

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM**  
**Library or Zoom**

Present: Chair – Kathryn Shertzer, Vice Chair (VC) – Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Jennifer Cutrer, Robert Lionette, Louis Paciello, Laura Seguin, Michael Watts  
Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, World Language Department Chair – Erin Slossberg, Mathematics Teacher/Wrestling Coach – Jerry Kadien  
Supt.’s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman  
Towns/County: Chilmark – Vicki Divoll, Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet  
Press: MVTimes – Eunki Seonwoo, MVTV, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader  
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski

**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. 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 Shertzer listed the organizations that were recording this meeting.

**Routine Reports**

(Agenda Item #II)

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

The Junior Class Officers read their prepared report on activities, events, sports and concerns. Members thanked them for their presentation.

**B. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Building Project Update**

Samuel Hart reviewed the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) selection process - he said this was one of the most important steps in the process; he reviewed the upcoming timeline for next steps. Superintendent Richard M. Smith complimented and thanked both Mr. Hart and Mark Friedman for the work that was involved in getting to this point.

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**C. Principal**

**1. General Update - NEASC–New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation**

Principal Sara Dingley explained the process and timeline; she screen shared the 5 *Standards* that would be reviewed as part of the self assessment; this would be done over the next year.

**2. County Science Educator of the Year Award**

Principal Dingley described the significance of this award received by Science Teacher Anna Cotton.

**3. Absenteeism and Tardy**

Principal Dingley said COVID - 19 had an impact on the rate spike. She reviewed the Accountability Report and how the MVRHS had changed over the years - she was pleased the results were moving in a positive direction but indicated they were still high compared to the State.

Principal Dingley and Jeremy Light reviewed the ongoing steps toward improvement; Members discussed how this was monitored and what was being done to deter this behavior, the repercussions for excessive tardies.

Principal Dingley said she was open to ideas; Superintendent Smith said everyone should be held accountable in an equitable fashion.

Chair Shertzer said there was much to discuss regarding these issues and this topic should be revisited as an agenda item in the future.

**D. Superintendent**

**1. General Update**

Superintendent Smith presented the list of winners of the *John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients Class of 2024*; Principal Dingley read the recipients into the record.

**2. Budget Process Update**

Superintendent Smith said that everyone was going through their first drafts at the local levels; he indicated more would be reviewed to get to a more acceptable level; what had been discussed at the All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting would be considered.

**3. Murphy Lamere and Murphy - Anonymous Donations**

Superintendent Smith recapped the letter from Attorney Peter Sumners that was in response to the request made by the Committee at the October 2, 2023 meeting. *(Please see document on file for details: MVRHS SC Minutes October 2, 2023 Meeting, Appeal Update (Agenda Item #III), pgs 3 & 4)*

Members discussed the content of the letter, how it could be interpreted by the Public and the benefit of giving the Public the opportunity to read it. Other discussion points included:

- It was suggested to have Attorney Sumners present to review the policy
- When/if to invite Attorney Sumners to clarify this, as it was a policy discussion
- The meeting format: whether it should be discussed in an open session or executive session
- Whether it should be part of an AISC meeting discussion

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO RELEASE THE LEGAL OPINION THAT WAS WRITTEN BY MURPHY LAMERE AND MURPHY REFERENCING THE ANONYMOUS DONATIONS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION FAILED: 3 AYES, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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*SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SEND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY FOR THE UPCOMING EXECUTIVE SESSION; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

It was decided that all questions would be sent to Chair Shertzer by November 20, 2023.

**Appeal Update**

(Agenda Item #III)

Michael Watts reviewed the date changes for the Zoom status conference; he would provide the link.

- 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 N/A**

**Consents: *VOTES REQUIRED***

(Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Minutes:**

*SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2023, MAY 8, 2023, MAY 11, 2023, MAY 25, 2023, JUNE 1, 2023, JUNE 8, 2023, JUNE 22, 2023, JULY 12, 2023, JULY 20, 2023 AND AUGUST 22, 2023 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

Chair Shertzer requested Members continue to review in person the Executive Session minutes that Noelle Warburton, Administrative Assistant to the Principal maintained, so they could be approved at a future Executive Session.

**B. Personnel:**

- ◆ Michael Innes in a letter dated Thu, Oct 19, 2023 wrote: I am letting you know that I am officially announcing retirement from MVHS as a Math Teacher at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

*SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**C. Grants and Donations:**

Suzanne Cioffi presented the following donations:

- \$15,000.00 donation from the Kathryn Goodman Foundation to the music department.
- \$25,000.00 donation from the Kathryn Goodman Foundation to the theater department.

*SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

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Mark Friedman presented the following grants totalling **\$840,956.53**:

-Rotary Club/Private:	\$750.00
-FY2024: Early College Planning (DESE):	\$44,154.00
-FY2024 SEL & Mental Health Grant (DESE):	\$132,000.00
-FY2024 Perkins V (DESE):	\$36,017.00
-FY2024 Approaches to Address Student Cell Phone Use Pilot (West Tis) (DESE):	\$6,000.00
-FY2024 Approaches to Address Student Cell Phone Use Pilot MVRHS (DESE):	\$20,410.00
-Sound Foundation/Private:	\$25,000.00
-CC5 Savings Bank/Private:	\$1,000.00
-FY2024 Rural School Aid:	FY23 \$129,799.06 FY24 \$401,474.47
-FY274 IEP SPED (DESE):	\$44,352.00

Principal Dingley reviewed the areas of which the Rural School Aid would be spent to satisfy the grant requirements (end of FY24); she recapped some of the areas as follows:

- Support of projects and big ticket items.
- Tech needs
- Supplies for teachers: calculators, mats for wrestling, and so forth.
- Opportunity to build up resources that would alleviate pressures of the next year's budget.

Superintendent Smith indicated that discussions were happening with the State to understand why the FY23 monies had been delayed and the [modified] requirements for spending due to the delay.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANTS AS PRESENTED;  
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**D. Overnight Travel:**

MV Academic Competition Club November 10 - 11, 2023: Harvard University/Cambridge, MA

Students presented the details of the Harvard University/Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Math Tournament. They asked for funding approval for the multiple day event.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO COVER ALL REASONABLE COSTS INCLUDING  
INCIDENTALS; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Boys Varsity Basketball  
JV Girls Hockey

December 7 - 9, 2023: Windsor, CT  
February 7, 2024: Portsmouth, NH

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO TRIPS; MICHAEL WATTS  
SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**1. Chaperone Request**

Erin Slossberg described her predicament of the student to chaperone (6 to 1) ratio, as a 19th student will join the trip to Spain. This additional student tipped the scales of the initial (approved) request.

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*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO GRANT THE WAIVER FOR 3 CHAPERONES AND 19 STUDENTS FOR THIS SPECIAL TRIP; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**E. Professional Development:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES CONFERENCE FOR 4 STAFF MEMBERS; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**F. Student Activities:**

Nothing to report.

**Finance**

(Agenda Item #V)

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Chair Shertzer congratulated Suzanne Cioffi as recently being certified as a Procurement Officer. Ms. Cioffi shared paper copies of the report/s with Members; they asked questions where appropriate.

**SubCommittee Updates**

(Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Transportation:**

Roxanne Ackerman, Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee (TransSubCom) said a meeting had been posted; she invited all to attend as the budget would be discussed.

**B. Facilities:**

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), recapped the condition of the operational heating system; he said the old MVTV building condition report would be forthcoming; the Vineyard Pride Building punch list was coming to a close.

**C. Athletics:**

Louis Paciello, Chair of the Athletics Sub-Committee, recapped the discussion to eliminate some approvals for out of state and overnight travels. Discussion ensued over Massachusetts General Law, Committee decision making authority and the issues of liability. Nothing was determined/decided.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATHLETIC WAIVER FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS TO COMPETE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CO-OP WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL, TO ALLOW STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

*ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF CO-ED WRESTLING AS A VARSITY SPORT; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

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**D. Budget:**

Robert Lionette, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee (BudSubCom), recapped the two budget meetings that had occurred. November 13, 2023 was the next scheduled meeting, followed by additional meetings to be scheduled on Mondays throughout. The Public Hearing was scheduled on December 11, 2023 with the budget certification being January 8, 2024.

Discussion ensued to determine future meeting dates and availability - nothing was decided. Mr. Lionette discussed with Members how to identify and submit warrant items for articles.

**Old/New Business**

(Agenda Item #VII)

None.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements**

(Agenda Item #VIII)

None.

**Public Comment**

(Agenda Item #IX)

- ❖ Vicki Divoll at 7: 54 PM, asked for clarification of the anonymous donation letter as discussed above; Superintendent Smith responded, as discussed above.
- ❖ Clark Rattet at 7:55 PM, asked if any capital needs were identified that would require a warrant article; nothing was identified at this time.

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #X)

*LOUIS PACIELLO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:59 PM;  
JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Appendix A - Meetings/Events** — TBD

**Appendix B - Agreed Upon Tasks:** None.

**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

01. Agenda MVRHS SC 11.6.23.docx
02. II. D. 1. Adams Scholarship.pdf
03. IV A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 8, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
04. IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC June 1, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
05. IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 5, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
06. IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 11, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
07. IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 25, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
08. IV. A. DRAFT Minutes School Building Committee August 23, 2023.pdf
09. IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes August 22, 2023 Meeting.pdf
10. IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes July 12, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf

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- 11. IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes July 20, 2023 Meeting (1).pdf
- 12. IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 8, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- 13. IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 22, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- 14. IV. B. Michael Innes ltr.docx
- 15. IV. C Donation Goodman Foundation Donation 11.06.2023.pdf
- 16. IV. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 11062023 x.doc
- 17. IV. D. Boys basketball Out of State and Overnight Travel form .pdf
- 18. IV. D. HMMT Out of State travel form.docx.pdf
- 19. IV. D. JV girls hockey 2.pdf
- 20. IV. D. Out of State Travel Spain Chaperone Request.docx
- 21. Recording MVRHS SC 11.6.23.docx
- 22. V. Finance A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures 11.06.2023.pdf
- 23. V. Finance A. MVRHS General Fund Revenue 11.06.2023.pdf

**Respectfully submitted,**



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**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***