

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

6:30PM, Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Chair – Skipper Manter (UI), Vice Chair – Michael Watts (TIS)*
Up-Island Roxanne Ackerman, Alex Salop, Robert Lionette
Tisbury Jennifer Cutrer
Oak Bluffs Kathryn Shertzer, Rizwan Malik
Edgartown Kimberly Kirk
Shared Services Office Superintendent – Richie Smith, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services for MV Public Schools – Hope MacLeod, ELL Director-Leah Palmer, Early Childhood Coordinator -Jen Royal
Other Ellie Parece – Recorder, Lucas Thors – MV Times, Louise Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette, Andy Italiano, MVDC-Maura McGroarty, MaryAnn Bartlett, Anne Williamson
*late arrival

I. Call to Order

The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes under consideration for approval are: 12/21/2022.

MR. SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE 12/21/22 DRAFT ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES; MS. SHERTZER SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – ABSTAIN, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE. Motion passes unanimously 7-0-1).

III. Superintendent’s Report

GENERAL UPDATE:

Mr. Smith reported that MVRHS is performing the play Chicago Feb 16-19 at 7pm and Sunday Feb 20 at 2pm. Tickets are \$10, seniors and students \$5.

Mr. Smith also expressed gratitude to the Island Police Chiefs for their support and responses during the various issues this school year such as the bank robbery and the recent hoax phone call.

Mr. Smith reported that the school committees have been meeting with the various town Finance Committees. West Tisbury FinCom has met 1/19 and 2/7 and will have a warrant presentation next week. Chilmark was 2/2, Edg 2/8, Tisbury 1/25 OB 1/26 and Aquinnah will be 3/9. He reported positive feedback and a good turnout.

Mr. Smith presented to the committee a reflection exercise for an evaluation of the strengths and areas of improvement/challenges the school is facing. He plans to use this to help develop his strategic plan. He has distributed this to the central office, principals and school committee and in March will distribute it to teachers and ESPs. He is asking that it be returned by 2/24.

MASC-April Updates:

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Mr. Smith has asked Dorothy Presser to come for a discussion with the school committee. He is trying to organize dates that would work. After some discussion he will plan for April 5.

SUPPORT SERVICE UPDATE:

Ms. MacLeod reported that she has been presenting at the various town FinCom meetings and has given presentations to the local school committees. She received some good questions and will circle back with more information especially regarding referral services. She also reported that they have begun planning for the 8th grade to high school transitions as well as summer program planning.

RECERTIFICATION OF FY 24 SHARED SERVICE BUDGET

Mr. Friedman reported to the committee that the budget included an estimated 7.5% increase of health rates but the rates just came in with a 4% increase so he recalculated the shared service budget. This change would decrease the shared service budget by \$26,844 however with additional information and hiring a new psychologist at a higher step than anticipated the budget would be decreased \$16,866.36 which would result in a 5.75% increase as opposed to the November 28 budget of a 5.97% increase. Mr. Manter commented that the position salary change was not on the agenda so should not be considered. Mr. Friedman responded that he was trying to be as transparent as possible with the budget and this was a new change. Mr. Salop voiced concern that putting off a vote for a technicality doesn't meet the spirit of what the committee is doing. Mr. Manter reiterated that this was not on the agenda and therefore inappropriate. Discussion ensued as to how to proceed so the towns could get this information they need in a timely fashion. Mr. Manter strongly opposed voting for the position salary adjustment at this time. Mr. Friedman suggested he could reduce the health insurance line \$16,866.36 at this time and later ask for a transfer from the health insurance line to the salary line. Mr. Manter voiced concern that we wouldn't be reducing the health insurance line by the correct amount. Mr. Smith explained that the school is thrilled to hire this new psychologist in a position that has been vacant a year although it came in at a higher salary than what was budgeted. He emphasized that they estimated to the best of their knowledge and he hopes that an amount can be voted tonight to allow the town to adjust their budgets and then a transfer could be made later with the school committee approval. Ms. Shertzer mentioned that the town of Oak Bluffs needs this resolved tonight. Ms. Shertzer made a motion that the committee vote to decrease the budget by the \$16,866.36 and with full transparency explain to the towns how that number was reached.

MS. SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REDUCTION TO THE HEALTH INSURANCE LINE OF \$16,866.36;

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

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE, KIRK - AYE, MALIK - AYE, MANTER – AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-ABSTAIN Motion passes (8-0-).

IV. Old/New Business

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY APPROVAL: Ms. Palmer reported to the committee that the school system has hired 2 Brazilian teachers this year and this has presented conversations with attorneys regarding H1B Visas. She suggests hiring an immigration attorney as a resource and recommends Annelise Araujo. Mr. Manter commented that he trusted the superintendent to hire attorneys. Mr. Salop asked if there was a budget and Mr. Friedman informed him that each school has a legal line in their budget. He also mentioned that this attorney was able to answer questions very quickly so he didn't anticipate this being costly. Ms. Kirk asked the hourly rate and if there was a retainer. Ms.

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Palmer responded that the hourly was \$350 for the attorney and \$100 for a paralegal and no retainer was required. Discussion followed as to the need of a vote and past practice has dictated voting.

MS. KIRK MOVED TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY, SECONDED BY MS. ACKERMAN NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER –AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-AYE Motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

MIDDLE SCHOOL STRING REVOLVING FUND: Mr. Friedman informed the committee of a request from strings teacher Rebecca Laird to establish a revolving fund to raise monies to attend festivals and other events. There are about 170 students island wide in the program

MS. SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL STRING REVOLVING FUND; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER –AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-AYE Motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

APPROVAL OF NEW/CHANGED APPENDIX A: Mr. Smith informed the committee that the Appendix A committee met and recommended the addition of Women of Color, Jazz Band and Science Fair to the Appendix A agreement as well as the increase of All Island A Band to a higher step. There is specific criteria that needs to be met and the committee bases their recommendation on this criteria which includes how often they meet, what certification is required, travel etc.

MR. SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPENDIX A ADDITIONS AND CHANGES; MS. SHERTZER SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER –AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-AYE Motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

V. Personnel

LOA: Mr. Smith presented a maternity leave request for Rebecca Sharp effective February 13, 2023.

MR. NEWMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE; MR. MALIK SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER –AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-AYE Motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

RESIGNATION: Mr. Smith presented a letter of resignation for Lily Morgan as an ESP effective January 31, 2023.

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MR. SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION; MR. NEWMAN SECONDS. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ROLL CALL VOTE:

SALOP – AYE, CUTRER - AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, SHERTZER – AYE ,KIRK - AYE,MALIK - AYE, MANTER –AYE, ACKERMAN – AYE, WATTS-AYE Motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

Ms. Shertzer mentioned needing a personnel subcommittee meeting to evaluate Mr. Smith. The committee chair will be contacted to start that process.

Ms. McGroarty requested a copy of the contract with AceMV, now known as MVCET and why the funding isn't being run through the school system. She asked if the AISC is the financial operator and Mr. Manter explained they are the financial conduit. The towns can't give the money directly to the group because they are a nonprofit. Ms. McGroarty asked for a copy of the contract that identifies the services and Mr. Friedman agreed to follow up with her.

VII. Adjournment

AT 7:33PM A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR SALOP AND SECONDED BY MS. SHERTZER. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, VOTE TAKEN, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

Documents on File:

- 12/21/22 Draft Minutes
- Annelise Araujo resume
- Appendix A Addition/Change List
- FY24 shared service budget
- Letter of Resignation
- Leave Request Letter

Minutes submitted by Ellie Parece