

**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
Wednesday, May 14, 2008 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Cafeteria**

Present: Tisbury Acting Chair Bob Tankard, Rebecca Duart-Cass, Maura Valley,
Edgartown Susan Mercier,
Up-Island Roxanne Ackerman, Dan Cabot,
Skip Manter, Susan Parker Marshall Segall
Oak Bluffs Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia

Others

Shared Prog. Of. Supt. Jim Weiss, Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Dir. Student Support Services – Dan Seklecki

Principals Oak Bluffs –Carlin Hart
Tisbury – Richard Smith
West Tisbury – Michael Halt,

Press: Tom Mayhew - MVTV

Recorder Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda Item # I)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM. Acting Chair Bob Tankard welcomed the new member of the Tisbury School Committee, Ms. Rebecca Duart/Cass.

Minutes of March 6, 2006 Read and Approved (Agenda Item # II)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 5, 2008 MINUTES; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSTENTIONS –MS. CASS, MR. MANTER, MR. TANKARD due to absence.

Update on ELL Training and Teacher Evaluation (Prof. Growth System)

(Agenda Item # III) (See documents on file.)

Supt. Weiss reviewed progress in staff English Language Learners (ELL) training. With the use of in-service days an impressive percent of teachers had taken one or more of the four levels with the goal of having all staff complete all four levels. Supt. Weiss commended Debbie Hart and her staff for their hard work.

As student population dropped and staff was vulnerable to Reductions In Force (RIF) lay offs, professional growth and evaluation had become increasingly important. A Cabinet group had written a proposal for staff evaluations with rigorous, detailed and cross checked narrative assessments, portfolios, and mentoring for all Island educational personnel from newcomers to veterans. The system was cutting edge and would cost about \$375,000 – hopefully grant funded. The proposal had been positively received by the Teachers Association, and was part of the Superintendent's goal to attract and maintain excellent teachers.

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Personnel Sub-Committee Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Evaluation of Superintendent (See documents on file)

Supt. Weiss received an extraordinarily good evaluation, with 95% positive comments, some minority opinions mostly around school committees, some no response/ did not know. Regional tensions both with the High School and the Up-Island districts were sited, as was Supt. Office tension. Supt. Weiss himself, felt he could do more to work with the School Advisory Councils and to recruit new staff. Supt. Weiss thanked all the people he worked with, without whom such progress would not have been possible. Chair Bob Tankard spoke to equally good opinions among the wider community and the All Island School Committee (AISC) gave him a round of applause.

Ratification of Memorandums of Understanding (Agenda Item # V)

Contract negotiations mandated two committees who have now finished their work. The Teachers Association had voted overwhelmingly to accept both proposals.

A. Reductions in Force (RIF) (See documents on file.)

Ms. Parker and Ms. Mercier were commended for their hard work in crafting this proposal which modernized the language and allowed management to consider competency and professional status when reducing staff (see above: Professional Growth Evaluations). Later in this discussion the AISC expressed some concerns over personality issues versus fair evaluations, however it was noted that evaluations were compiled by multiple people so that no one was the sole decision maker. The Subcommittee members stressed that the language should include the shift to the new evaluation system – which was currently understood – and this would be conveyed in the cover correspondence of the approved Memorandum. (Ms. Mercier noted that this was the hardest and most rewarding work she had done as a School Committee member.)

B. Appendix “A” (See documents on file.)

High School Prin. Peg Regan chaired the committee on revising stipends taking into account, number of students supervised, amount of time committed, safety issues, number of trips and amount of responsibility, etc. Coaches were separated out as severely underpaid. Figures were set by taking a median of other comparable regional school districts. The AISC debated funding levels and whether to allow an automatic small step increase per year.

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF MEMORANDUM COVERING BOTH APPENDIX A AND REDUCTION IN FORCE AGREEMENTS; MS. SYLVIA AND MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 10 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION - MS. CASS who recused herself from the discussion and vote due to conflict of interest.*

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Other Business (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Reorganization

Chair David Rossi had agreed to continue but felt the floor should be opened to other candidates. Mr. Tankard would not run again.

• *MS. PARKER NOMINATED MR. CABOT FOR CHAIR; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MR. CABOT ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.* However he advised that more experienced members would be more appropriate and noted his membership on the Charter School Board.

- *MR. TANKARD NOMINATED MS. ACKERMAN FOR VICE CHAIR; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MS. ACKERMAN ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.*

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS; MR. MANTER SECONDED.*

- *MOTION TO ELECT MR. CABOT CHAIR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- *MOTION TO ELECT MS. ACKERMAN VICE CHAIR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

The AISC thanked the outgoing team Mr. Rossi and Mr. Tankard for a job well done. There was a round of applause.

B. Date of Next Meeting

• Graduation Days all over the Island were scheduled from June 8th through June 13th.

• The AISC would set goals for the upcoming year and reorganize the Personnel Subcommittee at its next meeting June 23, 2008 at 8:00PM – after the High School meeting.

Adjournment

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:14PM; MR. CABOT AND MR. SEGALL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 11 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Documents on File:

Agenda 5/14/08

MVPS Professional Growth System (2 p.) 5/14/08

MV AISC Evaluation of Dr. James Weiss, April 2008 (2 p.)

Article XXX Reduction In Force (5 p.)

Memorandum of Understanding (4 p.)

Minutes Approved as Amended June 23, 2008