

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #19

Edgartown School Committee

Oak Bluffs School Committee

Tisbury School Committee

Martha’s Vineyard Regional School District

Up Island Regional School District

5:30PM, Thursday, December 7, 2023

In person only at MVRHS Library

Present:	Chair – Amy Houghton (Tis)
Up-Island	Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop, Jim Newman
Tisbury	Jennifer Cutrer, Mike Watts
Oak Bluffs	Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer,
Edgartown	Kelly Scott
Shared Services Office	Richie Smith- Superintendent, Mark Friedman- School Business Administrator, Hope MacLeod- Director of Special Education
Other	Ellie Parece – Recorder, Daniel Greenman- MV Times, MVTV

I. Call to Order

The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

II. FY25 Budget Discussion and possible vote

Chair Houghton started the meeting by mentioned that the MVRHS minnesingers came and sang at the hospital and how unbelievable they were and how much staff and patients loved it. She sends huge accolades to Abigail Chandler and the other staff.

Superintendent Smith handout out two versions of the budget overview. The first version was from 11/28/2022 showing the increases and changes to show that at that time they cut \$144,000 from the budget and to show that they are still not adding them back in to this budget. This version was a 15.64% increase. Superintendent Smith and SBA Friedman distributed three new version to share with the committee with the hopes that one of these budgets would be approved this evening.

The first handout, version #3 is a 15.33% increase. Chair Houghton asked for clarification as to what line items can be transferred without school committee approval. SBA Friedman responded that line items are in groups by department and moving within departments does not require school committee approval but if substantial and across departments he always asks for approval. Superintendent Smith reiterated that they always ask for school committee approval. Mr. Watts commented that he didn’t think \$10,000 would be enough for an HR position. Superintendent Smith responded that he is working with what he has and trying to have creative solutions to move the school system forward. He has been asked to drive the budget down and he commented that his hope was that the committee trusted him in how to do that. He would love to have a full time HR person. He handed out his organizational chart for the Central Office.

Chair Houghton then asked how much was spend on legal fees for personnel issues last year and SBA Friedman was able to do some research and responded \$17,552 was spend last year.

Superintendent Smith then presented version 3D which constitutes a 14.8% increase. This version removed behavioral health amount and that amount to increase the position to 1.0 would come from Title 4 which was going to the social worker which is no longer funded. He explained that the behavioral health director was responsible for bringing in a large quantity in grants which funded various positions and programs. Mr. Lionette commented that he was deciding to bring a salary to the person bringing in money rather than the person working directly with students and added that

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he had a hard time with that. Superintendent Smith responded he agreed and that is why he is giving three versions of the budget. Mr. Malik asked how calculated the grant would be to cover those funds. Superintendent Smith responded that the grants are competitive and its hard to know. Mr. Lionette strongly recommended that they fund a .4 social worker and the behavioral coordinator is .6 and she can find the grant funds to cover the remaining .4. Mr. Salop commented that there is a question of efficacy and people in the community aren't exactly sure what the behavioral coordinator does. Chair Houghton agreed and said several people have commented that to her. Superintendent Smith responded that this position was directed by a program analysis that the school committee supported and he strongly believes in this position. He reminded the committee that their job is budget, not evaluation. Mr. Salop wanted to clarify that it was not about personality.

Superintendent Smith then presented version 3E which was a 13.31% increase which removes the curriculum position, moves the behavioral coordinator to full with title 4 and removes the social worker. Mr. Salop expressed concern that the curriculum position needed to be the right person in order to be successful. Mr. Lionette commented that the superintendent already has the frameworks to do this job with the COPs and PLCs and he should focus on that for the time being. He added that he couldn't support the budget unless the behavior coordinator and social worker were flipped.

Chair Houghton began the conversation of what the committee was comfortable with. It was agreed to start with version 3E with the following changes: .4 Title 4 goes to the social worker position and that is moved above the line to section 2 and makes that position a full-time position. The behavioral health coordinator stays at .6 and looks for grants for the balance of the .4 to be full time. There was then a break at 7:35 for SBA Friedman to rerun the numbers. The committee returned at 7:53 and SBA Friedman informed them that it was 14.44% increase. He started with 3E and added \$62,082 in salaries and then the additional monies to cover health insurance, payobs and opeb for that position.

MR. SALOP MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AT \$9,325,208.94 AT A 14.44% INCREASE. MR LIONETTE SECONDED THE MOTION

Mr. Lionette then questioned how the committee would handle line 2 of the budget as that is the Superintendent's salary and that amount has not yet been negotiated. Chair Houghton suggested a place holder until they have their discussion with the superintendent commenting that the amount could be adjusted down but not up. She said there is some room for changes but we should increase the line and suggested changing it to \$200,000.

MR. WATTS MADE A MOTION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET TO INCREASE LINE 2 IN THE BUDGET LINES TO \$200,00 AND MR. LIONETTE SECONDED.

SBA Friedman informed the committee that this would change the budget to \$9,332,033.94, or a 14.52% increase.

ROLL CALL: *HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SHERTZER- AYE, SCOTT – AYE, LIONETTE -AYE, ACKERMAN- AYE, MALIK -AYE, SALOP- AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, WATTS - AYE*

Motion passes 10-0-0

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III. FY24 Superintendent Goals Draft Discussion and possible vote

Tabled until next meeting due to time constraint. Superintendent Smith distributed the paperwork he had brought for the committee to review prior to the next meeting.

IV. Adjournment

MR. SALOP MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AT \$9,325,208.94 AT A 14.44% INCREASE. MR NEWMAN SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL: *HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SHERTZER- AYE, SCOTT – AYE, LIONETTE -AYE, ACKERMAN- AYE, MALIK -AYE, SALOP- AYE, NEWMAN – AYE, WATTS - AYE*

Motion passes 10-0-0

Meeting adjourned 8:20

Minutes submitted by Ellie Parece