

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, January 5, 2009, 7:00PM**  
**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School**  
**Library Conference Room**

Present: Chair – Susan Mercier, Roxanne Ackerman  
Susan Parker, Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia,  
Maura Valley, Robert Tankard  
Student representatives: Erik Dolliver, Olivia Gross

Others:  
Staff: Principal – Stephen Nixon  
Assist. Prin., - Neal Weaver, Carlin Hart  
World Lang. Dept. – Keri O’Keefe, Justine DeOliveirt  
Stephanie Pavao, Jim Powell, Cindy West,

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss  
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt,  
Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,  
Student Support - Dan Seklecki

Other schools: WTS Prin. Michael Halt

Press: Janet Hefler - MV Times  
Tom Mayhew - MVTV

Secretary: Marni Lipke

\*Late arrivals, or  
Early departures (see \* in text)

The meeting was called to order 7:04PM.

**Minutes** (Agenda Item # I)

• *MR. BOB TANKARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2008 MINUTES; MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Student Report** (Agenda Item # II)

- In sports the Girls Hockey team was not having a good season and had yet to win a game.
- The Girls Basketball team was at 5 losses to 1 win.
- Boys Hockey was 1 and 1 and just went away for a tournament.
- Boys Basketball was 3 and 4.
- The Peer Outreach students were chosen and trained before the holiday break. This program recruited and trained trusted students to help others by providing peer counseling and support (see 11/6/06 Minutes p.4 #VI).
- Similarly the student leadership Race/Culture Retreat on January 13 and 14 would address issues of discrimination, equality and respect with workshops and exercises.
- The Minnesinger holiday concert at the Whaling Church was a great success.

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- The annual Alumnae Assembly would be January 8th giving MVRHS alumnae and current students a chance to talk about the transitions to colleges and jobs.
- Students were looking forward to the next four day break but were also nervous about imminent mid-term exams.
- The Martha's Vineyard High School Committee (MVRHSC) thanked the Student Representatives for their great report.

**Department Report** (Agenda Item # III)

**A. World Language Department** (See documents in file.)

Chair Keri O'Keefe introduced the staff and showed a student video of various world language activities including:

- Classes,
- Scope and sequence,
- Language lab and Rosetta Stone™ practice,
- Student projects and Smartboard™ presentations.

The High School offered Spanish, French, German and Portuguese with Spanish drawing the most students (some students took two languages). The classes included culture, history and politics along with language and literature. A placement exam for incoming students was proving successful in assigning students to appropriate language levels. Thanks were exchanged.

**Financial Report** (Agenda Item # V)

**A. Donations** (See documents on file.)

**1. Bob Woodruff: Small Farm Journal Subscription**

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE MR. BOB WOODRUFF'S DONATION OF SMALL FARM JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION; MS. LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**2. MV Savings Bank: Close Up/Liam McCarthy**

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAVINGS BANK AND MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATION OF \$100 TO THE CLOSE UP CLUB; MS. MAURA VALLEY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**3. Howard Johnson Foundation: Project Headway**

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE HOWARD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT OF \$1,000 TO PROJECT HEADWAY; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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**4. Tower Foundation: Substance Abuse Counselor**

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE TOWER FOUNDATION GRANT OF \$3,500 TOWARDS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR TO FACILITATE A MVRHS GROUP; MR. TANKARD SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**5. Tower Foundation: Superintendent's Discretionary Fund**

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE TOWER FOUNDATION GRANT OF \$5,000 FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**B. Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

Small deficits were starting to show in the Vocational Department and Supplies.

- As voted last meeting a death benefits line had been added and funded.

**C. Revenue Report** (See documents on file.)

All was in order. The elementary reimbursement for busing had not yet been billed.

The Mass. Assoc. of School Committees (MASC) and the Mass Assoc. of Regional Schools (MARS) were projecting a 15-20% drop in Mass. State reimbursement (Ch. 70) in Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) as well as reductions in Ch. 71 Transportation reimbursement, Circuit Breaker reimbursement and Charter School funding. The effects on Island schools depended on how the cuts were configured however; Supt. Weiss pointed out that the Island was in a fortunate position when compared with many other communities.

**Superintendent's Report** (Agenda Item # VI)

**B. Dates of Budget Management** (See documents on file.)

**C. Emergency Management Training**

Two staff from each school will be participating in an Islandwide Emergency Management training at the Vineyard Transit Authority.

Mr. Tankard commended outgoing Cape Cod Collaborative Chair Walter Healy who would be retiring in June (see below: Actions).

**A. Records Management** (See documents on file.)

As a start on records management Supt. Weiss presented a King Information Systems estimate to reclaim, organize and preserve the necessary financial records of the MVRHSD—two thirds of the records—and the Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD) —one third of the records. Photographs showed the Supt. Office basement with burst boxes, unlabeled piles, and damp conditions – records were also in Sun Storage. Total Office records included budgets, bonds, warrants, accounts payable, personnel, and special education. Ms. Roxanne Ackerman strongly objected to hiring an expensive consultant for work she considered doable with staff and Island resources. The discussion included;

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- whether staff had either the expertise or the time to perform the project,
- cost of hiring staff and comparable efforts by staff of other organizations,
- the ease or difficulty of the task,
- existing records retention schedules and/or policy (the same as Town policies),
- confidentiality,
- legal requirements to keep accessible records (and auditors notes),
- tabling the action till the next meeting.
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE WITHDRAWAL OF NOT MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF THE TOTAL COST OF UP TO \$25,000 FROM EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY FOR RECORDS RECLAMATION, DISPOSAL, RETENTION AND STAFF TRAINING ON THE SUPERINTENDENTS RECOMMENDATION; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY – MS. ACKERMAN; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- Supt. Weiss assured the MVRHSC that staff would be trained in maintaining records.

**Principal's Report** (Agenda Item # VII)

**A. Midterm Exam**

Midterms on a half day schedule would start Monday, January 26th.

**B. Lockdown Report** (See documents on file.)

The Lockdown practice was successful. Asst. Principal Neal Weaver reported on various measures and lessons that had been or would be improved. Asst. Supt. Laurie Halt thanked Mr. Weaver for his care and attention. She also commended the Peer Outreach and Race Culture programs that helped reduce tension and the risk of violence from disenfranchised students.

**Personnel** (Agenda Item # VIII)

**A. Driver's Education**

Mr. Joe Thibadeaux was hired to finish out the semester and the school year.

- Interviews were being held for a new Financial Assistant.

**Old/New Business** (Agenda Item # IX)

**A. School Advisory Council (SAC) Minutes** (See documents on file.)

There were two new members: parent Sean Conley and community member Matt Malowski. The Council was dividing into sub-committees to work on the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

- The SAC met the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM.

**B. February School Committee Meeting Date Change to February 9, 2009**

The next MVRHSC meeting date was set for 7:00PM Monday, February 9, 2009.

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**Adjournment** (Agenda Item # XI)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:11PM; MR. TANKARD  
SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

**Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks**

- Supt. Office – correct date of Oak Bluffs Town Meeting to 4/14/09
- Supt. Office – research and/or draft records retention schedule policy.
- All – email appreciation Cape Cod. Collaborative Chair Walter Healy

**Appendix B - Documents on File:**

Agenda 1/5/09

Sign In Sheet 1/5/09

World Language Department

MVRHSD Bob Woodruff from....

MV Savings Bank letter re: Donation 11/13/08

Howard Johnson Foundation letter re: Donation 12/18/08

Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation letter re: Donation (\$3,500) 12/11/08

Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation letter re: Donation (\$5,000) 12/11/08

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (10 p.) 1/5/09

MVRHS General Fund Revenue Report Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (2 p.) 1/5/09

MVRHSD Certified Budget Summary for 2009-2010 as voted by School Committee  
on December 1, 2008

MVRHSD Certified Budget for FY10 - December 1, 2008 (8 p.)

MVPS Supt. Weiss memo re: Financial Records (2 p.) 12-29-08

2009 Meeting Schedule – Revised 1/5/09

2009 Meeting Schedule

What: Lockdown Review... 12/17/08

MVRHSD School Council Meeting Minutes 12/17/08

**Approved as written February 9, 2009.**