

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, September 9, 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:* Sarah Murphy

**Staff:** Principal – Sara Dingley, Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira, Computer Technology/Drivers Ed Teacher – Chris Connors, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Facilities Director – Jason O'Donnell

**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 Gilfooy, 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 5:42 PM by Chair Skipper Manter.

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

**I. Welcome - Chair**

Chair Manter welcomed all.

**II. Routine Reports:**

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

Principal Sara Dingley said the students were selected and would be at the next meeting with a report.

**B. Principal**

**1. General Update**

Principal Dingley said it was a smooth opening. The big change was with the rollout of the 'Away for the Day' program which so far had been running smoothly a week into the school year. Over time, this would be documented and shared with the community.

Members discussed the rules that were in place for 'Away for the Day', the amount of time staff was taking with this program and how communication was important for this culture change.

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**2. NEASC Update**

Principal Dingley screen shared the presentation for the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and explained the strategic objectives and strategic goals that were set and steps taken to date; she said the organizational structure/chart would be placed in the Committee file folder to be on hand for future reference.

Justine DeOliveira presented a recap for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and screen shared the slide show which included the standards for accreditation and associated timeline. *(Please see document on file for details)*

**III. Consents:**

***VOTES REQUIRED***

**A. Minutes**

None.

**B. Personnel**

- ◆ Jack O'Malley on behalf of Fran Finnegan in a letter dated 8/22/24 wrote: It is with much regret that I inform you that Fran Finnegan will not be renewing her contract. On 8/8/24 Fran Finnegan informed me that she would not be signing her contract for FY25. She will not be returning to work this school year. I asked if she would tender a resignation letter; she asked if I would on her behalf. I thanked her for her years of service and wished her much love going forward.
- ◆ Tabitha Clark in a letter dated 07/16/24 wrote: I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from my position as Special Education Teacher at MVRHS.
- ◆ Maureen FitzGerald in a letter dated 08/23/24 wrote: M. (Marlucia) Boulet was in a car accident and will not be starting on 8/30 - she stated she cannot start for 2-3 weeks.

***RIZWAN MALIK MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LIST OF PERSONNEL AS STATED BY PRINCIPAL SARA DINGLEDY; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.***

**C. Grants and Donations**

None.

**D. Out of State and Overnight Travel**

***Boy's Varsity Ice Hockey***

***December 28 - 30, 2024: University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.  
January 11, 2025: University of Lowell, Nashua, NH.***

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Project Vine September 25 - 27, 2024: Camp Hale, Sandwich, NH.

Boys and Girls Cross Country September 28, 2024: Goddard State Park, East Greenwich, RI.

The High School View May 1 & 2, 2025: Boston University, Boston, MA.

Corinne Kurtz & Rachel Schubert February 7 & April 11, 2025: Providence, RI (Trinity Rep Theatre)

Corinne Kurtz & Tiffany Shoquist TBD (Nov/Dec 2024): Providence, RI (RISD Museum)

**ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.**

**E. Teacher Professional Development**

William Seaborne November 7 - 9, 2024: Build Show Live conference in Austin, TX.  
The total cost of the trip will be \$1818.00.

Justine DeOliveira. Spencer D'Agostino. Jessica Russell. Bill Brown. Sara Dingley  
November 20 - 22, 2024: NEASC Leadership Conference, Boston, MA  
The total cost of the trip will be over \$1000.00.

**KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.**

**F. Surplus of Wrestling Mats**

**MICHAEL WATTS MOVED TO SURPLUS WRESTLING MATS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.**

**G. MSBA Vote - Jason O'Donnell to Replace Mike Taus**

**ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPOINT JASON O'DONNELL TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED**

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*UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE,  
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE,  
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**H. Drivers Ed Discussion & Possible Vote Fee Structure for Program**

Principal Dingley recapped and screen shared the presentation. Members had a lengthy discussion about charging students, listing many of the pro's and con's of doing so.

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO CHARGE \$700.00 PER STUDENT FOR DRIVERS  
EDUCATION; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 3 NAYS,  
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE &  
MR. WATTS—AYE.*

*MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. MURPHY—NAY & MS. SHERTZER—NAY.*

**I. 8th Grade Waiver Request for Dance & Cheer**

Members discussed the level of student interest and logistics to move this forward, including involvement with the Athletic Director for safe sport training of the coaches; Principal Dingley said she would respond to this request by email for Members.

*RIZWAN MALIK MOVED TO APPROVE THE 8TH GRADE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE  
DANCE AND CHEER PROGRAMS PREDICATED ON STAFF ACCEPTING ALL SAFE  
SPORT PROTOCOLS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED  
UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE,  
MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE,  
MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**IV. Finance:**

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne Cioffi said a full report would be ready for the October meeting.

Chair Manter asked Members for feedback on how to receive the information from the audit, including a presentation from the auditor - it was agreed to have this as an agenda for the next meeting.

**B. FY 25 Budget Process**

Nothing new to report.

**~~C. Mass Teachers Retirement System - Prior Years Balance~~**

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**V. Subcommittee Updates:**

**A. Transportation**

Nothing new to report.

**B. Facilities**

Michael Watts, Chair of the Facilities Sub-Committee (FacSubCom), said he needed to set a meeting with the new Facilities Director.

**C. Athletics**

Nothing new to report.

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

Kathryn Shertzer recommended expanding email communication of new hires, etc., with students, community members and so forth.

**VII. Old/New Business:**

**VIII. Public Comment:**

❖ None.

**IX. Adjournment:**

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 6:37 PM;  
ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS,  
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE,  
MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**Appendix A - Documents on File:**

1. Agenda MVRHS SC 9.9.24.docx
2. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 3, 2024 Meeting.pdf
3. III. A. DRAFT MVRHS SC Minutes June 24, 2024 Meeting.pdf

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4. III. B. Fran Letter.pdf
5. III. B. M Boulet Letter of Intent.docx
6. III. B. Tabitha Clark Letter of Intent.docx
7. III. C. MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 08 xx 2024 mvalp.doc
8. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Boys Hockey 2.pdf
9. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Boys Hockey.pdf
10. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Project Vine Travel Request.pdf
11. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel XC RI.pdf
12. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel HSV\_Overnight Travel - May 2025.docx.pdf
13. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Kurtz 2\_7 Trinity Rep.docx.pdf
14. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Kurtz 4\_11 Trinity Rep.docx.pdf
15. III. D. Out of State Overnight Travel Kurtz RISD trip.docx.pdf
16. III. E. NEASC Conference \_ November 20-22, 2024.docx
17. III. E. Seabourne Professional Development.docx

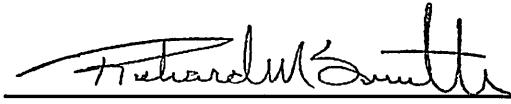
Respectfully submitted,

  
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**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**