

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 8:30 AM

Zoom

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts
Others/Staff: Transportation Consultant – Richard Labrie, Climate Advisory Committee Chair/West Tisbury – Kate Warner, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Transportation Director – Marc Rivers,
Transportation Assistant – Chyenne Ward, Transportation Admin – Anastasia Carter,
Facilities Director – Mike Taus
Supt.'s Office: School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski *Late arrivals or early departures of Sub-Committee members (see * in text)

Call to Order: (Agenda Item #I)

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Transportation Sub-Committee was called to order by Chair Kimberly Kirk at 8:34 AM on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Participation was available remotely by Zoom. To preserve bandwidth, it was suggested that participants join via the Zoom audio and reserve video links for Committee members and administration; the meeting was recorded.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

Update on Environmental Protection Agency Grant: (Agenda Item #II)

Richard Labrie said there was not much to report; the next round of funding would begin some time in the spring.

Fleet Update: (Agenda Item #III)

Members discussed at length the use of contingency funds for maintaining the fleet; they were not in favor of this step and recommended finding the money within the Transportation Budget. Suzanne Cioffi recommended the approval of this process (*vote below*) to move forward. The funds would be earmarked to be guaranteed; at the end of the year a review would be done for actual funding.

Vote taken at the January 9, 2023 MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting:

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF \$85,943.00 OUT OF CONTINGENCY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE SPECIAL EDUCATION VAN, UPON APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

This would be a new purchase and not a replacement; surplusing would be held off for capacity needs; purchasing an electric van was not feasible at this time.

A motion was made by Kathryn Shertzer and seconded by Roxanne Ackerman. Much discussion ensued where the motion was amended many times. Both Ms. Shertzer and Ms. Ackerman agreed with the final motion:
KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A SPECIAL EDUCATION VAN FROM THE CONTINGENCY LINE SUBJECT TO FINDING OTHER FUNDS IN THE BUDGET LATER IN THE FISCAL YEAR; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Bus Lot Update: (Agenda Item #IV)

A joint meeting was agreed upon for Facilities and Transportation; a date would be set.

Third Party Bus Usage Discussion and Possible Vote: (Agenda Item #V)

Chair Kirk said a request came through for use of buses from the 20 Miler Road Race on February 12, 2023. She addressed the bigger concern for overall requests of use, as we were not licensed to run as a charter service.

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Chair Kirk said because the District owned the buses, there were different issues to be concerned with; she said school counsel had been contacted to begin the discussion to ensure proper steps would be taken for future vehicle requests; she wanted to approach this cautiously as insurance/liability was a big concern.

Discussion:

- It was hard to say no to requests for something that was desperately needed.
- Anything educational should be allowed.
- Third party usage contracts needed to be put in place.
- How did this work with the shortage of drivers?
- Transporting students was the priority.

MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF TWO BUSES FOR THE 20 MILER ROAD RACE, SUBJECT TO THE SIGNING OF THE TRANSPORTATION USAGE AGREEMENT WE HAVE IN PLACE; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED.

Richard Labrie recommended an amendment to the motion, both Mr. Watts and Ms. Shertzler were in agreement.

MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF TWO BUSES FOR THE 20 MILER ROAD RACE, SUBJECT TO THE SIGNING OF THE TRANSPORTATION USAGE AGREEMENT WE HAVE IN PLACE, AND AS THE PAST PRACTICE HAS BEEN, WE WERE GOING TO GO AHEAD; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Chair Kirk said this was an important discussion that needed to continue for a policy; she would include this on a future agenda. Mr. Labrie would do research with other schools districts he worked with, those that owned their buses and to [possibly] devise a policy from that information. Members wanted more information before moving this forward to the Full Committee, and to include the consideration of the unique circumstances of Island living.

Adjournment: (Agenda Item #VI)

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 9:21 AM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Meetings/Events: TBD

Documents on File: 1.12.23 Transportation Sub Committee Agenda (1).pdf

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

May 25, 2023

Date

Kimberly Kirk – Transportation Chair

Date

Richard M. Smith, Ed.D – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED MAY 25, 2023