

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM
Library or Zoom

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

Others: About 100 attendees including:
Town Counsel/Attorney of Mead, Taleran & Costa, LLC. – Brian Winner

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,
Student Intervention Coordinator – Sheryl Taylor Thompson,
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Facilities Director – Mike Taus

MVEA: Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA)
Co-Presidents – Cheri Cluff & Gina Patti

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

Towns/County: Chilmark – Vicki Divoll, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy,
West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MVTimes – Eunki Seonwoo, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader, MVTV

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski *Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHS SC members

**Roxanne Ackerman and Louis Paciello arrived at 4:05 PM.*

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 Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 4:03 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 welcomed everyone and said the voters across the Island expressed themselves, the agenda had been organized in part, due to those comments.

Chair Lionette said he asked to cancel the meeting of last week (April 24, 2023) as he did not feel comfortable moving forward due to materials not being prepared; he apologized to all.

Chair Lionette said that *Agenda Item #II* came out of concern that everyone at this table was not using the same vocabulary, not using the same language which was leading to confusion.

All Public Comment would come after *Agenda Item #III* with ample time for anyone to speak.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM**

Status and Statement of Litigation

(Agenda Item #II)

Brian Winner introduced himself and gave an overview of the pending litigation. He explained that the *motion for summary judgment* [in Land Court] was awaiting a hearing date; this was not a trial. All public information was available on the website [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org) (<https://www.masscourts.org>).

Attorney Winner said he was speaking in broad, general terms and when the round of *summary judgment* was over, that stage of the case would be concluded. Until the decision was given, the next stage would be unknown. He explained that a *settlement* was part of the movement for this kind of case, part of the whole of what was being done.

Executive Session

(Agenda Item #III)

Executive Session, subject to the Chair's declaration, to discuss litigation strategy and funding/appropriation therefor, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(3), in the matter of Martha's Vineyard Reg. School Dist. v. Oak Bluffs Planning Bd., Land Court No. 22 MISC 000294.

Vote to reconvene to return to open session.

Chair Lionette said there was a significant flaw in the wording; he read into the record the correct Executive Session language as follows:

Executive Session, subject to the Chair's declaration, to discuss litigation strategy in the matter of Martha's Vineyard Reg. School Dist. v. Oak Bluffs Planning Bd., Land Court No. 22 MISC 000294. Vote to reconvene to return to open session.

Skipper Manter said three towns voted down the budget, not to spend more money against the Town of Oak Bluffs. He said it would better serve the public to hear the discussion, to stay in Public Session.

KRIS O'BRIEN AT 4:19 PM, MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, SUBJECT TO THE CHAIR'S DECLARATION, TO DISCUSS LITIGATION STRATEGY IN THE MATTER OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD REG. SCHOOL DIST. V. OAK BLUFFS PLANNING BD., LAND COURT NO. 22 MISC 000294, VOTE TO RECONVENE TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION; AND TO INVITE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD M. SMITH, PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEDY, ATTORNEY BRIAN WINNER AND RECORDER TERESA KRUSZEWSKI TO BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON A MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION WAS MOVED AND SECONDED AT 5:56 PM AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

★ **THERE WAS A 5 MINUTE RECESS; OPEN SESSION RECONVENED AT 6:03 PM.**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Chair Lionette, at 6:04 PM read a brief statement from the Executive Session as follows:

"The Committee has resolved and directed our Attorney to engage in discussions with the attorney for Oak Bluffs (OB) and the Oak Bluffs Planning Board for the purposes of resolving the pending appeal."

Roles and Responsibilities Regarding Litigation

(Agenda Item #IV)

Chair Lionette said the Committee would engage on a regular basis in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing this prior to the Aquinnah Town Meeting; the date and time would be set after discussion with Attorney Winner.

Chair Lionette explained that prior to tonight, VC Kimberly Kirk and Kris O'Brien spoke directly with Attorney Winner. With the frequency of meetings he said the full Committee would have contact and any authorization would be directed by this Committee.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #V)

- Doug Ruskin/West Tisbury at 6:07 PM asked for clarification and what the Committee decided on spending. Chair Lionette said that was part of the Executive Session and not part of the statement; all further litigation decisions would be made by the Committee as a whole and not individuals - Michael Watts clarified that was always the case. Members discussed at length the responsibilities of the two representatives and the narrative and status; all the legal fee documents were public documents.
Mr. Ruskin asked about the Shared Services Budget, he said this issue was bigger than the field issue and the ramifications of the [Aquinnah] Town Meeting vote would be felt; Superintendent Richard M. Smith said that having no budget affected the entire Island, not just the MVRHS; he really hoped this Committee could change the course before that vote.
- Vicki Duvoll/Chilmark at 6:13 PM said uncapped, unfettered, uncontrolled, unaccountable.
- Superintendent Smith clarified the Executive Session posting and the mistake that was made. He said the public needed to hear this group/Committee was working together with the desire of all on the Committee to reach a resolution.
- Kelly McCracken/Edgartown at 6:15 PM (Former Committee Member) said the voting was where the majority ruled; she applauded this Committee for the decisions and time spent, whether she agreed with their decisions. She said everything was discussed and voted on in public, there was no hiding of what went on.
- Kate Devane/West Tisbury at 6:17 PM asked for clarification that nothing related to finance was discussed during the Executive Session. Chair Lionette said the posting was incorrect and that it was a misprint, financing was not discussed. Roxanne Ackerman said the two finance staff members were not included as financing was not discussed. Superintendent Smith said everything was in the statement read by Chair Lionette; he didn't want to break confidentiality.
- Elaine Miller/Tisbury at 6:18 PM said to focus on a resolution. She asked if it was possible to consider the grass turf and a budget for maintenance with a term limit of 5 years, to review after that period and then make decisions from that? Chair Lionette said this was a great question and would get back to her/the public.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

- Peter at 6:21 PM asked if there was a PFAS level on the grass field, Chair Lionette said this was not part of the discussion tonight; Kris O'Brien directed him to information on the website.
- Richard Pool/Oak Bluffs at 6:23 PM said the issue was of the drinking water, there was nothing more important than our drinking water. He applauded the OB Planning Board for sticking their necks out; he said he was in support of the new MVRHS but said this litigation was damaging the chances of the renovation project approval by continuing with this 'silly' litigation; he expressed frustration as he was paying legal fees on both sides as a resident of OB.
- Jan Campbell/Oak Bluffs at 6:30 PM agreed with Mr. Poole, paying for both sides. She asked what had been spent to get to this point on this issue; Chair Lionette said \$680,000 with drawings and plans. Mark Friedman clarified design services, ongoing legal fees and the expenses related to the Public Hearing with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and said overall it was about \$521,000.
- Steve Aurbach at 6:34 PM said his understanding of the statement, the main thrust was to talk with the other side. He asked what was the talk about, he didn't see where there could be a compromise. Chair Lionette refrained from answering but said there was not one path.
- Clark Rattet/West Tisbury at 6:36 PM asked for a brief understanding how this affected the approval for the MVRHS budget; Chair Lionette restated the Committee was hoping to (re)convene before the Aquinnah Town Meeting.
- Rebekah Eldeiry/Tisbury at 6:38 PM said the issue on the Island was plastic, we needed to stop using plastic; every committee on the Island was working to reduce plastics/fossil fuels.

Routine Reports

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities:

The Junior Class President recapped past events including a Financial Literacy session for seniors, a Poetry Slam at the Bourne High School and a Best Buddy Creative Coffee House; the math and science students participated in the underwater robotic challenge at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). She said many events were planned in May including the Horticultural Department's annual plant sale as well as the Minnesingers Mothers Day Show.

She recapped all the changes at the school store, including the new Point of Sale (POS) and stock management system as well as the new products and snacks that represented a variety of cultures. A \$1000 scholarship had been established, to be awarded to two students involved with the store to support Career Technical Education (CTE) and/or entrepreneurship, the funds would come from money made throughout the year. Three women were the managers of the store.

Members thanked her for being in person and the comprehensive reporting of student events over the last month.

B. Principal

1. General Update:

Principal Sara Dingley said great donations were received in support of the [total building] staff for Staff Appreciation Week; she thanked the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) for all that was done.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Principal Dingley said that Teacher of the Year, Dani Charbonneaudani, was in Washington D. C. and met with President Joe Biden and the Massachusetts Delegation; it was a huge honor for her.

Principal Dingley encouraged all to keep reading the MVRHS weekly newsletter filled with updates, fun facts, information and shout outs.

C. Superintendent

1. General Update: Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he was ceding his time.

D. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Program Update

Samuel Hart said Tisbury was the last of the Island's six towns to approve the [revised] Regional Agreement. On June 21, 2023 the MSBA would vote; that would officially begin the feasibility study and the School Building Committee (SBC) would begin. Mr. Hart said an SBC member from Vineyard Haven stepped down; a new member was needed.

Consents: VOTES REQUIRED

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. Minutes:

SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 3, 2023 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. MANter—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINED.

B. Personnel:

- ◆ JoEllen Meuse in a letter dated Thu, Apr 27, 2023 wrote: I will be resigning from my history teaching position, effective immediately.
- ◆ Brian Jakusik in a letter dated Mon, Feb 6, 2023 wrote: ...I took great joy in transitioning from the hustle and bustle of the advertising world to doing something that matters and makes a difference....teaching. Sadly, my health will not allow me to return so this chapter is complete. ...

SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANter—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Superintendent Richard M. Smith read the letter from Marc Rivers as follows [excerpts] :

- ◆ I am resigning from the position of Transportation Director of the Martha's Vineyard School District due to medical reasons. My last day will be the last day of school in June, 2023. I would like to stay on as a bus driver.

SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANter—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

C. Grants and Donations:

Suzanne Cioffi presented three donations: \$50.00 from the Rotary Club & \$400.00 from Madeleine Maccaferri to Project Vine; 16' Zone Chute/equipment donation valued at \$2615.00 from the Paciello Family.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Mark Friedman presented the following:

-Tower Foundation/Peer Outreach Grant/Private:	\$5,000.00
-Cape Cod of MIT/Private:	\$500.00
-CC5 Life Credit Grant/Private:	\$1,000.00
-Sound Foundation/Private:	\$5,250.00

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GRANTS AS PRESENTED; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

D. Out of State and Overnight Travel:

Spanish Students/Junior & Seniors (Anticipatory)

April Break, 2024: Spain

Stand With Everyone Against Rape (SWEAR)

6/04/23 – 6/05/23: Camp Farley, Mashpee, MA

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

E. Spanish Immersion/Homestay Trip:

Please see above.

Finance

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Revenue and Expenditures:

Suzanne Cioffi reviewed the spreadsheets that were shared around the table. A meeting on June 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM was scheduled for the MVRHS SC [year end] financial meeting - Ms. Cioffi said most of the lines would be in balance by then.

Town assessments were starting to come in; nothing jumped out as an issue.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM

SubCommittee Updates

(Agenda Item #IX)

A. Athletics:

Tabled.

B. Transportation:

Tabled.

C. Facilities:

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), reported that:

- The equipment for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) had been ordered and should be arriving within the next few weeks; the system was anticipated to be live within the window that was indicated and functional when the temperatures warmed up.
- The Career Technical Education (CTE) roof was planned; they were awaiting temperatures to be consistently above 50° to begin/complete the work.
- The boilers were functioning; the final bills would not be in until after the heating season was over.
- The sod/field project was on schedule to be done on time.

Mr. Watts said the requests for the use of the facility were ramping up, the type of requests were all over the board. The FacSubCom would discuss 'who we think we should be' and try to get a sense of who we are. It was recommended to include the Transportation Sub-Committee with this discussion.

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #X)

VC Kimberly Kirk explained she was not re-elected. She gave her final words as a Committee member, and thanked everyone as she had served for many years. She said a chair needed to be elected for the sub-committees that she chaired. Members and the Administration expressed their thanks for her hard work and commitment; she would be missed.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

(Agenda Item #XI)

None.

Adjournment

(Agenda Item #XII)

*KIMBERLY KIRK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:20 PM;
SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS,
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE,
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE,
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Appendix A - Meetings/Events

— MVRHS SC – Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM

— MVRHS SC/Budget Review/Transfers Meeting – Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023 at 4:00 PM**

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks: None.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHS SC 5.1.23.docx
- VII. A. DRAFT Budget Sub-Committee Minutes 04.03.23.pdf
- VII. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes April 3, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- VII. B. Jakusik ltrr_.docx
- VII. B. Joellen Meuse.docx
- VII. C. Donation Madeleine Maccaferri to Project Vine.pdf
- VII. C. Donation Rotary Club to Project Vine.pdf
- VII. C. Donation. 16! Zone Chute.pdf
- VII. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 05012023 (1).pdf
- VII. D. Out of State Over Night Travel Request.pdf
- VII. D. SWEAR - Travel Form 2023.pdf
- VIII A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures 5.1.2023.pdf
- VIII. A. MVRHS General Fund Revenue 05.01.2023.pdf
- participants_87662586340 (7).csv

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

June 8, 2023

Date

Robert Lionette – MVRHS SC Chair

Date

Richard M. Smith, Ed.D. – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED JUNE 8, 2023