

**ALL-ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2008 7:30PM**

**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Library Conference Room**

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|--------------------|---|
| Present: Edgartown | Chair – David Rossi, Les Baynes, Susan Mercier  |
| Up-Island          | Roxanne Ackerman, Dan Cabot, Skip Manter,<br>Susan Parker, Marshall Segall                                    |
| Oak Bluffs         | Lisa Regan, Priscilla Sylvia,   |
| Tisbury            | Bob Tankard, Maura Valley,  |
| Others             |   |
| Supt. Of.          | Supt. Jim Weiss, Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,<br>Asst. Supt. - Laurie Halt, Student Support - Dan Seklecki |
| Recorder           | Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures   |

**Call to Order** (Agenda Item # I)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

**Minutes of January 30, 2008 Read and Approved** (Agenda Item # II)

*MS. SUSAN PARKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 30, 2008 MINUTES; MS. SUSAN MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS: MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA, MR. SKIP MANTER* due to absence.

**Strategic Planning Discussion** – *Please review the Strategic Planning documents that were distributed in January or call Edith if you need a new copy.* (Agenda Item III)

Each section was reviewed briefly and discussed (see all documents on file).

**Education**

• As a minority opinion in the Subcommittee Mr. Dan Cabot noted that in the first goal item B. could be interpreted to mean overly strict regimentation of curriculum. The All Island School Committee (AISC) debated the issues:

- the advantages of differences among student knowledge,
- the mobility of the student population,
- the need not to eliminate repeated curriculums during a change of schools,
- superstar teachers working in isolation, and
- the realities of a test driven curriculum.

*Mr. Marshall Segall proposed the following amendment to Goal #1 B.: Align a rigorous curriculum, and strengthen delivery of instruction and assessment for continuous improvement of student achievement while encouraging continuous efforts at curricular innovation by individual creative teachers.*

• The AISC also commended and emphasized the importance of a positive staff environment / culture and teamwork as well as the idea of community service for students of all ages.

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Facilities and Capital Purchases.

- This section raised again the matter of a facilities manager. Discussion points included:
  - the need for a drop or shift in school administrative staff currently performing some of these duties including facility management in current job descriptions,
  - the lack of engineering expertise necessary for modern buildings – administrators being experts in education and custodians being experts in cleaning,
  - Town versus school district maintenance of school facilities,
  - whether schools were being pro-actively or re-actively maintained.
- The Superintendent's Office was continuing to look for a new home (see 1/14/08 MVRHSC Minutes p.4 #VII A.) It was suggested that space be found in the local school buildings and although this might come to pass it was likely to fragment the office and reduce efficiency.

Finances Issues.

- Supt. Weiss emphasized the inefficiency of having to do everything five times in five different ways. The AISC noted:
  - the current economic pressure forcing collaboration among towns,
  - cost saving measures in such things as purchasing and centralizing specialized staff and resources (such as the new Special Education (SpEd) Program),
  - the impossibility of demanding efficiency while blocking measures to promote it.
  - the importance of clarifying and publicizing what the Superintendent's Office does.

Collaborative and Cooperative Issues.

- In actuality this was a 5 year plan to achieve a unified school district. However, Supt. Weiss stressed that the disputes arising from the imposition of the Mass. State Statutory Assessment formula had been a serious set back on this goal.

• *MR. BOB TANKARD MOVED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE ALL FOUR STRATEGIC PLANS:*

- *EDUCATION AS AMENDED,*
- *FINANCIAL ISSUES,*
- *FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PURCHASES,*
- *COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE ISSUES;*

*MR. LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- It was expected that there would be regular monthly reports on implementation and revisiting the plan which would proceed as time and forces allowed.

**Discussion of Joint SAC – School Committee Meeting** (Agenda Item # VI)

The joint workshop was set for Saturday morning, April 5<sup>th</sup> with an agenda including:

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- a refresher by Glenn Koocher of the Mass. Association of School Committees (MASC).
- joint discussion of the Strategic Plan, and
- the importance of the upcoming town meetings.

**Personnel** (Agenda Item # IV)

**A. Leave Request.**

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR KERRY LONG FROM HER PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION WITH PROJECT HEADWAY; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PART-TIME STRINGS TEACHER NANCY HAWKSBY; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 12 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Other Business** (Agenda Item #V)

In answer to a question from Ms. Parker Supt. Weiss expected the Supt. Of. to end the year without a deficit. Supplies were very tight and some SpEd expenses were shifted to the local school Circuit Breaker funds (see 1/30/08 Minutes p.4). There was a brief exploration of the mechanism (if any) to fund a Supt. Of. deficit.

Superintendent Evaluations were distributed (see documents on file) and were due on Edith Rousseau's desk (either electronically or by hard copy) by April 1st.

- All AISC evaluations must be signed – cabinet members could submit anonymous evaluations.

Chair David Rossi thanked Mr. John Bacheller for his service as he would end his term on the Tisbury School Committee.

- The AISC would not meet again until after the election at which time the Committee would reorganize. Members were asked to consider a new chair.

**Adjournment**

CHAIR ROSSI MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:00PM; MR. TANKARD SECONDED:  
MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

**Documents on File:**

Agenda 3/5/08

Strategic Planning Education (4 p. inc. cover)

Strategic Planning Facilities and Capital Purchases (10 p. inc. cover)

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

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

Superintendent Evaluation (8 p. inc. cover) 11/8//07 *with Cover Note*

**Minutes Approved as Written May 14, 2008**