

**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022, 8:30 AM**  
**Zoom**

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette\* ,  
Kathryn Shertzer, Michael Watts\*

Others/Staff: Transportation Consultant – Richard Labrie, Electric Vehicle Researcher – Irene Zeliff  
Climate Advisory Committee Chair, West Tisbury – Kate Warner, Coordinator of Pathways and  
Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,  
Transportation Assistant – Chyenne Ward, Facilities Director – Mike Taus

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Asst. Superintendent of Operations, Facilities & School  
Projects – John Stevens, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski \*Late arrivals or early departures of Sub-Committee members (see \* in text)

\*Robert Lionette left at 9:02 AM

\*Michael Watts arrived at 9:05 AM

**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 8:32 AM on Thursday, October 27, 2022. 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).*

**Approval of Minutes: (Agenda Item #II)**

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 7, 2022, JULY 28, 2022, AUGUST 3, 2022 AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES AS WRITTEN; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINED.*

**EPA Grant Update: (Agenda Item #III)**

Richard Labrie said he received notice of the awards; only five school districts were awarded in Massachusetts; the MVRHS did not get approval through the first round. He was waiting to hear back from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with information about additional awards and timing of the next round.

Mr. Labrie said there were more applications than funding available and would know more by the beginning of November for next steps; he asked for a copy of the review to understand why the application was not accepted, and to learn from that review.

Mr. Labrie said this was the beginning of the process not the end; it gives more time to plan out location and infrastructure. Chair Kirk underscored the fact there was much work to be done in the planning phase and glad there was a bit more time for that process.

Mr. Labrie concluded by saying that bus replacement would need to be selective, which to replace while this grant process moved forward; to go green but not necessarily electric in the interim, as there were alternatives to consider.

Irene Zeliff said she did not speak to anyone directly, but has been reaching out to find the right person to discuss this with as the awards had just been announced yesterday and posted on the EPA website.

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**Electric Fleet Discussion: (Agenda Item #IV)**

Mike Taus said the electrical upgrade design was sent to Eversource for approval and was uncertain when that step would be completed. He recommended thinking of alternatives during the colder weather, to heat the diesel buses when the consistent temperature dropped below 40° and ensuring that buses were charged for the daily runs.

**Consultant Report: (Agenda Item #V)**

Mr. Labrie completed an analysis of efficiencies; the final report would be delivered next week. With respect to the driver shortages the MVYPS/MVRHS was facing, he recapped the following:

- More support to the Administration of the Transportation Office.
  - Transfer someone within the school system to cover early morning [driver] hours.
  - Another option would be to hire support using a Temp Service.
  - Mark Friedman said funds were available.
- When in an emergency situation, utilize drivers with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).
  - More time and discussion was needed for the Committee to explore this as an option.
- Pay structure of current drivers did not enhance interest and was not a living wage.
  - Suggested an increased hourly rate to be more competitive and to guarantee [more] hours.
  - The biggest competitor was the private sector including FEDEX and UPS.
- The Registry was becoming part of the problem and not the solution as it took an inordinate amount of time to get drivers through the process for approval.
  - The Federal Government recognized this as a problem and was developing a new system; the adoption timeline was unknown.
  - CDL issuances had potential drivers jumping into positions that were full time with benefits as many didn't want to wait up to two months for the Registry.
- To look at school redistricting and change in the bell schedule to combine bus routes for efficiencies due to the emergency situation of the driver shortage.
  - John Stevens said they were combining runs at two different schools to free up drivers beginning in December, 2022; further discussion was needed with Transportation Director Marc Rivers which routes would be appropriate when reviewing multiple factors for that decision including the challenges of meeting the bell schedules.
  - Chair Kirk said a meeting would be set to review the findings and asked the report be shared with the Committee ahead of time.

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he appreciated this information and thanked Mr. Labrie. Superintendent Smith said hearing these findings in an objective way, and recognizing this was a situation on the Cape as well as Nationally, was affirming.

Chair Kirk said the contract ended with Mr. Labrie once the analysis (Phase II) was completed; she supported extending his contract until the end of the fiscal year (FY23); he was very happy to extend his contract through the end of June, 2023. Chair Kirk asked him for a written proposal to present to the Full Committee for approval; all Members were in agreement and appreciated what he had done to date; they looked forward to working together going forward. Mr. Labrie said his/their [consulting] services were reimbursable under Chapter 71.

Mr. Labrie would participate in the bus depot discussion at the next [joint] Facilities Sub-Committee meeting.

**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting**  
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**Driver Update:** (Agenda Item #VI)

*Please see above - Consultant Report: (Agenda Item #V)*

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:** (Agenda Item #VII)

Chair Kirk said she would have the FY24 Transportation Budget as an agenda item for the next meeting; Mr. Friedman said a place holder of 2.5% was set in the interim.

**Adjournment:** (Agenda Item #VIII)

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 9:24 AM; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**Meetings/Events:**

- Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting - November 10, 2022 at 5:30 PM

**Documents on File:**

- 1) 10.27.22 Transportation Sub Committee Agenda
- 2) DRAFT Minutes Transportation Sub-Committee July 7
- 3) DRAFT Minutes Transportation Sub-Committee July 28
- 4) DRAFT Minutes Transportation Sub-Committee August 3
- 5) DRAFT Minutes Transportation Sub-Committee September 15

**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*