

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 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, Kelly Scott
Zoom: Michael Watts

Others: Harbor Homes Martha's Vineyard (HHMV) / Winter Shelter Director – Lisa Belcastro
South Mountain Company / Director of Architecture & Co-Owner – Ryan Bushey,
MV Community Services (MVCS) / Chief Financial Officer – Glen Mattera

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Assistant Principal – Jeremy Light,
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,
Equity and Access Coordinator – Sheryl Taylor
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi,
Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello,
Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira,
Performing Arts Center (PAC) Director/Manager – Charlie Esposito
Facilities Director – Mike Taus, School Psychologist – Jennifer Russell

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.,
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty, Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy,
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*

*Kris O'Brien arrived around 5:40 PM and Robert Lionette arrived around 5:43 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 5:38 PM by Chair Kathryn Shertzer.
(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

I. Welcome - Chair

Chair Shertzer said this was the last meeting for two members; it was a sad farewell to Kris O'Brien and Louis Paciello. She thanked them both for their contributions and dedication to this Committee.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM

II. Routine Reports

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities None.

B. Principal

1. Enrollment Update

Principal Sara Dingley said there were five new students - she said the MVRHS enrolled students throughout the year. Principal Dingley reviewed the practice and policy for enrolling and said this process was inclusive no matter what time of year they arrived; this happened all the time throughout the year.

2. Organizational Chart

Principal Dingley screen shared the document and explained the breakdown; she said this was created in response to requests and would be added to the MVRHS website, as the site transitioned.

Members recommended having the same titles for the *Then and Now* and the *MVRHS Administration Organizational Structure* to reduce confusion. (Please see documents on file for details.)

3. Handbook Timeline

Principal Dingley screen shared the materials that were prepared by Assistant Principal Jeremy Light, the *MVHRS [MVRHS] Student Handbook Annual Update Procedure Outline*. Principal Dingley recapped the cycle for updates/proposed changes and the 'redline gathering' that occurred throughout the academic year. Those changes would then be presented to the Committee for review/approval and to then implement the next school year.

- Members asked to have the materials available with enough time to review and to allow time for any re-work over the summer.
- Assistant Principal Light said they would be working on this over June 18th, 19th and 20th and would have something ready for the MVRHS SC June 24, 2024 meeting.
- Chair Shertzer said the dates for the June meetings were: June 3 and June 24, 2024.

A lengthy discussion ensued over policy and process for changes in the handbook. Members questioned the letter that was sent to eighth grade parents from the Technology Committee (TC) and IT department for the One-to-One Chromebook Transition, and if it was appropriate. Members said they were confused why this was being discussed [again]; others said it was because this was a policy change. (Please see document on file for details: *MVRHS SC Minutes April 1, 2024 Meeting.pdf*, II. Routine Reports, B. Principal 1. In School One-to-One Device, pgs 2 & 3)

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said this was a process discussion, and rather than go backwards he said communication was most important to keep things moving forward in a positive manner and to strengthen the partnership between the Administration and this Committee.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM

C. Superintendent

Superintendent Smith said the ED School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS) had been released to the public. He asked Daniel Greenman and Louisa Hufstader to share this information in their publications to receive a greater survey response. The survey was open until May 17, 2024.

1. Harbor Homes Discussion and Vote Regarding Homeless Shelter for AY 25

Lisa Belcastro recapped the past season and explained why there was a larger population. She said this would be the last year for this request, as Building A (currently used for the shelter) was slated to be demolished in early 2025.

Ms. Belcastro asked to increase capacity to 22 guests and 2 staff (as the grant from the State allowed 25 overnight guests) for the period of November 1, 2024 through April 20, 2025 (the end date was subject to change, based on the demolition date.)

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO EXTEND HARBOR HOMES MARTHA'S VINEYARD 2024/2025 SEASON; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED.

Superintendent Smith read into the record the letter from the Town of Oak Bluffs (OB) which stated: their position remained unchanged, this location was not optimally suited.

Discussion:

- ❖ The amount of calls to the Police and Ambulance departments.
- ❖ The increased number of guests and the costs to OB.
- ❖ Who determined the capacity?
- ❖ Communication with Superintendent Smith regarding issues and concerns throughout.
- ❖ Inviting the Town of OB to be part of this conversation as Members were uncomfortable to vote on this.
- ❖ Why does the MVRHS own this land? 99 year leases? The Land Use Sub-Committee should review the leases and ownership [of the 6 acres].

After discussion, the friendly amendment was accepted as follows:

ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY SERVICES ENTER INTO THE SUB-LEASE WITH HARBOR HOMES MARTHA'S VINEYARD EXTENDING THE EXISTING LEASE AS IS FOR THE 2024/2025 SEASON AND ADDITIONAL OCCUPANCY WOULD BE DETERMINED AT THE NEXT MVRHS SC MEETING; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANter—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. PACIELLO—NAY.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

2. MV Community Services Phase II Update

Ryan Bushey screen shared the site plans of the new design. He reviewed the changes and explained the details. Mr. Bushey said the main drivers for reducing the building size were costs and the impacts of COVID where workers continued to be remote. Discussion included the reasons why the existing buildings needed to be replaced.

D. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

- 1. Possible vote to allow the district to enter into a contract with Tappé Architects** Tabled.

III. Consents:

VOTES REQUIRED

A. Personnel:

Principal Dingley presented the resignations of Joel Graves, Nicole Macy, Luiza Mouzinho and the retirement of Laura DeBettencourt.

- ◆ Joel Graves in a letter dated 4/23/23 wrote: I am writing to formally resign from my position as a high school history teacher at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- ◆ Luiza Mouzinho in a letter dated 5/02/24 wrote: I am formally submitting my letter of resignation.
- ◆ Nicole Macy in a letter dated 5/01/24 wrote: Thank you so much for the offer of a math teacher position at MVRHS starting in the 2024-2025 school year. I enthusiastically accept and look forward to getting started. *(She was resigning from an Education Support Professionals (ESP) position.)*
- ◆ Laura DeBettencourt would be retiring in September of next year. *(There was not a letter at the time of the meeting.)*

JENNIFER CUTRER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS AS STATED BY PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEY; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

B. Grants and Donations:

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TWO GENEROUS DONATIONS; LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM

C. Overnight Travel & Out of State Travel: None.

D. PAC Rates:

Suzanne Cioffi screen shared the document, while Charlie Esposito explained in detail the reasons for the rate increases and the new rate categories; the Facilities Sub-Committee fully endorsed this proposal. *(Please see the document on file for details.)*

Members discussed the great improvement for the rates (and if they were appropriate); whether the dates were necessary; if town events would be treated special/waive the fees - nothing was decided.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RATES AS PRESENTED; KELLY SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MR. PACIELLO—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.

E. Student Activities:

Ms. Cioffi explained the request for the group Bring Change to Mind; the staff advisors were Matt Malowski and Kevin McGrath. Members asked for a presentation for more understanding.

KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO APPROVE; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. O'BRIEN—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. PACIELLO—ABSTAINED.

IV. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Ms. Cioffi shared the reports and answered Members' questions; she said the June 24, 2024 MVRHS SC meeting would be the end of year Financial meeting for line item reconciliations.

V. Subcommittee Updates

- Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), gave updates for the progress around the PAC. He said there were continued leaks within the building and reviewed the ongoing maintenance to correct. He said boiler repairs have been made - the system would be shut down over the next weeks due to temperature changes.
Mr. Watts said the FacSubCom have begun discussing the conditions and maintenance of the existing track - really good discussions to maintain what we had for as long as possible. Chair Shertzer said continued updates were important for the community.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM

- Roxanne Ackerman, Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee (TranSubCom) said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants were still in process, with announcements to come.
- Robert Lionette, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee (BudSubCom) said there was nothing to report.
- Kris O'Brien, Chair of the Land Use Sub-Committee said a new Chair would need to be selected.
- Louis Paciello, Chair of the Athletics Sub-Committee said a new Chair would need to be selected.

VI. Old/New Business

Mark Friedman said that four towns had approved the budget; the remaining two town meetings would happen this month.

Mr. Lionette asked about the conversations that would take a deeper dive into math readiness for eighth grade students entering high school; he asked where this conversation lived?

Superintendent Smith ensured the conversations were happening and said it had been discussed in the Cabinet meetings. He said there were transition issues for all of the schools, Island-wide; he encouraged all Principals to communicate with each other to fill in some of the gaps.

Superintendent Smith said this would be an All Island School Committee discussion for readiness/transitions for grade level to grade level.

Principal Dingley said they would be able to review at the end of the next school year, data to determine the notion of having two math classes for ninth graders (foundational algebra) and if it made a difference to the MVRHS scores.

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

VIII. Public Comment

- ❖ None.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Shertzer recognized tomorrow as National Teacher Appreciation Day/Staff Appreciation Week.

Chair Shertzer thanked Kris O'Brien for her time that she devoted to the School Committee over the years and her guidance throughout.

Ms. O'Brien stated her appreciation to all for the work Members did and the amount of time each dedicated to the Committee and wished all good luck; she said it had been an honor.

Chair Shertzer thanked both Kris O'Brien and Louis Paciello, she said she was sad to see them go.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM

*KRIS O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:42 PM;
LOUIS PACIELLO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 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. SCOTT—AYE,
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

Appendix A - Documents on File:

- Agenda MVRHS SC 5.6.24.docx
- II. B. 1. Administration then and now.pdf
- II. B. 2. MVRHS Admin Org Chart (6).docx
- II. B. 2. MVRHS Admin Org Chart (6).pdf
- III. A. Graves Resignation Letter.pdf
- III. A. Mouzinho letter.docx
- III. A. Nicole Macy llt..pdf
- III. D. PAC Rates 2024-Final.pdf


Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski - Recorder



Kathryn Shertzer - MVRHS SC Chair



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

June 3, 2024

Date

8/29/24

Date

6/25/24

Date

APPROVED JUNE 3, 2024