

**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
Monday, January 30, 2008 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Culinary Arts Dining Room**

Present: Edgartown	Chair – David Rossi, Les Baynes, Susan Mercier
Up-Island	Roxanne Ackerman, Dan Cabot, Susan Parker, Marshall Segall
Oak Bluffs	Lisa Regan, Judi O'Donoghue,
Tisbury	John Bacheller, Maura Valley, Diamond Vanderhoop
Others	Supt. Jim Weiss, Asst. Supt. Laurie Halt, Business Affairs Amy Tierney
Supt. Of.	Student Support: Dan Seklecki, WTS Prin. Michael Halt
Admin.	
Recorder	Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda Item # I)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Minutes of June 6, 2007 & November 8, 2007 Read and Approved

MR. BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2007 AND NOVEMBER 8, 2007 MINUTES; MS. O'DONOGHUE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

Reconsideration of Superintendent's Shared Services Budget for FY09

The Facilities Manager Position had been removed from all district budgets.

- *MR. CABOT MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES FY09 BUDGET AS VOTED; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. CABOT MOVED TO RESCIND THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES FY09 BUDGET AS VOTED; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO SUPPORT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED SERVICES FY09 BUDGET AS PROPOSED AT \$3,410,189.66; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Thanksgiving Attendance (Agenda Item # IV)

As requested (see 11/5/05 Minutes p.2-3 #III) Supt. Weiss reported on the efficacy of closing schools the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. In Academic Year 2006-2007 (AY06-07) attendance was excellent for the Monday and Tuesday of that week; for AY07-08 attendance was still good although there was a slight drop (see documents in file). The policy would be continued for the next two years as voted.

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Tisbury – Professional Enhancement Fund Resolution

The dispute with Tisbury over the Professional Enhancement Fund had never been satisfactorily resolved (see 11/12/03 Minutes p.2 and 3/29/04 Minutes p.3 #IV.A). A recent meeting between the Supt. Office, Tisbury Selectmen and Tisbury School Committee members produced a Memorandum of Understanding (see documents on file). Parties agreed to close the past and move forward, setting time tables for the annual return of funds.

• MR. BAYNES MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 AS OUTLINED IN TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMO TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ON THE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT FUND; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Two more proposed points were discussed.

- There was a request to consider an alternate method of calculating contributions.
- There was a general agreement that the assessment was adequate as practiced and that further micro-adjustments, adding yet another formula to an already complex financial arrangement, would not be worth the time or effort.
- It was proposed that the annual refunds be restricted to those towns who had not exceeded their contribution, e.g. if the Up Island Regional Schools (UIRSD) had a teacher on sabbatical which exceeded its share of the fund, when that year's excess was refunded the UIRSD would be excluded.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO AGREE TO THE SECOND BULLET OF THE TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEMO TO THE SUPERINTENDENT ON THE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT FUND.
- In all cases the use of the fund was at the discretion of the Supt. Of. which currently distributed moneys on a first come first serve basis.

• MR. BAYNES MOVED TO GRANT JEN DESELM-ROYAL A CHILD BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO APRIL 17, 2008; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Superintendent's Update – Goals, Strategic Planning, Supt.'s Office move

Supt. Weiss asked his staff to update the AISC on their work in a "State of the Union Office" exercise.

Asst. Superintendent Laurie Halt gave a PowerPoint® presentation on her work (see documents on file).

- Teachers had agreed to form and All Island Curriculum Committee (AICC) which would meet monthly.
- A quantum leap had been achieved in establishing a collaborative Islandwide curriculum in 8th grade math – a faster than expected response to the Honors Math Initiative (see 10/4/06 Minutes p.3). Local and MV Regional High School (MVRHS) tracks would be coordinated accordingly.

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- Additionally history curriculum had been adjusted to fit the MCAS frame work and coordinated between all schools including the MVRHS. There was also agreement on common assessment tools and common primary source texts.
- It was recommended that goals be set to encourage participation, however as the teachers were working collaboratively and wish to familiarize themselves with the changes before setting targets.
- Induction for new teachers was being successfully implemented with workshops and intense . mentoring
- Professional Development was also proceeding well with Masters candidates, writing committees, book clubs, etc.
- The feedback on the recent Islandwide professional development day was excellent.
- Other innovations included a monthly newsletter, website update, and new kindergarten and 1st grade blogs.
- The AISC expressed their appreciation and thanked Ms. Halt for her presentation.

Student Support Director Dan Seklecki then presented his PowerPoint® on Early Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLBS) (see documents on file).

- The usual work with individual students in their schools continued but there were some new trends.
- There continued to be an increase in heavily challenged special needs children which were being and would be served by the second Project Headway class and the new primary grade Special Education (SpEd) class.
- The Department continued to look aggressively for grants and tools as State and Federal regulations tightened and available funds decreased.
- One such tool was the ABLBS which relied on dissecting behavior and learning into very precise data to pinpoint the nature of any problem. This required intensive, comprehensive and most of all consistent information collection.
- The new theory was not to wait until children failed but rather to avert more complicated ingrained conditions (which might be classified as SpEd needs) by early response to problems as they occurred. For example a simple problem of insufficient instruction might be differentiated and addressed before it was compounded over the years into a learning disability.
- A multi-year process of: universal screening, intervention and monitoring would produce periodic snapshots of student skills with this common tool.
- Tier I collected data on a whole class in user-friendly manner, watching progressing and lagging students. Teachers would meet periodically on interventions.
- Tier II involved small group remediation using regular staff (with increased training) for students who continued to learn at a lower rate. Teams would craft the remediation and determine if SpEd was indicated.

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- Tier III increased the remediation of students not responding to Tier II and would now have the data necessary to apply for SpEd status.
- At the moment most of the local schools had different approaches, such as the Learning Attuned Program at the Oak Bluffs School. Teacher training and coordination were paramount to progress and might be frustrating as implementation began.
- The AISC discussed whether children exited SpEd programs or were more likely to remain for the rest of their school days. Issues of post secondary education, integration, peer ostracism and peer mentoring were discussed.
- The Committee thanked Mr. Seklecki for his presentation.

Business Administrator Amy Tierney gave a brief overview of the financial duties and status of the office.

- The largest project was always 6 budgets (5 schools and the Supt. Shared Services Office) to which was now added the transportation budget. This process took longer each year and she was now going around to all town Finance Committees and/or Boards of Selectmen to speak on each FY09 budget. In addition the regional districts now required estimates of two different assessment tools.
- Other projects included:
 - Not only the annual financial audit but also such audits as a school meal services audit, a School Building Assistance audit, Excess, and Deficiency (E & D) certification.
 - Bids and Requests for Proposals (RFP) for building, repair and maintenance projects,
 - Bond statements, enrollment, ratings and audits.
 - Employee Information Management as to numbers, qualifications, certification in subject teaching, education history, etc.
- Due to the second Project Headway classroom the Shared Services Supt. Office budget showed some substantial deficits and had only \$10,000 left for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- The AISC discussed the situation and suggested various solutions such as Circuit Breaker funds and or returning to the AISC.

Supt. Weiss emphasized that the current system was very inefficient since everything was done six different ways to accommodate six different districts with different practices and different software. He understood the Island emphasis on local controls but noted this year the Office was tapped out and working as hard as it could.

The final drafts of the Strategic Plan (see documents on file) included the significantly revised Education plan. The AISC was asked to review them keeping in mind commitment and implementation.

- The Education Committee had recommended another Committee/plan on public relations.

Old/New/Other Business (Agenda Item # VII)

- The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:00PM at the MVRHS.

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- Mr. Bacheller informed the AISC that Tisbury had requested that the MVRHSD wastewater bond issue be revisited in order to allow towns to vote on the issue at their Annual Town Meetings instead of having to call Special Town Meetings.
- There would be a meeting of the MVRHSC Budget Subcommittee at 6:00PM before the MVRHSC meeting at 7:00PM, Monday, February 4th.

Adjournment

CHAIR ROSSI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:16PM; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Documents on File:

Agenda 1/30/08

Supt. Of. Shared Services Budget for FY09 (2 p.)

Supt. Memo to MV Finance Assoc. re: Changes to the Superintendent's Office Budget (4 p.) 10/9/07

MVPS Supt. Shared Services Budget (6 p.) 1/3/08

Supt. Shared Services Budget FY09 Proposed Budget Listed by School District (3 p.)

Thanksgiving Attendance Schedule (2 p.)

Town of Tisbury letter re: Professional Enhancement Fund MOU 12/5/07

Suggested Supt.'s Annual Goals for 2007-2008 7/18/07

MV Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction *Power Point Presentation* (18 p.)

MV Public Schools Preschool Planning and Staff *Power Point Presentation* (18 p.)

Strategic Planning Education (4 p. inc. cover)

Strategic Planning Collaborative and Cooperative Issues (3 p. inc. cover)

Strategic Planning Facilities and Capital Purchases (12 p. inc. cover)

Strategic Planning Financial Issues Committee (5 p. inc. cover)

MVRHSD Supt. Office/Shared Program Expense Report (4 p.) 1/23/08

Minutes Approved as Written March 5, 2008