

**ALL-ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Edgartown School Committee
Oak Bluffs School Committee
Tisbury School Committee
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee
Up-Island Regional School Committee
Thursday, March 12, 2009 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Library Conference Room**

Present:

Up-Island	Chair - Dan Cabot, Roxanne Ackerman, Skip Manter, Susan Parker, Marshall Segall
Edgartown	David Rossi, Les Baynes, Susan Mercier,
Oak Bluffs	Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia
Tisbury	Bob Tankard, Maura Valley,
Others:	Special Education Consultant – Mark Palmieri
Supt. Of.	Supt. Jim Weiss Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instr. – Laurie Halt Dir. Student Support Services – Dan Seklecki
Shared Prog.	Autism Consultant – Hope McCloud Bridge Program Teachers – Susan Gunnels Denise Searle,
Principals	West Tisbury – Michael Halt,
Press:	Tom Mayhew - MVTV Janet Hefler - MV Times Sam Bungey - Vineyard Gazette
Recorder	Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda Item # I)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2009 (Agenda Item # II)

MS. SUSAN MERCIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2009 MINUTES; MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MR. ROBERT TANKARD due to absence.

Update on Project Headway/Bridge Programs (Agenda Item # III)

– Dan Seklecki, Mark Palmieri and Program Staff. (See documents on file.)

After its approval by the School Committees and Towns, the Bridge Program was now nestled graciously into the kindergarten wing of the Edgartown School and Student Support Director Dan Seklecki thanked the school, staff, students and Principal John Stevens. The Bridge Program staff were commended as a strong team, and Ms. Susan Gunnell was singled out for taking over when Lead Teacher Kerri Branca left on maternity leave. The staffing shift posed a challenge for the new program especially as Autism Consultant Hope McCloud was also out on maternity leave.

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Special Education Consultant Mark Palmieri spoke extensively of his work with the program in terms of scientific observation, data collections and tracking week to week to craft individualized 'wrap around' teaching styles for each student. The program involved extensive record keeping by staff but had resulted in impressive gains by students as learning styles were identified and implemented for each individual. For example, children exhibiting disruptive behavior, unable to care for themselves and previously without language were beginning to talk, dress themselves and were able to participate in small groups. Other services that were part of the Bridge team included such things as: speech, occupational and physical therapists.

- Some of teaching services were carried into the student's home environment to transfer learning and reinforce progress.
- Regular classroom teachers were welcoming of students as well as readily participating in cross training.
- It was hoped/expected that some students could eventually move into the standard curriculum/school environment with some special support. However other students were likely to need some continuation of the Bridge Program through the upper grades.
- Mr. Palmieri praised the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) for starting with very young children which greatly increased the program's benefits.
- This Program allowed the students to remain in the home and Island environment. Families having children with severe special needs were often in great stress including economic stress. Island pediatricians, and MV Community Services provided some services however the MVPS was now in the lead in pioneering care. Service for the students after the age of 21 were very sparse.
- The Cape Cod Collaborative program was noted for its strong stable teaching teams.
- The All Island School Committee (AISC) thanked Mr. Palmieri and the Bridge Program staff and administration.

Policies (*In Individual Committees*) (Agenda Item # VI)

A. 2nd Reading – Staff Conduct Policy (See documents on file.)

The amendments requested at the first reading were briefly reviewed. The AISC raised additional issues.

- The Policy had been vetted by the Teachers Advisory Board.
- A technical language change was requested.
- The guideline on driving students in staff cars was discussed in terms of getting parental and/or administrative consent each time.

B. 2nd Reading – Student Conduct Policy (See documents on file.)

There was no further comment.

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C. 1st Reading – Parental Visitation Policy for Special Education

(See documents on file.)

The Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had recently required this policy insuring a parent's ability to view any special education program.

- Two language changes were requested to make the policy more welcoming.
- The AISC recessed at 8:03PM to allow the local school committees to vote. It reconvened at 8:07PM.

Other Business (Agenda Item # IV)

The Personnel Subcommittee met and discussed two items.

The Superintendent's annual evaluation would be sent out by email with a return deadline of April 10th. It was emphasized that the most helpful part of the evaluation was the written comments.

As Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) was the final year of the current collective bargaining contracts the AISC discussed preliminary issues.

• Negotiations Committee –

Ms. Ackerman – Aquinnah,

Mr. Manter – West Tisbury,

Ms. Mercier – Edgartown,

Mr. Tankard – Tisbury,

Oak Bluffs - to be announced.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO INVITE THE TOWN BOARDS OF SELECTMEN OF EDGARTOWN, OAK BLUFFS, TISBURY AND THE UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO APPOINT ONE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE EACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

- There was a brief discussion on legal counsel protocol.

• The next AISC Meeting was scheduled for 7:00PM Thursday, May 7, 2009 at the MV Regional High School.

• *MS. SUSAN PARKER MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT TO RETURN AT 8:23PM UNDER MASS. GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 39 SECTION 23 B 3 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS; MR. SKIP MANTER SECONDED; MR. ROBERT TANKARD AYE, MR. LES BAYNES AYE, MR. MARSHALL SEGALL AYE, MS. MAURA VALLEY AYE, MS. SUSAN PARKER AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN AYE, MR. DAN CABOT AYE, MR. SKIP MANTER AYE, MS. SUSAN MERCIER AYE, MR. DAVID ROSSI AYE MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA AYE, MS. LISA REAGAN AYE.*

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Adjournment

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:51PM; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MR. TANKARD AYE, MR. BAYNES AYE, MR. SEGALL AYE, MS. VALLEY AYE, MS. PARKER AYE, MS. ACKERMAN AYE, MR. CABOT AYE, MR. MANTER AYE, MS. MERCIER AYE, MR. ROSSI AYE MS. SYLVIA AYE, MS. REAGAN AYE.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/12/09
- Sign In Sheet 3/12/09
- MVPS What is the Bridge Program
- Information about Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (2 p.)
- Cover Rousseau Email re: Agenda 3.12.2009 & Policies 3/5/09
 - MVPS Staff Conduct 1/8/09
 - MVPS School Staff Ethics Protocol (2 p.)
 - MVPS Student Conduct (2 p.)
 - Parental Visitation Policy – Special Education
 - Special Education Technical Assistance Advisory SPED 2009-2 (6 p.) 1/8/09

Minutes Approved as Written May 7, 2009