

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)/*Special Meeting*
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Library/Zoom

Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Roxanne Ackerman, Kris O'Brien*, Louis Paciello, Michael Watts
Zoom: Vice Chair (VC) – Kimberly Kirk*, Jennifer Cutrer, Skipper Manter, Kathryn Shertzer,
Others: President & Project Manager/Huntress Associates Inc. – Christian C. Huntress
Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi
Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman
Towns/County: Chilmark – Vicki Divoll and Susan B. Murphy, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty,
Tisbury – Nancy B Gilfoy, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet and Greg Orcutt
Press: MVTV, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski **Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHS SC members*

* VC Kimberly Kirk and Kris O'Brien arrived at 6:05 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 School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 6:03 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 there were two requests not on the agenda that he said were appropriate to address.

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL FOR THE VOYAGER PROGRAM ON MAY 16 & 17, 2023 FOR THE TRIP TO BOSTON; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. KIRK—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Principal Sara Dingley said they received information they had more Title 1 openings; they would be posting for these grant funded positions, to fill the gaps across subject areas. She said funding also came from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) 3 funds. Members discussed the speed of filling the positions as there could be another [possible] vote against the budget and the associated ramifications.

Executive session, subject to the chairs declaration, to discuss litigation strategy,

(Agenda Item #II)

pursuant to G.L.c. 30A s21(a)(3), in the matter of Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School versus the Oak Bluffs Planning Board, and the Town of Oak Bluffs Land Court NO. 22 MISC 000294

Vote to reconvene to return to open public session.

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Skipper Manter said it would better serve the public to hear the discussion and to stay in Public Session.

LOUIS PACIELLO AT 6:09 PM, MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, SUBJECT TO THE CHAIRS DECLARATION, TO DISCUSS LITIGATION STRATEGY, PURSUANT TO G.L.C. 30A S21(A)(3), IN THE MATTER OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL VERSUS THE OAK BLUFFS PLANNING BOARD, AND THE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS LAND COURT NO. 22 MISC 000294
VOTE TO RECONVENE TO RETURN TO OPEN PUBLIC SESSION; AND TO INVITE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD M. SMITH, PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEDY, CHRISTIAN C. HUNTRESS AND RECORDER TERESA KRUSZEWSKI TO BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT; KRIS O'BRIEN 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 AT 6:52 PM, TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION WAS MOVED BY MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY KRIS O'BRIEN; THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

OPEN MEETING CONTINUED.

Chair Lionette welcomed everyone back at 6:54 PM. He said there was not an additional statement to make; they were continuing to engage with a settlement discussion and appeal in land court. Michael Watts said a formal response was hoped for by May 19, 2023.

Susan B. Murphy asked for an explanation of the 4 descending votes for the motion taken at the May 5, 2023 meeting for no funding in FY24; Kris O'Brien said that would be included in the minutes. Vicki Divoll expressed support for Ms. Murphy's questions and recapped her concerns expressed at the Friday meeting.

Kelly McCracken said the majority vote ruled. She recommended Ms. Divoll read all the warrants and not to hyper focus on one item, don't pick and choose.

Meg Bodnar said the turf litigation was disturbing to the Towns; the Town [of Oak Bluffs] was trying to protect drinking water; this was taking energy away from teaching and education.

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said there has been movement and gestures to seek resolution; he encouraged everyone at this meeting to focus on the fact there has been movement toward resolution; the Committee was responding to the towns speaking out.

Doug Ruskin said it was difficult for taxpayers to put faith in a body that goes back and forth; he said there were not enough details at this point for the Town of Aquinnah's vote; he said the responsibility of an Aquinnah 'no vote' fell totally on this Committee.

Maura McGroarty asked for the proposed schedule of meetings. She was looking for this Committee to meet with other groups to work something out. What she has heard is the continued politicalization which was a detriment to everybody. nickel and diming this for political reasons.

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Stephan said he couldn’t see a metric where turf made sense. This was an enormous amount of effort; he was curious about trying the least damaging thing today.

Legal fees pertaining to litigation of pending appeal: (Agenda Item #III)

Set all other meeting dates and agenda: (Agenda Item #IV)

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements: (Agenda Item #V)

Adjournment: (Agenda Item #VI)

KRIS O’BIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHSSC MEETING AT 7:33 PM; 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’BIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Documents on File:

- 1) Agenda MVRHS SC 5.8.23

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

November 6, 2023

Date

Robert Lionette – MVRHSC Chair

Date

Richard M. Smith, Ed.D – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED NOVEMBER 6, 2023