

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, November 2, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Chair – Amy Houghton (Tis)
Up-Island Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop
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, Marge Harris- Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum, John Stevens- Asst. Superintendent, Susan Conlan-BCBA Shared Service Coordinator,
Other Ellie Parece – Recorder, Suzanne Cioffi- MVRHS, , Susan Stevens- Head of Chilmark School, Atwood Company, William Cummings, Michelle Casavant, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt -Principal West Tisbury School, Eunki Seonwoo- MV Times, Louisa Hufstader- Vineyard Gazette, Jen Russell, Diane Carr, Joe Mikos, Elsbeth Todd

I. Call to Order

The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

MR. MANTER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11 AND SEPTEMBER 28 AND MS. CUTRER SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:

HOUGHTON – AYE, CUTRER – AYE, SHERTZER- AYE, OBRIEN - AYE, SCOTT – AYE, LIONETTE -AYE, ACKERMAN- AYE, MANTER – AYE

Motion passes 8-0-0

III. Chair General Remarks

Chair Houghton welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She reiterated that there is a lot happening right now in the school system so its important for the committee to collaborate to problem solve and find solutions.

IV. Green Villa’s Affordable Workforce Housing Project

Michele Casavant, William Cumming and Chris Miller met via zoom to inform the committee about the first of two affordable housing units being created. They showed a power point presentation outlining the difficulty in the current housing situation on the island and explaining the plan for the development. The development comprises 100 for-sale

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 2, 2023

Zoom Meeting

affordable workforce homes and four retail stores. It would be made up of 84 one-bedroom homes and 16 two-bedroom homes. Permitting will begin November 17 and is targeted to be completed but October 2024, with construction to begin in December with the first residents beginning occupancy by mid 2025. This development is proceeding without and monetary subsidies or inducements. Of the 100 units, 25% will be for below 80% of AMI and 75% will be below 150% AMI. Preference for up to 70% of all units will be offered to Oak Bluffs residents and municipal workers that serve the town. Ms Houghton asked what they wanted from the committee and the response was to help build support from the community. Mr. Salop asked if this was something the that would be considered and investment for the school system to purchase for teachers. Mr Cumming agreed it could be and said they have already spoken to banks and they are ready to help. Mr. Malik asked if OB was notified yet and the response was that yes the town, commission and state are all notified.

V. Personnel Sub Committee Report

A. Superintendent Evaluation

Chair Cutrer said after reviewing the evaluations from the different town school committees, most of the results were “met” or “significant progress” with comments regarding his outstanding communication and concerns including MCAS scores and high school culture. She said not every member did the evaluation but each local school committee submitted their findings and overall the strengths were in communication and relating well to families. Ms. Scott commented that most Superintendent Smith started to lay the foundation and is now taking steps to get there and create goals that are thoughtful and connected to his plans. Mr. Salop commented that he recognized that Superintendent Smith took over and it was an opportunity for him to see what was going on and moving forward he would like to see quantitative and qualitative improvements. Ms. Ackerman commented that this was the best start for a superintendent she had every seen.

B. FY24 Goal Setting Process

Superintendent Smith mentioned that he would like to begin discussing goals. Ms. Houghton commented that a decision was needed regarding extending his contract. Mr Manter mentioned that if the vote was to renew then it goes back to the personnel sub committee to discuss goals.

MR. MANTER MADE A MOTION TO RENEW THE SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT AND MR. SALOP SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:

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

Motion passes 11-0-0

Superintendent Smith informed the committee that he has started working on goals. He wants to expand on areas such as reorganizing the central office, address culture/climate in schools, address building based leadership, culturally responsive curriculum for students, mental health support for students and working on MCAS scores and student achievement. He said they are not finished goals because he wants to work with the personnel subcommittee. He also added family engagement and continuing co-teaching would be strong goals. Ms. Houghton said that the subcommittee could get input from the local levels and bring a draft of the goals to the full committee. Mr. Salop commented that he sees two issues, the contract and the goals. He also voiced a minor objection and wants to make sure that there is also a focus on student achievement. Mr. Smith responded that last year he worked with the personnel sub committee on goals and they have all learned from Dorothy Presser how

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 2, 2023

Zoom Meeting

important collaboration is between the superintendent and the school committee. Ms. Houghton agreed and added that it doesn't need to be done by November 30 but we need to keep it moving along.

Mr. Manter then commented that he may have erred in making a motion to extend that contract as that language was not specific in the Agenda. There was a discussion regarding this topic and Superintendent Smith agreed with Mr. Manter. The discussion resulting in agreeing to not rescind the vote at this meeting but at the next meeting they can rescind and revoke.

VI. Superintendent Report

A. Marge Harris- Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium

Ms. Harris informed the committee that MAEC is working with MVYPS to look at cultural bias in our curriculum. DESE had sent a request a few years ago regarding cultural responsiveness and MVYPS created a committee to look at other programs that are similar. MAEC came over and looked at our school system and we received a grant which provided guidance from MAEC with how to proceed. They would like an equity audit to be done by principals to evaluate our current system. A representative is coming next week to meet with schools. Ms. Scott asked if they would then give us a plan and Ms. Harris explained yes they would work with the schools on next steps. Mr. Salop questioned if the plan was to determine if there was a bias or do we already believe there is. Ms. Harris said there was not a belief yet that this would be determined. She also said this could be funded another year so we could have further support in implementing and necessary changes.

B. Budget Update Locals

Superintendent Smith notified the committee that he met with principals as a whole and they were able to express their desires and needs.

VII. Finance- FY25 Budget 1st Draft-Understanding the Issues

Superintendent Smith acknowledged that this draft budget is high and suggested the idea of a budget subcommittee. Mr. Manter commented that it may add time to the process. Discussion followed as to how this would work and the need to get a representative from each of the locals. Superintendent Smith showed the budget summary sheets which breaks it into sections. The first section is contractual which is 4.14%. Mr. Manter pointed out that although contractual its not non-negotiable because the school has the choice to not rehire someone, although that is not what he is suggesting just pointing out to the committee. The second section is Special Education which indicates a n8.14% increase. This is a need based increase to add several project headway ESPs and Bridge/Compass as well as increasing a Speech Therapist from .6 to 1.0. Mr. Salop asked about students moving between programs and would staff move and Ms. MacLeod explained not usually because new students are also coming in. Ms. Royal added that with preschool things can start as a bubble but now its become a trend and students can be there 2-3 years. Ms MacLeod explained that Tisbury has promised the space for a new classroom and they have the teacher so the ESPs are the ask to complete the classroom. She added that they are continuously looking at how things are done and how to improve and they are due for a program review. Ms. Scott emphasized that early intervention is huge for student achievement and Mr. Salop added that studies show universal preschool lifts student achievement. Mr. Lionette asked if Edgartown Bridge is at capacity and Ms. MacLeod responded that next year it will be. Ms. Houghton then commented that Tisbury School is set to be completed August 2024. They currently have four modular

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 2, 2023

Zoom Meeting

classrooms valued at \$160/square foot and need to decide to purchase or return. There is discussion as to purchasing by the town and Tisbury is having a special town meeting to discuss. She explained that the modulars would never be less expensive than they are now. Ms. Houghton suggested meeting on Friday at noon at the Tisbury school to tour the modulars and then further discuss the budget.

Mr. Friedman then added that the Chapter 70 monies would be increased. He said that the towns and districts get these funds but not shared services however the idea is that locals take this into consideration. Ms. Houghton asked about the possibility of contracting some of the services. Ms. MacLeod responded that each school does contract for certain positions but the central office wants the position for everyone for equity. Ms. Shertzer asked if the locals will reach out to FinComs and Mr. Salop responded after they negotiated the budget. Ms MacLeod commented that in past years they have gone to FinComs with big increases and they are available to do that.

VIII. Personnel- Retirement

Superintendent Smith presented a letter of retirement from Shared Service Coordinator Sue Conlan effective June 30, 2024. The committee voted to accept the retirement with thanks and great appreciation for all of her hard work and dedication. Ms. MacLeod added that Ms. Conlan has been amazing to work with and she has grown our local talent and will be greatly missed.

MR. MANTER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT AND MR. SALOP SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:

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

Motion passes 11-0-0

IX. New/Old Business

A. Appendix A Sub-Committee- moved to next meeting

MR. MANTER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AND MS OBRIEN SECONDED THE MOTION: ROLL CALL:

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

Motion passes 11-0-0

Minutes submitted by Ellie Parece

ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5:30PM, Thursday, November 2, 2023

Zoom Meeting