

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)
School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Library or Zoom

Present: Chair – Kathryn Shertzer, Vice Chair (VC) – Skipper Manter, Jennifer Cutrer,
Kris O'Brien*, Louis Paciello
Zoom: Roxanne Ackerman, Michael Watts (arrived later in person)

Others: School Building Committee/Chair – Dion Alley

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,
Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira,
Equity and Access Coordinator – Sheryl Taylor
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, IT Director – Rick Mello,
Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director – Mike Taus
Transportation Director – Troy Vanderhoop, Transportation Asst. – Chyenne Ward

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.,
Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod,
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy,
West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MVTimes – Daniel Greenman, MVTV,
Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

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

**Kris O'Brien arrived at 5:35 PM.*

Please note: All business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action.

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 5:32 PM by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

I. Welcome - Chair

Chair Shertzer welcomed all.

II. Routine Reports

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

The Junior Class Officers read their prepared report on activities, sports and events; they acknowledged the Science Fair winners. Principal Sara Dingley recapped the excitement of the [athletic] games; she said there was lots to be proud of, great sportsmanship.

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B. Principal

1. General Update

Principal Dingley screen shared the Student Affairs Office (SAO) presentation while Assistant Principal Jeremy Light introduced the Team and explained the work being done and how the office handled a variety of issues. He reviewed the 12 steps that supported the Objective:

to provide a systematic and fair process for investigating incidents at the high school discipline/student affairs office.

Discussion included:

- where the documentation was saved and how it was managed?
- incident tracking, how that information was used and how it was shared with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)?
- who was in the room during a disciplinary hearing, including the amount of adults and parent involvement?

2. School Discipline

Michael Watts appreciated the (above) presentation. He indicated that he heard from the community that discipline was not equitable - he was not sure how to answer those questions. Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he would like to understand the narrative out there in the community and asked Members to share that information; he recommended reaching out to the principals to get answers for the community. Principal Dingley said she would be happy to discuss what was legally acceptable, to get feedback and work toward improvement. She said the team was strong, and provided equity and consistency, always working toward turning negative behaviors to positive outcomes.

Discussion included:

- appropriateness of sharing information in this small community.
- the process and holding to that process for equitable discipline.
- discipline and children was challenging; always someone not happy with the outcome.

3. Instruction

Justine DeOliveria recapped the steps being taken for *Defining & Supporting High Quality Instruction at MVRHS* and screen shared the presentation. Principal Dingley said Department Heads and teachers have been doing a lot of work toward this including Curriculum Maps; she said this is a/n [ongoing] process and they continue to work with the teachers; she indicated that maximizing content delivery (days/hours) was under review.

Principal Dingley explained the scores established by DESE and how it related to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and other factors. She explained the efforts that were being taken, specifically in math, as all students were not consistently prepared for high school.

Chair Shertzer expressed her thanks for these presentations; Principal Dingley thanked everyone for this opportunity.

C. Superintendent

1. General Update

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said he would review in greater detail the MCAS scoring at the upcoming All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting next Thursday. He indicated there were two finalists for the position of principal for the Chilmark school; he welcomed everyone back from break.

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D. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

1. Design Selection Panel Designee

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED THAT MICHAEL WATTS SIT ON THE DESIGN SELECTION PANEL; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE. MR. WATTS—ABSTAINED.

2. Joint MSBA Steering Committee Proposal and Discussion

Dion Alley recommended the creation of an Executive Steering Committee to help manage everything that was going on; he wanted to have more participation as the two groups together (MVRHS SC and SBC). Members discussed their existing time commitments, the level of meetings they were required to attend and how this could fit into the mix – nothing was decided.

Members and staff underscored that communication with the public was important; Mr. Hart said the information for meetings and agendas for the School Building Committee (SBC) was on the MVRHS website. (<https://mvrhs.org/building-tomorrow-together/>)

III. Consents

VOTES REQUIRED

A. Minutes: 9.11.23, 10.2.23, 11.6.23, 12.4.23, 12.22.23, 1.8.24

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, OCTOBER 2, 2023, NOVEMBER 6, 2023, DECEMBER 4, 2023, DECEMBER 22, 2023 & JANUARY 8, 2024 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

B. Personnel:

- ◆ Claudia Murillo in a letter dated 02/23/24 wrote: *I got a job offer to be an ESP at Oak bluffs School, I'm super excited. Mark has been aware for a while of my interest for this position and I let him know about this on Tuesday, I ask him if he was comfortable with my last date being 3/8/2024, so i could start my new position on the 3/11 and he agreed.*
- ◆ Brumelha Magri in a letter dated 02/15/24 wrote: *I'm writing to announce my resignation from my position as Administrative Support Personnel. I'm accepting to continue my position as Educational Support Personnel from now on.*

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

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C. Grants and Donations:

Mark Friedman presented the following grants totalling **\$39,212.00**:

-Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)/SPED:	\$3,447.00
EC SPED:	\$62.00
FY2023 School Nutrition Equipment Assistance for Schools:	\$14,912.00
Title 2A:	\$1156.00
Title 1:	\$311.00
FY2024: Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Wellness — Continuation:	\$14,374.00
-Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Secondary Allocation Grant: Equipment:	\$4,950.00

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANTS AS PRESENTED, WITH APPRECIATION; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

D. Overnight Travel:

Project Vine
Sailing Team

April 12 - April 19, 2024: London, England & Rome, Italy.
April 12 - 13, 2024: Portland, ME.
April 27 - 28, 2024: Sharon and Barnstable, MA.
May 11 - 12, 2024: Bristol, RI & Greenwich, CT.
May 17 - 18, 2024: Barnstable, MA.
May 25 - 26, 2024: Newport, RI & Nantucket, MA.

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

E. Professional Development:

Principal Dingley and Suzanne Cioffi said the paperwork was not available at the time of this meeting. The multiple day trip at the end of the month to Philadelphia, PA. would be over \$1000.00.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRIP BEING OVER \$1000.00 WITH THE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN OFF; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

F. Waiver for Girls Hockey FY 25 School Year: Tabled.

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G. Legal Counsel for Intermunicipal Agreement with UIRSD for Electric Buses

Roxanne Ackerman, Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee and Mr. Friedman presented the reasoning for this request in preparation of receiving the Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant (if awarded) to the Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD). The current District legal team, Murphy, Lamere and Murphy indicated they could not represent the District as this would be a conflict of interest; Members discussed choosing one of the three recommended firms to have on "standby". *(Please see document on file for a details: APPROVED MVRHS SC Minutes January 25, 2024 Special Meeting.pdf)*

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO APPROACH MEAD, TALERMAN & COSTA, LLC;
KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.
MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE,
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. PACIELLO—NAY.*

H. Student Conduct & Discipline Second Reading:

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE, PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICIES & PROCEDURES AND PROPOSED BULLYING POLICY; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

I. Physical Restraint Policies & Procedures Second Reading:

(Please see above, Agenda Item III Consents, letter H)

J. Proposed Bullying Policy Second Reading:

(Please see above, Agenda Item III Consents, letter H)

K. FY25 Budget Possible Recertification:

Principal Dingley said some assumptions had changed and that health insurance was one of the drivers for the changes. Her request was to use an Excess & Deficiency (E&D) offset of \$82,000.00 for health insurance cost increases; she said there would be line shifts to recapture savings as they were committed to finding the savings in the budget - the overall assessments for the towns would not change.

A lengthy discussion ensued over E&D levels and how much was returned to the towns every year; Principal Dingley recommended a 'look back' at E&D over the years, data to show actual numbers to support future budget conversations. Ms. Cioffi explained there would be line item shifts, but the overall budget numbers remained the same.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND THE JANUARY 8, 2024 VOTE FOR THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

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MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO RE-CERTIFY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 THAT REFLECTS THE \$82,000.00 INCREASE FROM THE EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY LINE AND THE \$82,000.00 OFFSET, AT:

- \$22,303,128.51 ASSESSED BUDGET (3.28 % INCREASE), AND*
- \$26,568,042.41 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (5.85 % INCREASE);*

JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANter—NAY.

IV. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Suzanne Cioffi shared the reports for Member review and answered questions when appropriate.

B. Off Island Buses - Accelerated Funding to Lease New Buses

SKIPPER MANter MOVED TO ALLOW MARK FRIEDMAN TO GO AHEAD AND CONTRACT TWO BUSES IN FY24 (THAT WERE BUDGETED FOR IN THE FY25 BUDGET) AS THERE WAS A LINE IDENTIFIED IN FY24 TO PROCURE THE MONEY FROM, TO SECURE THEM NOW, AND LEAVING IT UP TO THE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATION TO CHOOSE IF THEY WOULD BOTH BE LIFT TYPE BUSES (PREFERED BY THE COMMITTEE); LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MANter—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

C. Legal Line Update

Ms. Cioffi recapped the journal entries to date; she said this was a quick snapshot - more details would be provided at the April 2024 meeting.

Members agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting to review line item transfers to cover the deficit, prior year spending, future spending and so forth.

~~D. FY 25 Budget Update~~

V. SubCommittee Updates

A. Budget

B. Facilities

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee, provided updates for the potable water pipe connection across the street/field side. He said a lot of work was done during the break - lots of little things were getting checked off the list.

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C. Transportation

Roxanne Ackerman, Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee, thanked Transportation Director Troy Vanderhoop, Transportation Assistant Chyenne Ward, Asst. Superintendent of Operations, Facilities & School Projects John Stevens and Mr. Friedman for all the work they had put forth.

D. Athletics

Louis Paciello, Chair of the Athletics Sub-Committee, said there was nothing new to report.

VI. Old/New Business None.

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements
None.

VIII. Public Comment
❖ None.

IX. Adjournment

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:41 PM;
JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:
7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE,
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE &
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Appendix A - Documents on File:

1. Agenda MVRHS SC 3.4.24 REVISED.docx
2. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes December 22, 2023 Special Meeting.pdf
3. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes January 8, 2024 Meeting.pdf
4. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes November 6, 2023 Meeting.pdf
5. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes October 2, 2023 Meeting.pdf
6. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes December 4, 2023 Meeting.pdf
7. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes September 11, 2023 Meeting.pdf
8. III. B. Brumelha Magri.pdf
9. III. B. claudia murillo letter.docx

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10. III. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 03042024 xx.doc
11. III. D. APRIL 12-13 - PORTLAND MAINE 8X - TRAVEL FORM.pdf
12. III. D. APRIL 27-28 - SHARON QUAD 8 O_DAY QUALIFIERS @ BARNSTABLE - TRAVEL FORM (1).pdf
13. III. D. MAY 11-12 - HERRESHOFF @ RI & O_DAY FINALS @ GREENWICH, CT - TRAVEL FORM .pdf
14. III. D. MAY 18-19 - TERK CHAMPIONSHIP @ BARNSTABLE (HYANNIS) - TRAVEL FORM .pdf
15. III. D. MAY 25-26 -HERRESHOFF FINALS @ GREENWICH, CT & FIGAWI @ NANTUCKET - TRAVEL FORM .pdf
16. III. D. Project Vine Out of State travel form.docx.pdf
17. IV. H. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Student Conduct and Discipline.docx
18. IV. I. Proposed MVPS Restraint Policy and Procedures_.docx
19. IV. J. MVPS Proposed Bullying Policy (1) (2).docx

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

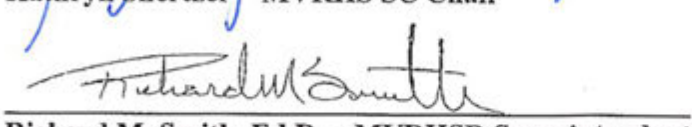
June 24, 2024

Date



Kathryn Shertzer – MVRHS SC Chair

Date



Richard M. Smith, Ed.D. – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

APPROVED JUNE 24, 2024