

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 9, 2009, 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Mercier,
Roxanne Ackerman*, Les Baynes,
Skipper J. Manter, Susan Parker,
Lisa Reagan, Robert Tankard
Student representative: Olivia Gross, Erik Dolliver,

Others:
Staff: Principals – Stephen Nixon
Assist. Prin. - Neal Weaver, Carlin Hart
Guidance – Mike McCarthy, Amy Lilavois
Phys. Ed. Dept. – Anne Lemenager,
Donald Helman, Lisa Knight, Russ McDonald,
Sandy Mincone, Gary Simmons.
History – Elaine Weintraub

Students: Donna Gazaille – alumni
Liam O’Callagan, Anna Carvahhlo,
Sam Larsen, Emily Mercier, Kia Minor,
Alexia Schroeder, Mary Vogel,

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt,

Fin. Com. John Snyder - Tisbury

Press: Sam Bungey - Vineyard Gazette,
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.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- Over 180 students participated in Dr. Munn’s last Science Fair (she is shifting duties as Department Head).
- The School Play will give four performances this weekend (see below: # VII).
- Homeroom was extended to fill out the Health Survey for the Youth Task Force to provide a hopefully honest assessment of student status.
- A photograph by sophomore Tova Katzman won the Boston Globe American Vision Awards.

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- Everyone was relieved to have midterms behind them after a snow day schedule change.
- There was plenty of turn out for the Harlem Rocket Team. Carlin Hart led the court with five out of six lay ups.
- Boys hockey qualified for post season play off.
- The boys and girls Basketball Invitational was scheduled for this weekend.
- The boys basketball team won against Rochester. They were now 5 and 11.

- Donna Gazaille graduated from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) 50 years ago with 60 other students. Sports were more limited and students wondered how they could form teams with students from other Island towns – recently their enemies and rivals. Ms. Gazaille felt her most valuable course was touch typing. Her class designed the first yearbook but missed their trip to Washington, D.C. (they were thinking of going as alumni). She described her transition to college and teasing her roommate about the Island. The MVRHSC thanked all the students for their reports and gave them a round of applause (see below: Actions).

- * Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 7:11PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

A. June 23, 2008

B. October 29, 2008

C. January 5, 2009

MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 23, 2008, OCTOBER 29, 2008 AND JANUARY 5, 2009 MINUTES; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

Department Report (Agenda Item # III)

A. Physical Education Department (See documents on file.)

Department Head Anne Lemenager thanked the MVRHSC for their years of support. The Department won the 2004 State Association Outstanding Program of the Year and had kept the standards since. Students received about 215 minutes of physical education per week. She introduced the staff and showed a short video of department activities. Each teacher spoke briefly about their curriculums.

- Freshmen and sophomores were taught warm up exercises, cardio vascular exercises and targets, strength, flexibility and pliometrics. The Pickleball championships were one of the curriculum highlights.
- The block scheduled allowed some classes to get off campus: kayaking at Felix Neck, cycling around local bike paths, golfing at the Edgartown Golf Club, playing Frisbee Golf on the Airport course, and skating at the rink.
- Gym equipment included: stair masters, Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) Machines, treadmills, recumbent bikes, heart monitors, weights, big balls, etc. These allowed less sports minded students to move at their own pace. The DDR machine was especially popular with Special Needs (SpEd) students.

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- Health was part of the Phys Ed Department emphasizing the importance of taking care of oneself, how to communicate effectively across a spectrum of relationships, anatomy and sexual safety, current events, personal opinion, assertiveness. and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
- There were several electives including coaching, personal training, and athletic administration.
- Thanks were exchanged and the MVRHSC gave the staff a round of applause.

Principal's Report

(Agenda Item # VII)

G. Race Culture Retreat

Head of Guidance Mike McCarthy and a number of students reported on the Sixth Race Culture Retreat. Each year 8 staff members and 48 students participated in the student run two day event (staff were rotated to include all MVRHS teachers and administrators). Four students spoke of their experiences in a number of exercises as well as small and large group discussions. Emphasis was placed on defusing discrimination in any form whether racism, sexism, nerdism, jockism, nationalism, etc. Students mentioned learning the difficulties of not knowing the language, understanding the human similarities, forging close friendships across groups and bringing their experiences into the everyday life of the school. The MVRHSC applauded the program and participants.

F. Peer Outreach (See 11/6/06 Minutes p.4 #VI.)

Amy Lillivoit and several students described this program based on the premise that students were the front line source of support for each other. Homerooms elected trusted peers from which staff selected students to train in basic helping techniques. Training goals emphasized communication covering: self care skills, addiction issues, conflict resolution, bullying and cyber-bullying relief, domestic violence, as well as when and how to refer students for adult help. It was funded through the Alexander Foundation. Community service and similar programs across the Island schools had expanded the initiative.

A. In-service Day

Both the new in-service days went well providing teachers with an opportunity to meet in professional learning group to work on: 1) curriculum writing and alignment and 2) developing more uniform grading rubrics.

B. 2008 Seabreezes "Excellent" Award (See documents on file.)

C. 2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards (See documents on file.)

This year the Art Department garnered more awards than ever before in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards (see above #II).

D. 2009-2010 Course Catalog (See documents on file.)

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- The Performing Arts Center was undergoing balcony renovations to conform to safety codes. Unfortunately the timing coincided with the school play (see above: #II).

E. Student Surveys (See documents on file and above: #II.)

An adaptation of a standard survey allowed MVRHS Student Health statistics to be compared to national norms. The survey showed a flavor of the school culture. MVRHS students returned positive opinions on the quality of their education, ease of negotiating the system, and being able to fit in— although transfer students found it more difficult.

- The work to include research quality papers in the curriculum continued (see 4/7/08 Minutes p.4 #VIII). The MVRHSC thanked Mr. McCarthy for his report.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Expenditure Report

The budget was in fairly good shape with about 17% still available. Lines in deficit were being monitored closely.

D. Assessments (See documents on file.)

Statutory and regional assessment figures had already been provided to the local school committees and towns. If the Governor's budget went forward the Statutory formula period of adjustment would be extended.

E. Donations

- *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE MARINE AND PALEOBIOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE DONATION OF A \$50 PRIZE FOR THE SCIENCE FAIR; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$20,000 FROM THE TOWER FAMILY FUND FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Supt. Weiss gratefully acknowledged the Tower Funds continuing generosity.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT \$100 FROM THE WANT TO KNOW CLUB FOR LIBRARY MATERIALS; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

(See below: Actions.)

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Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. GASB 45 (See documents on file.)

In continuation of the Islandwide cooperation to comply with Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) liability regulations (see 11/6/06 Minutes p. 7 #V) Dukes County was sponsoring legislation to create a central fund. The issue was explained and Medicare insurance regulations were noted.

• *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO SUPPORT THE ACT TO ESTABLISH A POOLED OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Enrollment Projections (See documents on file.)

New England School Development Council (NESDEC) projections showed an initial drop and then level enrollment in the foreseeable future. It was noted that although there were some internal shifting the Islandwide student population was expected to remain flat.

Personnel (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. Mark Friedman – Accounts Manager

Mr. Friedman would replace Ms. Whitmore. He had strong connections to the Island and was a successful accounts manager.

B. Rebecca Esposito

• *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO APPROVE A CHILD REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MS. REBECCA ESPOSITO; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # X)

A. Travel

• *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. KATE MURRAY AND DRAMA STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO AND STAY OVER NIGHT IN BOSTON FOR THREE TRIPS: FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 1, 2009, MARCH 13-15, 2009 AND MARCH 26-29, 2009 FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA GUILD FESTIVAL: MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

• *As previously voted by email MR. TANKARD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. JAN WEITMAN AND STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO THE ALL CAPE MUSIC FESTIVAL; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS*

• *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. ELAINE WEINTRAUB AND STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO IRELAND APRIL 14 THROUGH 22, 2009 AS PART OF THE IRISH STUDIES CURRICULUM: MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• In regards to the recent public discussions on travel insurance it was noted that the same policy was in effect that was debated and voted after 9/11 (see 6/24/02 p.4 #B) which differentiated between trips that were school sanctioned (school controlled trip and finances) and school approved (no school liability or control of finances).

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MVRHSC members were encouraged to attend girls hockey, boys hockey and basket ball as well as the school play.

The next MVRHSC meeting date was set for 7:00PM Monday, March 2, 2009.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XIII)
Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

Prin. Nixon – recruit alumni from all Island towns.

Prin. Nixon – eliminate donation check copies from MVRHSC documents.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 2/9/09

Sign In Sheet 2/9/09

MVRHS Physical Education Syllabus (2)

Marine and Paleobiological Research Institute letter re: Science Fair 1/8/09

Tower Family Fund, Inc. letter and check 1/19/09

Want to Know Club note and check 2/9/09

Dukes County Treasurer letter re: legislative support 1/7/09

Background (1/8/09)

An Act Authorizing the Government Employers in the County of Dukes County...

NESDEC MVRHSD Historical Enrollment (2 p.) 1/14/09

2008 Seabreezes "Excellent Award"

Seabreezes Volume 28 (66 p. + covers)

Brissette Letter re: 2009 The Boston Globe Scholastic Awards (2 p.)

Program of Studies MVRHS 2009-2010 (80 p. + covers) January 2009

High School Student Opinion Survey (23 p.)

Esposito letter re: Request for Child Rearing Leave 2/3/09

Weiss email re: Statutory Assessment Figures 1/29/09

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (10 p.) 2/9/09

Request for field trips for MHSDG Festival 2009

All Cape Music Festival – Jan Wightman

MVRHS April 14-22, 2009 Itinerary (3 p.)

Approved as written April 6, 2009.