

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**  
**Library or Zoom**

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

Others: MV Youth/Executive Director – Lindsey Scott,  
General Manager at Martha's Vineyard Sharks Baseball – Russ Curran

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,  
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,  
Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello,  
Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira,  
Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Girls Ice Hockey Coach – Geoghan Coogan

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.,  
Asst. Superintendent of Operations, Facilities & School Projects – John Stevens,  
Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod,  
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

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

Press: MV Times – Daniel Greenman,  
Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

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

*\*Roxanne Ackerman arrived at 6:17 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 moved quickly to the first agenda item.
  
- II. Routine Reports**
  - A. Student Report**
    - 1. Student Report of Activities**

The Junior Class Officers read their prepared report on activities and events which included: the upcoming Job Fair; trips planned for student groups; the schedule for all of the sports. They congratulated students that received special recognition including the Science Fair winners that would advance to the State competition.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**B. Principal**

**1. In School One-to-One Device**

Principal Sara Dingley introduced the nine member Technology Committee (TC) and explained some of the discussion topics, including how the Massachusetts Rural School Aid / Chapter 70 Program grant funding would be spent. From those discussions came a larger conversation - this proposal.

Rick Mello screen shared the One-to-One Chromebook Transition presentation and why he recommended this. He recapped the issues that existed today, when students bring their own devices and said the TC was formed to discuss the matter. He said the One-to-One Chromebook Transition was supported by the TC and teachers, it was the path forward. He said that using Chromebooks would offer benefits to both students and teachers, fostering a more consistent educational environment. Rural Aid grants would support the full deployment of Chromebooks, no additional funding would be needed; he anticipated taking this step for next year. Mr. Mello said the students would keep the device throughout their high school career.

Students and teachers contributed to a lengthy discussion which included:

- ❖ Student population (currently 751) and the Chromebooks on hand (currently over 500).
- ❖ Age of existing Chromebooks and the refresh/replenishing cycle.
- ❖ Transitioning, Tech/IT Budget impacts and policy changes.
- ❖ Use of computer [screen time] in classroom versus face to face discussions.
- ❖ Inequity in the classroom, delaying this another year would be unfortunate.
- ❖ This would put the best education environment in the classrooms.
- ❖ It would provide consistency with [standardized] testing.
- ❖ Chromebook device insurance policies.
- ❖ Personal computers that were bought [by family members, etc] for students to use in school were very expensive; it would be unfortunate if those students were not able to use their own computers.

Asst. Superintendent John Stevens suggested bringing this conversation to the Cabinet for discussion with a follow-up at the All Island School Committee (AISC) for a more robust conversation. Mr. Mello said this step should not prevent the MVRHS from proceeding with the One-to-One Chromebook Transition for the next school year.

Principal Dingley recapped what was currently in the student handbook; she said this would be communicated out to eighth graders so that they had that information before entering the MVRHS, so they would not be making investments in personal computers. Principal Dingley indicated that updates would be made in the handbook to provide clarity – she said the Committee always approved the handbook and that the revisions/changes would come toward the end of the school year.

Mr. Mello said this was not an ask of the MVRHS SC, but to be informational for Members to understand his recommendation. He said this decision was between the Superintendent, School Administration and the IT Director - the MVRHS SC was not involved at this time. (This was based on

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

his understanding of the current student handbook with documentation from Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)). Mr. Mello indicated the TC determined what to do, the letter that would go out to eight grade parents and next steps - he wanted this One-to-One Chromebook Transition to happen for next year.

Principal Dingley asked if the Committee would support this, so as not to send mixed messages? She said it was important to get his information to eighth graders quickly.

- Robert Lionette said he could not find a reason not to fully support this, he said this should move forward.
- Louis Paciello said he agreed and didn't want to see this get 'bogged down' in bureaucracy.
- Chair Shertzer said she wanted to see the language before saying yes; Michael Watts agreed.

Mr. Mello asked, 'May I proceed or am I being asked to wait'? He was uncertain based on the discussion.

- Mr. Watts said he didn't think Mr. Mello needed the Committee's permission to proceed.
- Mr. Watts said to expect some worksmithing of the [handbook] language that would be reviewed in the future. Mr. Watts said, 'You get to proceed' but that the language needed to be said (written) the right way for the Committee to support.

★ Mr. Watts said Mr. Mello had implicit, 'it's your decision' to move forward.

## **2. NEASC Definitions on Beliefs and Learning**

Principal Dingley said they were working toward making the School Advisory Council (SAC) more student-heavy. She recapped what had been discussed at the regular Thursday round table meetings. She shared some of the steps that would be taken to develop and finalize goal statements (by the end of June, 2024) for learning, inclusion and rigor. Mr. Watts recapped his experience from one of the meetings he attended and said it was impressive.

## **3. Student Opportunity Act**

Principal Dingley recapped what was submitted for the extra Chapter 70 money; she would send out the language to the Committee for a vote at the next meeting (as the turnaround time was very quick).

### **C. Superintendent**

#### **1. MV Youth Request/ YMCA One Day Use of Alcohol Permit**

Asst. Superintendent Stevens said the event was scheduled tentatively on Friday August 2, 2024 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY. MS. SHERTZER—ABSTAINED*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**2. Approval of MV Sharks Lease for 2024 Season**

Asst. Superintendent Stevens said one part had been changed from initial lease to this one - the permission to sell beer and wine at games. Russ Curran explained how the lease was written, where it included the sale of beer and wine. He said the lease was written to make it easier for the Oak Bluffs Select Board to understand and approve.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO RENEW THE LEASE FOR FIVE YEARS;  
LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.  
MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE,  
MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.*

**3. Annual Town Meeting Season and Schedule**

Asst. Superintendent Stevens recapped the upcoming schedule of meetings and asked to ensure there was staffing at each to answer questions. Principal Dingley and Members said assignments would be made to ensure there were staff and Committee Members present at each.

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

**1. Received Designer Proposals**

Mr. Watts talked through the (screen shared) presentation of the process for choosing an architect; he said three adequate proposals had been received to move forward in the selection process. Members discussed the process and upcoming important dates for meetings and submissions. Mr. Watts indicated the project website was underway – he asked Members to share the link.

**III. Consents:**

**VOTES REQUIRED**

**A. Women's Ice Hockey waiver request:**

Mark McCarthy asked for the eighth grade waiver for girls ice hockey; Geoghan Coogan said that this was not unique. Across the State co-ops and eighth graders were used across the board to build a team; this was needed for the program to go on. He said this was a girls hockey issue, not just on Martha's Vineyard.

Mark McCarthy indicated that moving the Junior Varsity (JV) team to club status would give eighth graders that had the skills, the ability to play with the JV players; he said what was in existence now was really a club, the classification to club would formalize it.

Mr. McCarthy said ice hockey was unique as a sport - knowing how to skate was a skill which took time to develop. He said the players wanted an activity to participate in and to play; many didn't want to play at the Varsity level.

Principal Dingley said she supported this request, moving it to a club status. Mr. McCarthy said he believed the reclassification would be a school committee vote.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

Members discussed their concerns and asked how many teams have changed to a club status; would the existing status (privileges) change if they become a club; how the team would be viewed in club status? Superintendent Richard M. Smith said the students needed to understand the ramifications of being a club versus a JV team. Mr. Paciello said a club was less demanding which could be considered a negative aspect; he indicated this had been discussed at an earlier Athletic Sub-Committee meeting.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ALLOW THE EIGHTH GRADE WAIVER TO PLAY; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED.*

After discussion VC Skipper Manter amended the motion; Jennifer Cutrer was in agreement.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ALLOW THE EIGHTH GRADE WAIVER TO PLAY AND TO RECLASSIFY THE GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY ICE HOCKEY TEAM TO A CLUB LEVEL; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**B. Minutes:** None.

**C. Personnel:**

Principal Dingledy indicated that Rachel Schubert had a [maternity] leave request and to change the configuration of her job for a year.

- ◆ Rachel Schubert in a letter dated 03/12/24 wrote: I accept the offer of a .6 English Teaching position for SY 2024 - 2025. Thank you — I'm looking forward to continuing to teach at MVRHS next school year.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ALLOW THE LEAVE; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**D. Grants and Donations:**

Suzanne Cioffi presented the donations given to the library and science fair.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT, AND TO GIVE THANKS TO THOSE THAT DONATED; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**E. Overnight Travel:** None.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**F. Student Conduct & Discipline Third Reading:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE THIRD READING OF THE STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE, PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICIES & PROCEDURES AND PROPOSED BULLYING POLICY; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**G. Physical Restraint Policies & Procedures Third Reading:**

*(Please see above, Agenda Item III Consents, letter F)*

**H. Proposed Bullying Policy Third Reading:**

*(Please see above, Agenda Item III Consents, letter F)*

**IV. Finance**

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne Cioffi shared the reports and answered Members' questions; she recapped some steps that could be taken over the next month/s as well as the end of year transfers.

**B. Legal Line Update**

Ms. Cioffi shared the report for the legal expenditure breakdowns for the year and reviewed how the categories were determined - this was through February (with four months left). She said the amount spent was greater than what was budgeted - this did not include Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC (for the appeal).

Members discussed what had been spent for the MSBA process and if those expenses could be reclassified, as well as other expenses and how line item shifts/adjustments could be made.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECONCILIATION OF THE LEGAL LINE BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EXPENDED FOR THE LEGAL FEES FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LEGAL LINE AND ANY FUTURE LEGAL EXPENSES THAT INVOLVED THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE PROJECT ACCOUNT; KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**V. SubCommittee Updates**

Nothing new to report.

**VI. Old/New Business**

Mr. Watts asked for follow-up from the previous presentations - he'd like to see reports for outcomes of the SAO? as well as math/Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) results - preparedness for ninth grade level math; Superintendent Smith said the information would be provided.

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

None.

**VIII. Public Comment**

- ❖ Clark Rattet congratulated Superintendent Smith on the renewal of his contract.

**IX. Adjournment**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:08 PM;  
KRIS O'BRIEN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 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. SHERTZER—AYE &  
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Appendix A - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHS SC 4.1.24.docx
- III. D. Library Donation--Misc Donation\_001.pdf
- III. D. Science Fair Donation.pdf
- III. F. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Student Conduct and Discipline.docx
- III. G. Proposed MVPS Restraint Policy and Procedures .docx
- III. H. MVPS Proposed Bullying Policy (1) (2).docx
- IV. A. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures .pdf
- IV. A. MVRHS General Fund Revenue .pdf
- IV. B Legal Expenses Brokendown 3.11.2024.pdf
- Rachel Schubert - Letter of Acceptance.pdf

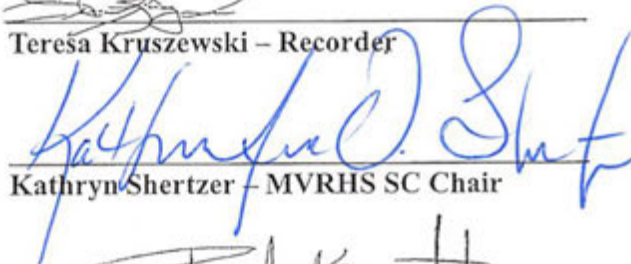
Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

June 3, 2024

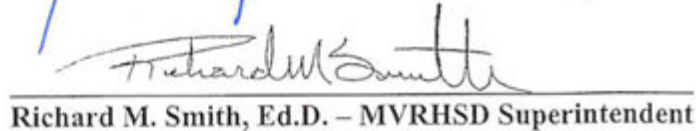
Date



Kathryn Shertzer – MVRHS SC Chair

8/29/24

Date



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

6/25/24

Date

APPROVED JUNE 3, 2024