

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**  
**Library or Zoom**

**Present:** Chair – Kathryn Shertzer, Vice Chair (VC) – Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Jennifer Cutrer, Rizwan Malik, Kelly Scott, Michael Watts *Zoom: Robert Lionette*

**Others:** Rebekah ElDeiry

**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, Administrative Support – Mary Korba, Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello, Guidance & Counseling – Amy Lilavois, Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira, English Teachers – Spencer D’Agostino & Kate Hennigan, Facilities Director – Mike Taus

**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:** Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

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

*\*None.*

**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 and stated there was a lot to cover at this meeting. She said sadly, the student report would not be part of this meeting, as it was always the best part.

**II. Routine Reports**

**A. Principal**

**1. Student Cell Phone “Away for the Day” Presentation**

Principal Sara Dingley said a select group of staff members worked for a year on how to spend the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)/State grant monies; they made two recommendations. The first was the One-to-One Chromebook Transition *(please see prior*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

*minutes for details: APPROVED MVRHS SC Minutes April 1, 2024 Meeting.pdf, II. Routine Reports, B. Principal, 1. In School One-to-One Device, pgs 2 & 3).* The second was the proposal to put cell phones away for the duration of the school day; Principal Dingley said it is similar to West Tisbury and other schools in Massachusetts.

Principal Dingley screen shared the presentation as Kate Hennigan explained that this was coming from a place of deep concern and care for the students - it was not punitive. She said a great deal of research has been done on this subject matter, including a warning from the Surgeon General/The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. She explained the rationale for this proposal as follows:

- *Limit Distractions*
- *Encourage Development of Social Skills*
- *Provide Students with a Break from Smartphones (Please see slide show for details)*

Sheryl Taylor explained the process that led to these conclusions including group discussions with students, a staff working group, a staff survey and community forums with parents, to name a few. She said that *due diligence* was done. She indicated that the response from staff was favorable.

Members expressed support and thanks for this work; others expressed concerns. A lengthy discussion ensued - some but not all points are listed here:

- ❖ The difficulty in the transition phase to this process.
- ❖ Other schools that were implementing this practice.
- ❖ The logistics to manage.
  - The Yondr Pouch
  - Location of magnets
  - Smart watches
  - Hacking into the pouch
- ❖ DESE's position on this.
- ❖ The need for locking up the devices versus the honor system.
- ❖ The success of this policy and how it would be measured.
- ❖ Concerns for students that drive and how they would be consumed with end of day catch-up while driving.

Principal Dingley said that everyone had to be on the same page to make this successful, that's why the surveys were done. She said this was an opportunity to partner with parents and to be a model school for the State. Principal Dingley said the details would be worked out over the summer months and invited Members to help with the process.

Michael Watts said he was highly disappointed on how this was announced to the community at the end of the school year; Mary Korba explained this proposal was first shared with parents in the April 22 - 28th Weekly Update with a leading letter from Principal Dingley stating the MVRHS was considering implementation of this proposal; the second communication with parents was June 17, 2024. Principal Dingley said she will review correspondence to ensure the language is appropriate in the future and apologized for any misunderstanding.

Superintendent Richard M. Smith said this was a process issue and he didn't want to stop the process but review the approach - to not get bogged down in the process of the communication of this. He said it was important to ensure the Committee was included/involved at the right time.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

Superintendent Smith said this policy was important for the students, to teach them how to use smart phones responsibly – to do nothing was worse.

Superintendent Smith said this and other policies would be reviewed at the next Cabinet Meeting, to create a more uniformed vision throughout the District.

*KELLY SCOTT MOVED TO MOVE FORWARD THE EXPLORATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF "AWAY FOR THE DAY" CELL PHONE POLICY; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE. MR. WATTS—NAY.*

**2. Handbook Updates**

Principal Dingley said a 'red lined' version was part of the June 3, 2024 meeting materials for Members to review. A key change was the "Away for the Day" *(Please see above for details)*

Mr. Watts said he had issues, that the language needed to be clearer for consequences - to make the wording concrete, as students will sign off on the book. Principal Dingley explained what Massachusetts General Law required and why the word "may" was included. She asked Members for direct feedback with issues. The process to share updates was reviewed; it was determined that this would be discussed at a separate meeting.

**3. Personnel Preview for FY26**

Principal Dingley congratulated Assistant Principal Jeremy Light for his promotion to principal of the Oak Bluffs School. She said they were actively interviewing for his replacement; they wanted to get the ball rolling quickly, as time was of the essence. Candidates both internal and external were being considered.

Principal Dingley said the Scholarship position was currently a stipend position. She said this position was growing and becoming challenging, to have it layered on a full time position. Based on the importance of this role it would be separated out - Principal Dingley wanted to highlight this now for awareness, as it would be discussed during the budget process.

**B. Superintendent**

**1. Non-Union Salary Adjustments**

Superintendent Smith screen shared the file and explained the salary increase requests as well as the additional 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA). Skipper Manter suggested the COLA be a higher percentage; Superintendent Smith explained the 3% was planned within the budget across the District. He appreciated the recommendation and said this was a very thoughtful process that took weeks. Members suggested the 3% COLA be reviewed in the future, at the Personnel Subcommittee. Discussion ensued for non-union raises and how they varied from teacher contracts.

Superintendent Smith said the three members of the Transportation Department were separated out. He explained the increases were to support the department, the difficulty in keeping the appropriate level of drivers and to avoid a conflict of interest. He explained the reasoning for the salary changes and that they reflected the runs that each would drive throughout the year; he said he foresaw that all three would be driving; the job descriptions would be updated to include driving.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE LIST AS PRESENTED;*  
*MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS.*  
*MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE,*  
*MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*  
*MR. MANTER—NAY. MR. LIONETTE—ABSTAINED.*

**2. Summer Bus Requests Update**

Superintendent Smith said this was information only, no votes were needed based on the decision of last year to allow him approval as needed for special requests. He said this was helpful for the community and kept our drivers working throughout the summer.

**a) Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)**

Summer program, 1 route/bus 16 total trips in total: July 8, 2024 to August 16, 2024. Same rates will be charged as of last year.

**b) Island Autism**

Van was needed for school age children, our drivers, our van, our students up to age 22. Monday through Thursday, 6 week program. Starting July 8, 2024.

**c) Martha's Vineyard African American Heritage Trail**

August 6, 7 & 11, 2024 one large bus with our driver. 1 ½ hour tours. We charge them \$379.00/ea.

**3. Update on High School Assistant Principal Search**

Superintendent Smith said they were in the process of adding more to the committee; the application would be open until the position was filled.

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

**1. Discussion and Vote to Approve the School Committee Representative to the School Building Committee - VOTE**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPOINT MICHAEL WATTS AS THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE AND BEKA EL-DEIRY AS THE TISBURY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE & MS. SHERTZER—AYE. MR. WATTS—ABSTAINED.*

**2. Vote to Approve Beka El-Deiry as Tisbury's Representative to the School Building Committee - VOTE**

*Please see above.*

**3. Update on June 12th, 2024 Faculty Visioning Session by Mike Owen, CHA, Inc.**

Samuel Hart said the education visioning session was successful with 80% faculty participation. 35 teachers will participate in the 3 upcoming summer educational workshops that will help inform the educational program to be submitted in August, 2024. Up to 60 members representing all six towns including students, parents, small business owners and community stakeholders would participate in

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

future visioning sessions. Multiple sessions were happening throughout the summer. He thanked all the volunteers that participated/were participating in the process. The upcoming Community Listening Sessions would be held on July 16 and 17, 2024 and were important to participate; they were open to everyone.

**III. Consents:**

**VOTES REQUIRED**

**A. Minutes - February 5, 2024, March 4, 2024:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 & MARCH 4, 2024 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MALIK & MS. SCOTT ABSTAINED.*

**B. Personnel:**

Principal Dingley presented the resignations and explained the commitment to keep Project Vine; Chair Shertzer said she appreciated the commitment to keep the program going.

- ◆ Danielle B. Charbonneau in a letter dated 05/20/24 wrote: Please accept this letter as formal notification that I intend to resign from my position as English teacher and Chair of the Project Vine program at Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, at the close of this school year.
- ◆ Sandy Benjamin in a text dated 5/31/24 wrote: Hi Jen [Russell], I hope you are well and the year was not too stressful. Thank you so much for asking, but I am not planning on returning. I hope the school finds great candidates for next year. My Best, Sandy

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATIONS AS STATED BY PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEY; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**C. Grants and Donations:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A 2009 HONDA CRV; KELLY SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**D. Overnight Travel & Out of State Travel:**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TEACHER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRIP OVER \$1000 AS PRESENTED; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

*UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**E. MVRHS School Committee Meeting Calendar 2024-2025:**

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024/2025 MVRHS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**IV. Finance**

**A. End of Year Transfers**

Suzanne Cioffi screen shared the report for everyone to review; she detailed the transfers for the end of year (EOY). *(Please see document on file for details)* MVRHS EOY 2024 transfer total: \$229,997.55

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. MANTER—NAY.*

**B. Student Activity Account**

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO CREATE A STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR THE TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**C. Revolving Funds**

Ms.Cioffi explained the various funds and how they benefited students.

**D. Mead, Tallerman, Costa Final Invoice**

Ms.Cioffi explained the remaining balance from miscellaneous donations would not cover the outstanding invoice; she recommended using funds from the Rural Aid Grant (RAG) funding to pay the bill in its entirety. A lengthy discussion included:

- ❖ whether the bill should be paid and if the RAG was the appropriate source to pay the bill;
- ❖ to move forward in a positive way and to pay the remainder with this RAG;
- ❖ it was the correct thing to do, to pay the bill;
- ❖ to move forward in a positive, unified way for the MSBA building project.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO PAY THE \$1237.50 FROM RURAL AID GRANT; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MR. LIONETTE—NAY & MR. MANTER—NAY.*

**E. Revenue and Expenditures**

Ms. Cioffi shared the reports and answered Members' questions

**F. FY24 Additional Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Contribution**

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO CONTINUE WHAT WAS DONE LAST YEAR – AT THE CLOSE OF FY24 25% REMAINING FUND BALANCE WILL GO TOWARDS AN ADDITIONAL OPEB CONTRIBUTION; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. SCOTT—ABSTAINED.*

**V. Re-Organizing School Committee for FY 25**

Based on the new Regional Agreement, a ballot vote was needed for Chair and Vice Chair; Ms. Cioffi collected the ballots. The results were as follows:

Skipper Manter, Chair  
Rizwan Malik, Vice Chair

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED MARYLEE SCHROEDER FOR TREASURER AND TERESA KRUSZEWSKI FOR SECRETARY; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**VI. SubCommittee Updates**

**A. Re-Organizing School Committee Subcommittees for FY 25**

Sub-committee's were reviewed and updated to include new Members.

**VII. Old/New Business**

Mark Friedman said insurance rates were increasing; our current agent was researching policies for best rates; his recommendation was to increase the deductible for savings on premiums.

*SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO MAINTAIN THE SAME INSURANCE COVERAGE AND TO NEGOTIATE THE BEST PRICE/REDUCTION FOR THE AUTO POLICY COVERAGE;*

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

***KELLY SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.***

**VIII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements** None.

**IX. Public Comment**

❖ None.

**X. Adjournment**

***SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 8:30 PM; KELLY SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.***

**Appendix A - Documents on File:**

1. Agenda MVRHS SC 6.24.24.docx
2. II. A. 2. DRAFT MVRHS Student Handbook 24\_25.pdf
3. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes February 5, 2024 Meeting (1).pdf
4. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes March 4, 2024 Meeting (1).pdf
5. III. B. Benjamin Letter of intent.jpg
6. III. B. Charbonneau Letter of Intent (2).pdf
7. III. E. MVRHS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR 2024-2025 (1).docx
8. IV. A. End of Year Transfers.pdf
9. IV. B. Student Activities.pdf
10. IV. C. Revolving Funds.pdf
11. IV. E. MVRHS General Fund Expenditures.pdf
12. IV. E. MVRHS General Fund Revenues.pdf
13. Zoom Recording MVRHS SC 6.24.24.docx

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / School Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**



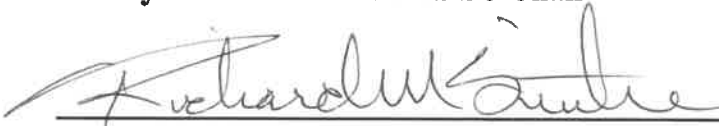
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**Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder**

August 19, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathryn Shertzer – MVRHS SC Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Richard M. Smith, Ed.D. – MVRHSD Superintendent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
8/19/24  
**Date**

***APPROVED AUGUST 19, 2024***