

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)
School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Library or Zoom

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

Others: Town Counsel/Attorney of Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC. – Brian Winner, Kimberly Kirk, Rebecca Eldeiry

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, IT Director – Rick Mello, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director – Mike Taus, Portuguese Translator and Educational Support Person (ESP) – Ellis Oliver, World Language/Latin Teacher – Amy Crawford

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

Towns/County: Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoxy

Press: MVTimes – Eunki Seonwoo, MVTV

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

*Robert Lionette left at 8:03 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 5:32 PM by Chair Kathryn Shertzer; 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 #1)

Chair Shertzer thanked everyone for attending, she said the agenda was jam packed and that she might jump around to accommodate people.

Chair Shertzer asked for a moment of silence to recognize the recent loss of a student, a member of the school community.

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Routine Reports

(Agenda Item #II)

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

The Junior Class Officers read their prepared report on activities and events happening throughout December, 2023; Chair Shertzer invited them both to stay for the full meeting.

2. Model UN Competition

Principal Sara Dingley said it was exciting to have this program back up and running as it was a vibrant experience for students.

Ellis Oliver and two students shared details for the upcoming conferences. Ms. Oliver said they were able to secure some funding, but it was not enough to cover the costs of registration, hotels, meals and so forth. She indicated they were pursuing fundraising opportunities to offset the total. The ask was \$6715.00. Ms. Oliver would submit the travel paperwork for these two trips.

Model United Nations (UN)

January 18 - 21, 2024: Yale University, New Haven, CT

February 2 - 4, 2024: Boston University, Boston, MA

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE UP TO \$10,000.00, THAT PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEY AND SUZANNE CIOFFI DEEMED APPROPRIATE, TO FUND THESE TWO TRIPS INCLUDING INCIDENTALS AND MEALS; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO MODEL UNITED NATIONS OUT OF STATE/OVERNIGHT TRAVELS AS PRESENTED; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

3. Harvard MIT Mathematics Tournament Letter

Two students of the four member team shared highlights from the tournament. They recapped their experiences and the pressures involved during the tournament. The MVRHS team was placed in the top 16% of the 700 global competitors. MVRHS was the only team with African American student competitors, as a result the MVRHS team was featured on social media quite a bit.

Members expressed how proud they were of their accomplishments and thanked them for sharing their experiences.

B. Principal

Principal Sara Dingley announced that three students received their official Nursing Assistant Certificates; she said this was a big deal as they were the first students to go through the program. She thanked the staff involved and congratulated the students. *(Please see document on file for details: II. A. CTE Health Assisting Program Letter.docx)*

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1. Pop Up Store Christmas in Edgartown

The students presented the details for the December 7 - 10, 2023 event. Items produced by students from the Career Technical Education (CTE) department would be for sale including adirondack chairs and gift certificates for auto repair; other items included dog treats from the Voyager program.

They said they produced a logo and marketing materials - announcements included social media, local press and MVY radio; translation to Portuguese was included to reach the Brazilian community.

From the accounting aspect, a spreadsheet for forecasting and inventory management was created.

They were in the final stages of decorating and setup and would be ready for opening night. This experience would give students hands-on experience, how to operate a business first hand; staffing would be by volunteers. They said it was fun seeing it all come together - everyone was excited.

Chair Shertzer said this was a terrific idea. She asked how they were taking in sales (point of sale) and if credit cards would be accepted:

- The students replied that credit cards would be accepted.
- The students indicated that the profits were planned to be given back to the student activity fund and to the school to fund a business scholarship.

Robert Lionette said this was an exciting presentation, he appreciated this very much. Members wished them well.

Principal Dingley said the students took the lead on this, they were pioneers in the business program, setting the stage for future endeavors. She said Samuel Hart and Suzanne Cioffi were an integral part on the back end, to allow this to happen.

2. Rural Aid

Principal Dingley referenced the (*II. B. 2. MVRHSSC Rural Aid.xlsx*) document that detailed the spending plan and the associated costs.

C. Superintendent

1. General Update

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said (1 ½ hours into the meeting) that this was a productive meeting.

He commented on the resiliency of the students, staff and administration during these sad times and the heartfelt support that had gone out; he appreciated the leadership of this school and how they responded.

2. Budget Update

Superintendent Smith said they were going into the 'war room' tomorrow to continue to work on reducing the budget, while still covering the needs.

3. Murphy Lamere and Murphy- Anonymous Donations Update

Superintendent Smith said after talking with the attorney, there was not a need for an Executive Session. He said they would come during a public session, if that was the will of the Committee.

Members discussed the need for a policy, accepting guidance from our attorneys and how to move forward.

Chair Shertzer said until the All Island School Committee (AISC) could take this up as a policy discussion, taking the advice of the attorney was the way to proceed. This had been discussed more than enough at the High School table and said the matter was now closed.

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D. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

1. Appoint Rebecca Eldeiry to School Building Committee as Vineyard Haven's Representative - VOTE

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPOINT REBECCA ELDEIRY TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE AS VINEYARD HAVEN'S REPRESENTATIVE;
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 1 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS.
MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE & MR. PACIELLO—AYE.
MS. SHERTZER—NAY. MS. O'BRIEN & MR. WATTS ABSTAINED.

2. December 4th Meeting Update

Samuel Hart said they (the review panel) met today: the MSBA and the [selected] Owner's Project Manager (OPM), CHA Consulting, Inc. He said an approval letter was in progress. Chair Shertzer said this was a really big day for this process.

Appeal Update/ Next Steps

(Agenda Item #III)

A. (If necessary) 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

Attorney Brian Winner recommended an Executive Session for the discussion of what would come next. He gave a summary of steps taken to date and explained what was involved to complete the Land Court case including the expense of preparing and filing the appeal.

A discussion ensued as to whether the Executive Session was appropriate; Chair Shertzer said she wanted to follow the advice of Attorney Winner; Members asked that the discussion have a very narrow scope.

MICHAEL WATTS AT 6:39 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 SESSION; AND TO INVITE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD M. SMITH, ATTORNEY BRIAN WINNER AND RECORDER TERESA KRUSZEWSKI TO BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. ACKERMAN—NAY, MR. LIONETTE—NAY & MR. MANTER—NAY.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THEREON A MOTION AT 6:48 PM, TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION WAS MOVED BY SKIPPER MANTER AND SECONDED BY KRIS O'BRIEN; THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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Chair Shertzer said the Executive Session was brief. Members thanked Attorney Winner for his advice. The next steps were discussed; Superintendent Smith said he would contact the Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC) to understand the timing and to get on their agenda for an extension.

MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO INSTRUCT SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD M. SMITH TO DO WHAT WAS REQUESTED OF HIM AND FOLLOW UP WITH THE MARTHA’S VINEYARD COMMISSION; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

Michael Watts asked Chair Shertzer to include on a future agenda, a discussion for the future of athletics at the MVRHS, in response to the draft moratorium that was circulating in the public domain; Chair Shertzer said it would be included on the January agenda.

Consents: *VOTES REQUIRED*

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Minutes: Tabled.

B. Personnel:

- ◆ Rachel L. Schubert in a letter dated November 27th, 2023 wrote: I intend to take a maternity leave starting on April 8th — the start of the fourth quarter — and extending until the end of the school year. I plan to return to work for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ALLOW/APPROVE; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

C. Grants and Donations:

Suzanne Cioffi presented the following donations:

- \$1005.00 donation to Unified Sports for new uniforms.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED; KRIS O’BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. PACIELLO—ABSTAINED.

Mark Friedman presented the following grants totalling **\$34,685.00**:

-FY2024: Integrating Social and Emotional Learning (DESE):	\$19,988.00
-FY2024: Safe and Supportive Schools (DESE):	\$10,000.00
-CC5 Bank Mini Grants/Private:	\$4,697.00

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SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Ms. Cioffi presented a \$350,000.00 donation to set up the [L.E. Crowell Scholarship] fund for a student studying nursing. This was a brand new scholarship for a graduating senior who was pursuing a career in nursing. Principal Dingley and Ms. Cioffi said they would follow all scholarship protocols.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GREAT GRATITUDE AND SURPRISE, AND TO SET UP WITH THE WISHES OF THE DONOR; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

Chair Shertzler commented that we lived in the most remarkable community, that people think of our students in this way and provided such amazing resources. She recommended having a future discussion to review how funds of this size were (financially) managed to ensure it would last for as many years as possible.

D. Overnight Travel:

Model United Nations (UN) (please see above: Routine Reports (Agenda Item #II) A. Student Report, 2. Model UN Competition)

Amy Crawford asked for approval of a trip to Rome in 2025 to allow her to begin the planning process.

Latin Classes

April Vacation 2025: Rome, Italy

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRIP; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

E. FY23 Prior Invoices - Transportation and Facilities

Ms. Cioffi presented three invoices that totaled \$4515.36.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO PAY THE BILLS; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY & MR. PACIELLO—NAY.

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Finance

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Revenue and Expenditures

B. Government Accounting Standards Board 74-75 Report

Mr. Friedman reviewed the report and updated Members on the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability; he said the number was still high, but less than prior years. VC Skipper Manter said we should do a better job of contributing to the bottom line.

C. Surplus Vehicles

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO SURPLUS THE VEHICLES AS PRESENTED;
LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED.*

Principal Dingley asked to amend the motion to include the ride-on floor cleaner; Mr. Watts and Mr. Paciello accepted the amendment.

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO SURPLUS THE VEHICLES AS PRESENTED AND INCLUDE
THE RIDE-ON FLOOR CLEANER; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED:
7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE,
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE &
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

SubCommittee Updates

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Budget:

Robert Lionette, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee (BudSubCom), said the process had been organized and productive. He reviewed the highlight sheet, which was new for the process. Mr. Lionette said this version was presented as an update - it was not ready for a vote at this time. He said the budget would not be completed by the Public Hearing date. More information was to come, to help refine the revenue numbers.

Members discussed the best ways to reflect in the budget, the athletic field maintenance; Principal Dingley said she would be happy to share how they followed what was recommended to maintain the grass fields.

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item #VII)

Chair Shertzer asked Members to please sign warrants and please read the Executive Session minutes.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

(Agenda Item #VIII)

None.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #IX)

❖ None.

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Adjournment

(Agenda Item #X)

*KRIS O’BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:25 PM;
JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS,
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE,
MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Appendix A - Meetings/Events : TBD.

Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks: None.

Appendix C - Documents on File:

01. Agenda MVRHS SC 12.4.23.docx
02. 11_draft_oak_bluffs_artificial_sports_playing_surface_moratorium_final_11-23.pdf
03. II. A. 3. Harvard MIT Mathematics Tournament Letter.pdf
04. II. A. CTE Health Assisting Program Letter.docx
05. II. B. 2. MVRHSSC Rural Aid.xlsx
06. IV. B. Schubert - Letter for December 2023 Meeting.pdf
07. IV. C Donation Unified Sports.pdf
08. IV. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 12042023.doc
09. IV. C. School committee meeting acceptance of a \$350,000.docx
10. IV. D. Crawford Travel Request.pdf
11. V. A. MVRHS GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES.pdf
12. V. A. MVRHS General Fund Revenues.pdf
13. V. B. Government Accounting Standards Board 74-75 Report Final 11-8-2023.pdf
14. V. C. Surplus Vehicles - MVRSD - 12-04-2023 C.pdf
15. VI. ABudget Highlight 12.04.2023.pdf
16. VI. ADraft Budget 4(A) 12.04.2023.pdf

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

March 4, 2024

Date

Kathryn Shertzer – MVRHS SC Chair

Date

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

Date

APPROVED MARCH 4, 2024