

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM**  
**Library or Zoom**

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

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

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, Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MV Times – Jenna Bernstein, 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 6:36 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 asked to take a moment, to reflect on the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and to thank the first responders.

**Vote to Re-engage the Services of Mr. Brian Winner**

(Agenda Item #II)

Chair Shertzer said Attorney Brian Winner was needed to unpack the 13 page document, to understand the decision of the Summary Judgement.

Kris O’Brien read her prepared motion. Members debated the motion and continued to ‘wordsmith’ the language. Superintendent Richard M. Smith said there was a need for guidance through this process; an attorney was needed.

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Suzanne Cioffi recapped the private donations that were approved at the July 20, 2023 meeting. Members discussed at length, funding for these legal fees and the types of donations to be accepted. This was the agreed upon motion:

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE SERVICES OF BRIAN WINNER OF MEAD, TALERMAN & COSTA, LLC., UNTIL COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT SUBJECT TO SUBMISSION APPROVALS OF ESTIMATED FEES TO THIS COMMITTEE ON A MONTHLY BASIS TO BE PAID WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. ACKERMAN—NAY & MR. LIONETTE—NAY.*

Attorney Brian Winner joined the meeting at 7:03 PM. Technical difficulties were resolved at 7:06 PM, when Members discussed the process and determined an Executive Session was not necessary, as this was all public information.

Attorney Winner reviewed the decision from the Land Court and discussed the next steps with his recommendations; he would move forward as determined by the will of the Committee.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO PROCEED WITH ATTORNEY BRIAN WINNER'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENGAGE WITH ATTORNEY MICHAEL GOLDSMITH WITH THE FOUR TOPICS AS OUTLINED; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—NAY. MS. ACKERMAN—ABSTAINED.*

Attorney Winner left the meeting at 7:26 PM.

**Routine Reports**

(Agenda Item #III)

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

The Junior Class Officers introduced themselves to the Committee; they gave their recap of the first week of school. Members thanked them and said this report was the favorite part of the meeting.

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**B. Principal**

**1. General Update**

Principal Sara Dingley screen shared the presentation of the MVRHS School Goals; she reviewed how the data was pulled together to inform those goals.

Members asked Principal Dingley to share other, more detailed statistics; Principal Dingley said November would be a good time to check the data again.

**C. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update**

Samuel Hart recapped discussions of the School Building Committee (SBC) meetings that had been held to date. He reviewed the upcoming timeline/deadlines and the steps that would be taken in choosing the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) candidate.

**Consents: *VOTES REQUIRED***

(Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Minutes:** Tabled.

**B. Personnel:**

- ◆ Luiza Mouzinho in an email letter dated Wed, Jul 26, 2023 wrote: I am writing to formally notify you that I am resigning my position, with the intent to return the following school year. I am requesting a leave of absence for the duration of the 23-24 school year.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

- ◆ Kim Hathaway in an email letter dated Wed, Aug 16, 2023 wrote: Due to personal reasons I am resigning as an ESP at MVRHS.
- ◆ Vanessa Martins in an email letter dated Fri, Jul 7, 2023 wrote: I'm reaching out today, to let you know that I've taken an ESP position at the Oak Bluffs School next year and to officially resign from my Compass ESP position at MVRHS.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**C. Grants and Donations:**

Suzanne Cioffi presented the following three donations:

- \$250.00 donation from the Silk family to miscellaneous donations for Academic Support.
- \$400.00 donation from Robert and Rebecca Rosenbaum to Minnesingers Student Activities.
- \$200.00 donation from Robert and Rebecca Rosenbaum to Unified Sports Student Activities.

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*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Mark Friedman presented the following grants totalling **\$772,353.00**:

-Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):	\$750,739.00
-Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):	\$10,464.00
-Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank/Private:	\$11,150.00

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANTS AS PRESENTED WITH GRATITUDE; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Ms. Cioffi presented an anonymous non-cash donation, a painting [valued at \$23,000.00] as a gift to the Art Department.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINED.*

**D. Overnight Travel**  
None.

**E. Student Activities Account Request**

Ms. Cioffi and Principal Dingleddy said that Sheryl Taylor was requesting a student activities account for the Black Student Alliance (BSA), to receive donations from fundraising.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE A STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT FOR THE BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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**Finance**

(Agenda Item #V)

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Ms. Cioffi said the report reflected the beginning of the year; she asked Members to sign vouchers.

**B. FY 25 Budget Process**

Mr. Friedman reviewed the timeline of the new Regional Agreement.

**SubCommittee Updates**

(Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Transportation:**

Kathryn Shertzer, Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee (TranSubCom), said meetings would be held on the second and fourth Thursdays at 8:00 AM.

She said the application for the Environmental Protection Agency Bus Grant had been withdrawn.

**B. Facilities:**

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), said meetings would be held on the first Monday at 4:00 PM.

He recapped on-going projects; Principal Dingley reviewed the steps that had been taken to resolve the issues as a result of a burst pipe/flooding in the 100 section of the building.

**C. Athletics:**

Louis Paciello, Chair of the Athletics Sub-Committee, said meetings would be held on the first and third Thursdays at 8:00 AM.

He said funding for Safe Sport was in place to move the program forward; a scoreboard was discussed.

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

(Agenda Item #VII)

None.

**Appeal Update**

(Agenda Item #VIII)

- **(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**

*(Please see Agenda item # II above.)*

**Public Comment**

(Agenda Item #IX)

- ❖ None.

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**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #X)

*JENNIFER CUTRER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:26 PM;  
KRIS O’BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SEGUIN—AYE,  
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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

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

**Appendix C - Documents on File:**

- Agenda MVRHS SC 9.11.23.docx
- III. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC June 1, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 5, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 8, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 11, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT Minutes MVRHS SC MAY 25, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes July 12, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 8, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 22, 2023 Meeting.pdf
- III. B. Kim Hathaway Ltr 8.16.23.pdf
- III. B. Luiza Mouzinho Ltr 7.26.23.pdf
- III. B. VANESSA MARTINS letter 7.7.23.pdf
- IV. B. MVRHS amended agreement DESE approved (6).pdf
- IV. C. Misc Donation, Minnesingers & Unified Sports.pdf
- IV. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 09112023 x.doc
- Recording MVRHS SC 9.11.23.docx
- V. A. MVRHS General Fund Revenues 9.11.2023.pdf
- V. A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures 9.11.2023.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***