] TO OFFSET THE REQUEST OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. O’BRIEN—NAY & MS. SHERTZER—NAY.*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/*Special Meeting***

**Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

Principal Sara Dingley and Suzanne Cioffi gave a brief overview of the budget. *(Please see document on file for details: APPROVED Budget Sub-Committee Minutes 11.15.22.pdf, FY24 Draft Budget Discussion: (Agenda Item #III), pg 1)*

**The total operating expense [budget] was 2.32%**

**The total assessed expense was 6.92% (due to the offsets)**

*Mark Friedman said with the line item change of \$375,000 for E&D (as voted above), the new assessed expense would be 5.12%.*

Members discussed the budgetary requests that would be presented to voters in the future and the necessary process to explain them. Michael Watts said sequence was important as there would be multiple items presented overtime (e.g. warrant articles, budget, regional agreement) and to work with town moderators and/or town administrators to make it more easily understood for voters; Chair Lionette said this would be a December 5, 2022 agenda item.

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

(Agenda Item #V)

None.

**Adjournment:**

(Agenda Item #VI)

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSSC MEETING AT 8:33 PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**Documents on File:**

- 1) MVRHS Agenda 11.28- REVISED.pdf
- 2) Agenda MVRHS SC 11.28.22 (1).pdf
- 3) participants\_87662586340 (3) (1).csv
- 4) MVRHS SC Meeting 11-28-2022 - Attendees List.pdf

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
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**Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder**

February 6, 2023  
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**Date**

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**Robert Lionette – MVRHSC Chair**

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

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

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

**APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 2023**