

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)
School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm
Library or Zoom**

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

Staff: Principal – Sara Dingley, Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello, Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira, Director of Guidance & Counseling – John Fiorito, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Facilities Director – Jason O'Donnell, Special Education Teacher – Meghan Houhgton, Athletic Director – Mark McCarthy, Administrator of Special Education – Barbara Bianco, Project Vine Coordinator – Dhakir Warren, Project Vine Teacher – Haley Hewson

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

Others: CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP / CPA, Managing Principal of Industry – Chris Rogers

Towns/County: West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

Press: MV Times – Daniel Greenman, MVTV, 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 5:31 PM by Chair Skipper Manter.
(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

I. Welcome - Chair

Chair Manter welcomed all; he asked Members to be clear with the roll call votes as requested by the minute taker.

II. FY23 Audit Presentation and *Vote* to Accept:

Chris Rogers screen shared his presentation and reviewed the Terms of Engagement, Executive Summary, Financial Highlights, Uniform Guidance Report and Management Letter. *(Please see documents on file for Details: Final MVRHS FY23 Managment Letter.pdf, Final MVRHS FY23 Financial Statments.pdf, Final MVRHS FY23 GAO & UG Report.pdf, 2023 MVRHS Audit exit conference.pptx)*

Members discussed the findings and steps to move forward. Principal Sara Dingley recognized Rick Mello and Spencer D'Agostino for the IT improvements done throughout the building. No vote was taken.

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III. Routine Reports:

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

Principal Dingley introduced the new President and Vice President of the Junior Class. The Class Officers reviewed many topics including the results of Student Government Elections, various club activities, fundraiser goals and meetings. They said the sports teams have begun playing and recapped some game results. Michael Watts told the Officers that the Committee "loved" these presentations and to speak freely.

B. Principal

1. Away for the Day Roll Out

Principal Dingley recapped the steps taken to prepare for opening day. She said the process went well and was now a routine. She said that teachers and staff commented on how this program made students more interactive with each other, that this was not a big deal; it made for a better, cohesive teaching environment; it made a difference in the classroom as there were more interactions, more eye contact. Teachers said they were pleasantly surprised on how this was running; they were proud and pleased for setting this in motion; everyone thanked the Committee for the support. John Fiorito said the students were saying [to the adults] 'Stop talking about this, we're ok. Move on from talking about this.'

2. NEASC Update

Justine DeOliveira screen shared the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) presentation and explained the importance of this process, who was involved in the process and the results as they moved forward through each step. She recapped the timeline for next steps and explained the importance of the upcoming conference.

Members discussed the NEASC process/survey/progress, how those results related to other recent reports/surveys (e.g. Equity Audit) and how the data would be used. Ms. DeOliveira explained that many of these surveys were integrated into this process. *(Please see documents on file for details)*

3. Project Vine Trip Update

Principal Dingley introduced the new Project Vine (PV) staff: Dhakir Warren and Haley Hewson (MVRHS Alumni). Superintendent Richard M. Smith expressed appreciation for the new team and how they were embracing PV; Principal Dingley said she was thrilled with the seamless transition of the new staff.

Mr. Warren and Ms. Hewson presented updates for the department and recapped what had been going on including the recent trip the group took to New Hampshire; Principal Dingley explained some of the activities and fundraisers that would be happening in the future to support the department.

Members discussed the student interest in the program, and that all were not able to participate as the interest was greater than spots available. Principal Dingley explained how the balance was approached and how the program was moving forward with the new staff – she said the balance was important to the program and that it continued to be evaluated.

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C. Superintendent Report

1. All-Island Report Summary

Superintendent Smith recapped the discussions from the October 3, 2024 All Island School Committee Meeting (AISC). *(Please see AISC meeting minutes for details.)* He commented on the 'wins' that were happening at the MVRHS and that they should be celebrated.

IV. Consents:

VOTES REQUIRED

A. Minutes

None.

B. Personnel

1. Dawne Nelson

- ◆ Dawne Nelson in a letter dated 09/08/24 wrote: I am retiring this June 2025 and wanted to inform you of this.

MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LIST OF PERSONNEL AS STATED BY PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEDY; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

2. ESP Request

Suzanne Cioffi said that this was a budget request. Barbara Bianco explained the needs for support in the Compass Program and the challenges of hiring for the open teaching position. She said it was a real struggle nationwide to find Special Education folks. This Education Support Professionals (ESP) position would help with the workload of the department and would fill the immediate need.

ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ALLOW THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT CONVERTING MONEY TO SUPPORT (HIRE) ONE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL FOR ONE YEAR ONLY IN THE COMPASS PROGRAM; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

C. Grants and Donations

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$500.00 GRANT FROM GOOGLE FOR MEGHAN HOUHGTON FOR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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*MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE,
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE &
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

D. Out of State and Overnight Travel

1. Model UN

Model UN Team

November 21 - 24, 2024:

Princeton University Model UN Conference, Parsippany, NJ.

2. Girls Hockey

Girls Club Hockey

January 29, 2025: Portsmouth, RI

ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

E. Purchase of 2020 Bus Coming Off of Lease

Mark Friedman said this had been reviewed during a Transportation Sub-Committee (TransSubCom) meeting and the recommendation was to purchase the (5 year old) bus outright. He said the fair market value was \$35,000.00; \$23,000.00 was budgeted for this purchase. Mr. Friedman explained where the difference would be absorbed within the budget. The bus had been used by the Charter School, which reimbursed the District for use – going forward this would be cost neutral to the District; Members discussed whether this [Charter School use] would be an opportunity for banking money for future purchases.

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE TO BUY OUT THE LEASE, PURCHASE THE 2020 VEHICLE FOR \$35,000.00; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.

F. Lease of 2 New Off Island Buses

Mr. Friedman said a lease would need to be executed before the District could take delivery of the vehicles; he said the leasing documents were before the District Counsel for review.

KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND GIVE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD M. SMITH, ED.D., AUTHORITY TO FINALIZE THE LEASE SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW OF OUR ATTORNEY; MICHAEL WATTS SECONDED.

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MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

*MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE,
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE &
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

G. Creation of Student Activities Account for *First Generation Club*

Ms. Cioffi explained that this was a newly formed club and the reasons to create this account. Members discussed the mission of the club and the benefits to students.

*MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A STUDENT ACTIVITIES
ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRST GENERATION CLUB; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE,
MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE,
MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

V. Finance:

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Suzanne Cioffi recapped the reports for Members (those that were passed out in the room during the meeting) and explained the revenues that would be coming in from each of the towns. Members reviewed both reports and asked questions where appropriate.

B. FY 26 Budget Process

Chair Manter said setting a meeting time was a challenge, but that meetings would begin soon.

VI. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Transportation

Please see the bus purchase discussion above: *Agenda Items IV, E & F.*

B. Facilities

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), said meetings would start soon to discuss budgeting. He said today was a cold day where boilers would begin to fire up and he anticipated challenges with the equipment. Discussion included whether vendor contracts were in place for ongoing maintenance and the benefits for doing so.

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C. Athletics

Robert Lionette, Chair of the Athletics Sub-Committee (AthSubCom), said that student participation rates were very high. Topics that were presented, but would not be voted on during this meeting because they were not part of the Agenda included:

- ❖ The need/importance of waivers
- ❖ Arbiter Pay Sports Platform
- ❖ Salary review of coaches
- ❖ Buses to Fenway Park for the Island Cup

Members expressed frustration over the inability to vote, as these items needed to move forward in a timely manner. A lengthy discussion ensued over the process, what the Sub-Committee role was and the best way to get items onto the Agenda for a vote; to find efficiencies and streamline processes.

Principal Dingley offered a way to consolidate and improve communication among the Sub-Committee Chairs for pre-Agenda Meetings and would work with Noelle Warburton, Administrative Assistant to the Principal.

Members discussed holding a special meeting to vote on items discussed; Friday, October 11, 2024 at 8:00 AM was agreed upon.

VII. Release of Opinion Letter Regarding Handbook Language and Discussion:

Members said the Attorney letter for the use of the language (shall versus may) should not have even been done – it wasted time and money to create an official opinion. Members stated it was not the content of what was written, but that it was setting a precedent and that was the issue against releasing the letter.

Members discussed how this would impact the future, setting a precedent on how this Committee would work in the future; a vote was not taken.

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

IX. Public Comment:

- ❖ None.

X. Adjournment:

*KELLY SCOTT MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:45 PM;
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS,
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE,
MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE,
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

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Appendix A - Documents on File:

1. Agenda MVRHS SC 10.7.24.docx
2. School Committee Update_ NEASC 10.7.24.pdf
3. MVRHS SC Zoom 10.7.24.docx
4. RESOLUTION GOVERNMENTAL LEASE-PURCHASE AGR^MENT NO. 003.pdf
5. Lease Huntington National Bank - 2 Off Island Buses - 10-07-2024.pdf
6. II. 2023 MVRHS Audit exit conference.pptx
7. II. Final MVRHS FY23 GAO & UG Report.pdf
8. II. Final MVRHS FY23 Managment Letter.pdf
9. II. Final MVRHS FY23 Financial Statments.pdf
10. IV. D. Princeton Out of State Travel form.docx.pdf
11. IV. D. Girls hockey club team.pdf
12. IV. B. Dawne Nelson Letter.docx
13. V. A. MVRHS Expenditures.pdf
14. V. A. MVRHS Revenues.pdf

Respectfully submitted,



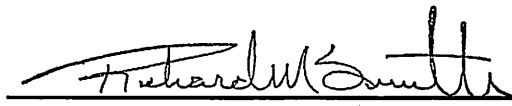
Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

JANUARY 6, 2025
Date



Skipper Manter – MVRHS SC Chair

Date



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

1/7/25
Date

APPROVED JANUARY 6, 2025