

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, Tuesday, November 16, 2023

In person only at Tisbury School

Present:	Chair – Amy Houghton (Tis)
Up-Island	Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop, Skipper Manter
Tisbury	Jennifer Cutrer,
Oak Bluffs	Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer
Edgartown	Kelly Scott (6:15 arrival)
Shared Services Office	Richie Smith- Superintendent, Mark Friedman- School Business Administrator, Hope MacLeod- Director of Special Education
Other	Ellie Parece – Recorder, Eunki Seonwoo- MV Times, Louisa Hufstader- Vineyard Gazette, MVTV

I. Call to Order

The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 5:50pm.

II. FY25 Budget Discussion

Chair Houghton started the meeting by welcoming the committee to the Tisbury school. She then wanted to acknowledge the loss of one of our students this week and the incredible sadness felt in the community. She asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the family with thoughts and prayers being sent. She then turned it over to the Superintendent for the FY25 budget discussion.

Superintendent Smith begin by reiterating his thoughts and support for the family and that this was a huge loss for the island community.

Superintendent Smith presented the second version of the FY24 draft budget. He pointed out some changes between the two versions and reminded the committee that section 1 is contractual. Mr. Salop asked why there was an increase and Superintendent Smith responded that he moved the COLA to section 1 as he feels very strongly that its important. Superintendent Smith then reminded the committee that the last section is the area of the most movement. He explained that he removed the ASCI position for \$150,000 and replaced it with three positions totaling that amount but that would cover different areas. The new version divides into the assistant superintendent salary, ASCI salary and HR stipend salary. He then presented the organizational chart for the central office and explained that this is an aspirational org chart and the direction we would like to go in. Chair Houghton asked if the speech/language, OT numbers were aspirations or current. Sped Director MacLeod responded that it was current but not all in the budget because some are grant funded. Chair Houghton asked for a new org chart with both current numbers and numbers needed. Mr. Manter commented that the assistant superintendent label should be moved higher than the other director positions. Superintendent Smith responded that the assistant superintendent does not have supervisory over the other directory but acknowledged that he would be second in command. He also reminded the committee that this was a document to clarify the budget and show the goals moving forward. Chair Houghton commented that the positions should be based on what the school system needs and not on individual strengths. Mr. Lionette asked for confirmation

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 16, 2023

Zoom Meeting

that the assistant superintendent is .8 so the salary line reflects .8 salary and the Superintendent confirmed it does. Mr. Salop reiterated that the new budget removed the assistant superintendent salary and reallocated it to three positions and the Superintendent confirmed.

Superintendent Smith then continued his explanation of the budget by explaining there is a clear need for Human Resources in the central office. Version 1 had full position but moving forward he is trying to slowly build a position up. For now he is looking for someone already in payroll to step up and increase their hours by processing new hires under the supervision of the assistant superintendent. Mr. Malik asked about the HR position commenting that the job description is much larger than the stipend amount. Superintendent Smith agreed and said the stipend would only be for part of that job, the job description is where he sees it going in time. Mr. Malik asked what areas in HR the superintendent would want covered under the stipend and the superintendent said his priority would be compliance and civil rights. He is also interested in finding someone who has experience with recruitment. Mr. Malik commented that he is a big proponent of this position. Mr. Lionette commented that these are high aspirational pieces but where to start and if the focus is payroll and finance then it's not really HR yet so maybe this should be moved to the Finance section of the organizational chart. He also commented that he is trying to understand that if transportation is 50% of the assistant superintendent position then once that is up and running the position is mostly operations.

Superintendent Smith responded that operations reflect the current situation and amount of work with all of the current projects. He is looking for creative ways to appoint our staff and operations is huge in the near future but we also need someone dedicated to curriculum. Chair Houghton mentioned that with the time factor involved and acknowledging the work the superintendent did in putting all of this together with job descriptions but she did notice crossover in some of the jobs and recognizes that it's a draft but further stated that with all of the issues especially with things like FMLA and may be worth looking into outsourcing some of the work. So perhaps a one year only for the positions while some of that is explored. Superintendent Smith again emphasized that his three areas of concern are curriculum, HR and operations. Business Administrator Friedman commented that while outsourcing can have benefits there is an additional complexity because we are working with five districts and although they have the same bargaining units they have different towns. Ms. Scott added that she likes the idea of the assistant superintendent and agrees we need HR recruitment but she believes we need someone well versed in payroll and human resource and she would support the idea of outsourcing. Mr. Salop commented that a \$10,00 stipend in his opinion would be recognizing someone for work they are already performing to which the superintendent replied that is not accurate as many employees are currently performing these various tasks. Mr. Salop believes that curriculum is extremely important and wonders if we have someone with that expertise and skill set. Superintendent Smith responded that the committee has requested that he builds more and does more and he understands that we all have limits with funding so he is trying to be creative with the "do more". As a previous principal he is well versed in the affect the shared service budget has on the local schools. Chair Houghton asked if the \$10,000 stipend would be added to a current payroll person and increase their hours and the superintendent confirmed that was the plan. Mr. Salop again broached the subject of outsourcing and the superintendent agreed that could be an option. Chair Houghton commented that she likes the plan of one year only so we can look into outsourcing next year and save on lawyer fees by hiring an HR person capable of answering legal questions.

Mr. Salop then asked about the plan to fill the curriculum position and the superintendent responded that his plan is to recruit someone with the skill set necessary for instruction. He also said he believes he will be able to find an on-island person to fill the position.

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 16, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Mr. Manter commented that the budget was too high and he requests a third version. Chair Houghton asked him what cuts he wanted to see and he responded that the towns can only afford so much and all of the changes were great but its too much. Superintendent Smith commented that the administration is currently working on ten budgets and he strongly believes this budget is necessary. Its not the perfect way to do things but starts on the path of what he believes is necessary for the school system. He reiterated that the top section of the budget is contractual and the middle part is ELL, Sped and early childhood needs. Ms. Scott commented that she didn’t know where cuts could be made, stating that the third section is a 2.9% increase. She feels that with inflation the increase is expected and although she agrees it’s a lot of money she doesn’t see where cuts would be made. Mr. Salop asked what conversations the superintendent has had with principals regarding this increase and the superintendent responded that as a previous principal he understands the impact and that shared services is all of our schools and children. He informed the committee that he shared version one with all of the principals and heard their concerns. Business Administrator Friedman commented that the Student Opportunity Act is the state giving schools monies in large part to assist with increased needs especially post Covid. Ms. Scott asked if this budget increase was unique to the island or everywhere. Superintendent Smith agreed to look into that. Ms. Shertzer commented that she does not want to go to Oak Bluffs with a 15.64% increase but she acknowledges that doing business everywhere is skyrocketing and she would be interested in one year only positions to see what a curriculum coordinator can do so she is interested in pushing forward with the budget.

MS SHERTZER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY25 SHARED SERVICE BUDGET AND MR. MALIK SECONDED THE MOTION

Mr. Lionette wanted time to run this budget by the local school committees and at this point voiced he would vote no. Mr. Salop agreed with him. Ms Cutrer agreed with Ms. Shertzer. Chair Houghton asked if we scheduled a meeting for November 30 would that give members time to review the budget with their locals and for Mr. Friedman to give any Student Opportunity Act Funding information and the consensus was it was agreed.

MS SHERTZER WITHDREW HER MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY25 SHARED SERVICE BUDGET AND MR. MALIK AGREED TO WITHDRAW HIS SECOND OF THE MOTION

III. Contract Extension for Superintendent- Confirmation Vote

Chair Houghton asked for a confirmation vote to authorize the contract extension for the superintendent.

MS. ACKERMAN MADE A MOTION TO CONFIRM THE CONTRACT EXTENSION VOTE FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT AND MR. MALIK SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:

HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SHERTZER- AYE, SCOTT – AYE, LIONETTE -AYE, ACKERMAN- AYE, MANTER – ABSTAIN , MALIK -AYE, SALOP- AYE

Motion passes 8-0-1

IV. Tisbury Modular Classrooms Tour and Discussion

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 16, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Chair Houghton asked if everyone had time to walk through the modulars. Mr. Manter asked about procurement and how that would work. Business Administrator Friedman explained that there are multiple steps to release and then procure the modulars and we could tailor the bid to suit our needs but would have to go to bid. Chair Houghton stated that the Town of Tisbury looked into how to do this process. The lease expires April 15 so the town would need to at least extend the lease and a decision needed to be made by February 15 for a warrant article. She said the modulars can be taken apart and moved on a flat bed truck. Mr. Salop brought up the importance of Pre K education for success and a space like this could be used and he would advocate seriously looking into this. Conversation ensued as to how to proceed with an interest and Mr. Lionette believes it's a centralized issue so could come from this committee. Chair Houghton asked about having a task force to look into this issue. Superintendent Smith said that as it is centralized you would need a task force including members from the community as well as private and public preschools. It was agreed that Mr. Salop would have some discussions with parties involved and report back to the committee for a vote at the next meeting.

V. Adjournment

MS. SHERTZER MADE A MOTION ADJOURN AND MR. SALOP SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:
*HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SHERTZER- AYE, SCOTT – AYE, LIONETTE -AYE, ACKERMAN- AYE,
MANTER – AYE , MALIK -AYE, SALOP- AYE*

Motion passes 9-0-0

Minutes submitted by Ellie Parece