

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
**Library or Zoom**

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

Others: Audit Director/Clifton Larson Allen – Sara Salvi

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,  
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,  
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy

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, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MVTimes – Jenna Bernstein, MVTV, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

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

*\*Roxanne Ackerman arrived at 6:04 PM and Louis Paciello left at 8:30 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 6:00 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 #I)

Chair Shertzer said there was a lot to cover; she moved on to the first agenda item.

### **Routine Reports**

(Agenda Item #II)

#### **A. Student Report**

##### **1. Student Report of Activities**

The Junior Class Officers reported on activities, events and sports which included the election results of the student government officers and a Project Vine experience, to name a few.

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

Samuel Hart said an [optional] site visit was planned for the School Building Committee (SBC) at the Tisbury School Project, to give a sense of what this type of project entailed. He said the process of hiring an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) was underway; he reviewed the steps and timeline the interested applicants would undergo.

**1. MSBA *My Ideal School Contest* Winner**

Mr. Hart screen shared the submission of Matahquhs Vanderhoop, the winner of the contest last year. Mr. Hart said it was important to celebrate his achievement as his submission was a wonderful expression of an inclusive school. Mr. Vanderhoop was the future, a good example of why moving forward on this building project was important.

**C. Principal**

**1. General Update**

Principal Sara Dingley and Assistant Principal Jeremy Light said the MVRHS had been accepted into the AP School Honor Roll, a new metric by College Board. They were very excited as it was huge.

**2. MCAS- Accountability Report Review**

Principal Dingley screen shared her presentation of the MVRHS Accountability Report results (which were different from Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores); she said the MVRHS was designated as a *School in Need of Intervention*. She addressed the overall concerns and provided context for clarification; she explained the details for the decisions and the data that supported the results.

Principal Dingley reviewed in depth, the challenged areas, how scores were calculated and the statistics in categories that impacted the results; she explained where MVRHS was positioned/compared to Nantucket, Falmouth and the State. Principal Dingley said the MVRHS did not grow the way the State wanted them to grow; she explained the challenges and how things were being addressed.

Members discussed the impacts of COVID-19. They asked how Principal Dingley was prioritizing these different areas/goals and the plan/s to address the issues. This was a great snapshot and a good start; they looked forward to the followup.

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he gave a primer last week on how to understand the Accountability Reports; what Principal Dingley just presented should be expected from all of the local principals. Superintendent Smith said this was a good way for the MVRHS to partner with Committee Members, the more that was understood the more relevant Members would become:

- to be contributors to what the MVRHS was doing goal-wise;
- to be ambassadors to the public of the plan/what was being done, as well as advise the budget decisions/discussions;
- to make sure the interventions put in place actually addressed a need.

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**D. Superintendent**

**1. General Update**

Superintendent Smith said the All Island School Committee (AISC) changed the meeting schedule with the intention of holding a meeting on the Thursday prior to every MVRHS SC meeting, to be more efficient in delivering the Superintendent updates/information to the local committees.

**E. Superintendent Evaluation**

Superintendent Smith reviewed the process and the timeline; the final report/Summary Evaluation was to be completed on November 2, 2023. He underscored the importance of adhering to the timeline and the urgency of moving this forward. Discussion ensued as to whether to conduct the evaluation tonight or at another time; Members debated at great length the [public] process and how to move forward.

The review discussion began at 6:51 PM.

- ❖ Members asked questions as they worked through the form.
  - Principal Dingley, Assistant Principal Light, Mr. Hart, Suzanne Cioffi and Mark Friedman replied to Members with answers that were appropriate to each of the specific issues/processes/questions.
  - Superintendent Smith provided responses that were appropriate for each question and the processes that were in place.
- ❖ When Members were satisfied with the information provided, the timeline and process to move forward was discussed.
- ❖ Members decided that their responses would be returned to Chair Shertzer on October 9, 2023.

The review discussion concluded at 7:35 PM.

**Appeal Update**

(Agenda Item #III)

Michael Watts said there was nothing new to report; Chair Shertzer indicated a special meeting was scheduled on October 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM to discuss the next steps.

Members discussed at great length: payment of legal fees and the acceptance of anonymous donations; the practices that were in place (as discussed at the AISC meeting); acceptance of anonymous donations specific to this appeal. Superintendent Smith recommended this Committee have a policy in place/in writing, written by Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, PC/School District Counsel; he said this was the right thing to do.

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO TAKE OUT OF THE FY 24 LEGAL FEE LINES FOR PAYMENT FOR THE LEGAL OPINION TO BE WRITTEN FROM MURPHY, LAMERE & MURPHY, PC., OUR LEGAL TEAM, REGARDING ANONYMOUS DONATIONS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED.*

Skipper Manter offered a friendly amendment as follows:

*...to pay for this opinion from the donations received/accepted for the project...*

Kris O'Brien did not accept the amendment.

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*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO USE DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR THE PROJECT FOR PAYMENT FOR THE LEGAL OPINION TO BE WRITTEN FROM MURPHY, LAMERE & MURPHY, PC., OUR LEGAL TEAM, REGARDING ANONYMOUS DONATIONS; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION FAILED: 2 AYES, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE & MR. MANTER—AYE. MS. CUTRER—NAY, MR. LIONETTE—NAY, MS. O'BRIEN—NAY, MR. PACIELLO—NAY, MS. SHERTZER—NAY & MR. WATTS—NAY.*

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO TAKE OUT OF THE FY 24 LEGAL FEE LINES FOR PAYMENT FOR THE LEGAL OPINION TO BE WRITTEN FROM MURPHY, LAMERE & MURPHY, PC., OUR LEGAL TEAM, REGARDING ANONYMOUS DONATIONS; ROBERT LIONETTE 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.*

Superintendent Smith thanked everyone for the support with this motion.

- 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**

**Consents: *VOTES REQUIRED***

(Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Minutes:**

Tabled.

**B. Personnel:**

**1. Cafeteria**

Principal Dingley said this was an acknowledgement and transparency for the job posting; the position was already approved and planned in the budget.

**C. Grants and Donations:**

Mr. Watts said a donation was presented to the Facilities Sub-Committee to repaint the press box; the donation was for materials and time.

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

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**D. Out of State and Overnight Travel**

Art History Class

November 12, 2023: Providence, RI

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Boy's Junior Varsity Ice Hockey 12/27-12/28/23: University of New Hampshire/Dover & Durham, NH  
Boy's Varsity Ice Hockey 12/27-12/29/23: University of New Hampshire/Durham, NH  
Girls Ice Hockey 12/29-12/31/23: Boston, MA  
Girls JV Hockey 01/17/24: St. George's School/Middletown, RI

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**E. JV Boys Hockey Waiver Request**

Mark McCarthy said the boys hockey coach asked for an eighth grade waiver; he described the positions these players would fill as well as to continue the interest in the program.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO GRANT THE JV BOYS HOCKEY TEAM WAIVER FOR EIGHTH GRADE AND TO ALLOW THIS AS A COOP TO INCLUDE THE CHARTER SCHOOL; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**F. Professional Development Funds Transfer for Coaches**

Mr. McCarthy said they didn't have the funding to move Safe Sport forward; he said they were set up and ready to go once the funding was received, so that the coaches could complete this for their season.

Ms. Cioffi reported there was a purchase order for \$1200.00; she reviewed the funding line item transfers to fund Safe Sport. She said once this was approved, they could move forward tomorrow.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE A \$1200.00 TRANSFER FROM THE ATHLETIC LINE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE LINE; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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**G. Fiscal Year 2023 Invoices**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT WITH THE APPROPRIATE FY 24 LINES FOR THE FY 23 BILLS AS PRESENTED; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**Finance**

(Agenda Item #V)

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

**B. FY22 Audit**

Sara Salvi screen shared her presentation. She recapped what had been reviewed through the process. Members thanked her for her time and the information that was shared. *(Please see documents on file for details: V. B. PDF Single Audit Report Final FY22.pdf, V. B. PDF Signed Management Letter - FY22.pdf, V. B. Signed Final Report and Financial Statement MVRHS FY22.pdf & V. B. PDF Signed Governance Communication FY22.pdf)*

**SubCommittee Updates**

(Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Minute Taking for Subcommittees:**

A discussion ensued of how minutes should be taken; it was suggested Sub-Committee members take them during each of their meetings. Members determined that Sub-Committee meetings would be recorded until this was resolved, as nothing was decided.

**B. Transportation:**

Nothing new to report.

**C. Facilities:**

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), said a bill in the amount of \$3500.00 for mold remediation/removal during the Vineyard Pride building renovation needed to be paid; the recommendation was to pay out of the facilities line.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$3500.00 FROM THE FACILITIES LINE; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—ABSTAINED.*

**D. Athletics:**

Nothing to report.

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**E. Budget:**

Skipper Manter, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee (BudSubCom), said it had been a challenge to get started. There was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Going forward the meetings would be held every other week on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. He summarized the advice from Nancy Company – Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, PC/School District Counsel; more discussion would follow.

**Old/New Business**

(Agenda Item #VII)

None.

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

(Agenda Item #VIII)

Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to consider starting all meetings at 5:30 PM and to schedule nothing later.

**Correspondence**

(Agenda Item #IX)

Chair Shertzer recapped the correspondence received to date. She said copies were/would be circulated to all Members for review.

**Public Comment**

(Agenda Item #X)

❖ None.

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #XI)

*JENNIFER CUTRER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 9:09 PM;  
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS,  
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE,  
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O’BRIEN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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

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

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**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda MVRHS SC 10.2.23.docx
- IV A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 8, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC June 1, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 5, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 11, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 25, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes July 12, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes July 20, 2023 Meeting (1).pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 8, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- IV. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 22, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- IV. D. Girls Hockey.pdf
- IV. D. JV Boys hockey.pdf
- IV. D. JV girls hockey (1).pdf
- IV. D. Varsity Boys Hockey.pdf
- IV. F Safesports--Professional Development 10.02.2023.pdf
- IV. G. Brunos 10.02.2023.pdf
- IV. G. Follett Content Solutions 10.02.2023.pdf
- IV. G. Vineyard Medical Invoice FY23 10.02.2023.pdf
- V. B. PDF Signed Governance Communication FY22.pdf
- V. B. PDF Signed Management Letter - FY22.pdf
- V. B. PDF Single Audit Report Final FY22.pdf
- V. B. Signed Final Report and Financial Statement MVRHS FY22.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***