

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 3, 2008

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General Law (MGL) required regional school budgets be passed by a two thirds vote of the school committee or board, in this case a 6-3 vote was needed. The Budget was voted 5 to 4 at the December 3, 2007 meeting after a lengthy debate (see documents on file), the staff reductions being: \$27,000 for a part time music teacher and \$15,000 for a reduction in guidance time.

- Mr. Manter suggested that the down Island towns be charged for the purchase costs of the regional buses which would more than compensate for the cuts. Business Affairs Ms. Amy Tierney and Chair Susan Parker argued against the proposal on the grounds that: the Towns paid their share through run fees, capital costs were reimbursed by Mass. State, and that the districts balanced out by cooperating in various forms such as housing Islandwide programs without rent, etc.

- Ms. Ackerman advocated for more regional sharing.

- Supt. Weiss, in deference to Island political and philosophical considerations and local committee concerns suggested that the Facilities Manager be dropped from the Supt. Shared Programs Office budget (\$14,000 from Line 24A Supt. Of. Budget). Although he still considered it a cost saving measure, and an important part of professionally managing the MV Public Schools facilities, he conceded it might be a way to move the budget forward—local school committees would then need to take further budget action.

- Mr. Manter suggested that \$7,000 go to the Music Dept. and \$7,000 to Guidance.

- Mr. Baynes pointed out that the Facilities Manager position was requested and voted by the All Island School Committee (AISC) as a way to consolidate expertise and cost save for the Island.

- Ms. Valley stated she had reservations about creating a new position while cutting others. She believed it might be beneficial but did not believe the money was there.

- Ms. Mercier did not agree. She emphasized that the AISC charged Supt. Weiss with the proposed position through many meetings and discussions.

- Ms. Sylvia agreed in support of the Facilities Manager, and although noting current political expediency, asked that the position be re - presented next year.

- Ms. Parker was not happy about putting more responsibility on Supt. Weiss shoulders.

- Ms. Ackerman felt the expertise was already in the system. She also referred to a proposal by Ms. Parker for a multi-year task order with a general engineering company on a non-paid retainer, where engineering for each project would be included in the cost of each project.

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO DELETE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARE OF THE FACILITIES MANAGER IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED PROGRAMS OFFICE BUDGET LINE 24A \$14,000; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- *LES BAYNES MOVED TO ELIMINATE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARE OF THE FACILITIES MANAGER SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED PROGRAMS OFFICE BUDGET LINE 237A AS PART OF THE FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION*

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS,

• SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ADD \$8,000 TO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND \$8,000 TO THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT; SUSAN PARKER SECONDED; MOTION FAILED; 1 AYE – SKIP MANTER, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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- *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE AND CERTIFY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET BOTTOM LINE AT \$12,243,208.28; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- There was a discussion on the importance of music to the curriculum, the need for an inclusive music department and suggestions for fund raising.

Adjourn

MS. PARKER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING ABOUT 8:30PM; MS. O'DONOGHUE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda / Posting 1/3/08

MVRHSC *sign in sheet* 1/3/08

Respectfully submitted to the MVRHSC Sarah J. Mayhew, West Tisbury (2 p.) 1/3/08

MVRHSD Proposed Budget for FY'09 As Certified by the District Committee on December 3, 2007 (10 p.) 12/3/07

Approved as amended January 14, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 14, 2008, 7:00 pm

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

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman,
John Bacheller, Les Baynes,
Susan Mercier, Judi O’Donoghue,
Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley
Student representative: Max Nunes, Alexia Schroeder

Others:

Staff: Principal – Margaret “Peg” Reagan
Assist. Prin., Neal Weaver

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

Public: Anthony Cappelli, Russ Wendt

Press: Janet Hefler - MV Times
Sam Bungey - Gazette

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order 7:15PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 3, 2007 MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MS. MERCIER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2008 MINUTES AS AMENDED; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED WITH MR. BACHELLER ABSTAINING due to absence.*

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- The Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) members were invited to attend the Martin Luther King Day assembly this Wednesday, January 16th at 9:00AM with guest speaker Lt. General Joseph Carter, the Minnesingers, and the Young Brothers to Men.
- 60 MVRHS Seniors registered to vote in this year’s February 5th Massachusetts primary, In addition the whole school will participate in mock primary elections held the same day. Mr. Nunes spoke briefly about his stimulating three weeks with Hillary Clinton’s campaign in Manchester, NH.
- 22 students were accepted by early decision into colleges of their choice.

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- In Sports girls hockey won their first game. Boys hockey was 6 to 12. Boys basketball was 5 to 4 including an exciting win over Scituate. Girls basketball was 3 to 5.
- Over \$1,000 was raised for the Red Stocking Fund and more was hoped for next year.
- Mid terms would be held next week.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expenditure and Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

The Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) budget was in good shape with 6% remaining. Text book and supply money was still available. Fuel costs were in within budget.

- An expected deficit in insurance could be covered by residuals. There might be large residential and salary costs in Special Needs for the second semester.

B. Revenue

No revenues had been received as yet.

D. Audit

The Auditor would report to MVRHSC at a 4:00PM, January 22, 2008 meeting in the West Tisbury School Library.

C. Accept Grants

The grants were reviewed (see documents on file).

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT FOUR GRANTS

- \$14,500 FROM THE TOWER FOUNDATION TO BE DIVIDED AMONG THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES;

- \$1,000 FROM THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL LIBRARY;

- \$950 FROM THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE VINEYARD AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE PROJECT; AND

- \$5,000 FROM THE TOWER FOUNDATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DISCRETIONARY LINE;

MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Dates of Budget Meetings/Town Meetings (See documents on file.)

All were invited to be present at the Finance Committee / Board of Selectmen budget reviews.

B. Travel Policy – 3rd Reading

MR. BAYNES MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TRAVEL POLICY: MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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C. Enrollment Projections

The projections showed a steady decline towards 693 students within four years. It was noted that unforeseen political, philosophical or economic factors sometimes changed the predictions none-the-less the New England downward trend was marked. Enrollment projections were used in planning meetings and budgets.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. Travel Requests

- *MS. O'DONOGHUE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB TO ATTEND THE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT JANUARY 2— 25, 2008; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL STORE TO ATTEND THE CAREER DISCOVERY DISNEY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA APRIL 2-7, 2008; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. BAYNES MOVED AUTHORIZE THE SKI AND SNOW BOARDING CLUB TP GO FOR A WEEKEND OF SNOW BOARDING IN LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE IN EARLY MARCH 2008; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Drop-out Report

The MVRHSC congratulated Prin. Regan, and the faculty for the extraordinary 1% drop out rate in 2006/2007. Prin. Regan commended the MVRHS whole school team, alternative programs, guidance, policies, staff and administration for the achievement over the years.

B. Program of Studies (See documents on file.)

The School Council continued to discuss program changes.

- The sequence of history courses was being changed in coordination with Middle Schools across the Island.
- The 8th Grade Honors Math class (see 10/4/06 AISC Minutes p. 3) was highly commended by Ms. Mercier whose daughter was in the program. In addition it was exceeding expectations in raising the bar for middle and elementary Math classes. In order to keep fairly level playing fields the Honors Math student would be in a special MVRHS Math track that merged into the advanced Math mainstream in the junior year.
- As in-coming students were more and more knowledgeable about computers the basic computer course might be phased out in favor of more advanced requirements. The Business Department planned to add Excel Accounting and Quickbooks courses, and similarly the Art Department was considering computer graphics.

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- The Alumni assembly brought out a number of interesting points.
- In retrospect alumni highly valued some of their toughest teachers.
- They were often envied by other students for the richness of the MVRHS curriculum and electives.
- They recommended more rigor in writing especially in properly annotated papers.

C. Advisory

The Advisory periods (see 3/5/07 MVRHSC Minutes p.3 #C) were reviewed. The curriculum was helpful in breaking the ice and the discussions were lively. The curriculum would be adjusted according to collected student and teacher surveys and the advisory periods might be increased to twice a month.

Mid-terms would be held next week from 8:00 to 10:00AM and 10:00 to 12:00N after which student were released and staff graded the tests.

D. Lock-down Report

A Mock Lock Down was held January 10th (after some false fire alarms and an actual fire drill earlier in the week). The lock-down went extremely well and Asst. Prin. Weaver and Prin. Regan reviewed procedure and results. It was noted that the students took such drills very seriously. Prin. Regan thanked Mr. Weaver for his excellent supervision and attention to detail.

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Land Use Subcommittee (See documents on file.)

Mass. General Law (MGL) stated that a regional school district may neither sell a building nor enter into a long term lease without special legislation – short term leases and purchase were allowable. On being informed of this glitch the Town of Edgartown informed the Superintendency that they would proceed with other options. The Land Use Sub-committee unanimously recommended proceeding with special legislation. The MVRHSC and public discussed moving forward with the plan including:

- timing and procedures,
 - signaling Edgartown of their continued serious interest,
 - the need of capital from the sale of the old building to gain financial room to maneuver,
 - presentation of the proposal on Town Meeting floors,
 - the role of the Preservation Trust.
- *MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ALL DUE SPEED TO MOVE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED PROGRAMS OFFICE OUT OF PINE STREET TO THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL; MS. PARKER SECONDED;*
- *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION BY ADDING "OR ANOTHER SUITABLE LOCAITON": MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *AMENDED MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO PREPARE AND SEND A WARRANT ARTICLE TO ALL SIX MARTHA'S VINEYARD TOWNS FOR THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OR LEASE OF THE PRESENT SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED PROGRAMS OFFICE FACILITY AND TO PROCEED WITH SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE SAME; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO PURSUE AN ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSAL TO CONVERT PART OF THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL TO HOUSE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SHARED PROGRAMS OFFICE; MR. BAYNES AND MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

(See below: Tasks.)

Deer Run residents had made three requests in regards to the wind turbine:

- would it be possible to move it,
- could it be lowered in height, and
- could they share in the cost benefit.

Unfortunately a move would be prohibitively costly, the height was engineered to the wind patterns, and as a demonstration model it only generated 10 kilowatt hours of electricity. The MVRHSC and the public discussed how the location was chosen and a possible Deer Run funded move.

In meetings with close institutions and neighbors the MVRHS had been reminded that their septic system was in violation and at capacity. In addition an upgrade would reduce nitrogen loading to local ponds. The Land Use Sub-Committee had unanimously recommended a wastewater pipeline to and from the Oak Bluffs Treatment Plant at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000; the MVRHSD would build the line and Oak Bluffs would maintain it. The user fees would be paid on a net basis – MVRHSD gallons pumped for treatment minus gallons pumped by the Town for leaching field use in the summer). The current timeline (see documents on file) would go out to bond in July 2008 and would therefore be budgeted for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10). The MVRHSC and the public considered the project in light of:

- enrollment projections,
- watershed to Sengekontacket Pond which had recently been restricted by the State,
- advances in technology,
- hook ups by abutters and other regional users,
- independent engineering consulting and careful, correct installation,
- close monitoring by Vineyard Conservation groups and the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC),
- cut off opportunities to drop the project if necessary.

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MR. BAYNES MOVED:

- *THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING A WASTEWATER PUMPING STATION, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AND ALL OTHER COSTS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO, THERE BE AND HEREBY IS AUTHORIZED, UNER AND PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 71, SECTION 16(d), OF THE GENRAL LAWS AND THE DISTRICT AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED, THE INCURRING OF DEBT ON THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE DISTRICT BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE AT ONE TIME OR FROM TIME TO TIME OF BONDS OR NOTES IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$1,500,000.*
- *THAT TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE WASTEWATER PUMPING STATION DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE MEANING OF CHAPTER 40, SECTION 4A OF THE GENERAL LAWS, WITH THE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS, WHICH AGREEMNT SHALL BE IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO COUNSEL TO THE DISTRICT AND CONTAIN SUCH TERMS AS THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL APPROVE.*
- *AND FURTHER THAT WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THIS VOTE IS ADOPTED THE SECRETARY BE AND HEREBY IS INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF EACH OF THE MEMBER TOWNS OF THIS DISTRICT AS TO THE AMOUNT AND GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE DEBT HEREIN AUTHORIZED, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 71 SECTION 16(d), OF THE GENERAL LAWS, AND BY THE DISTRIC AGREEMENT.*

MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY- ROXANNE ACKERMAN, 0 ABSTENTIONS. (See below: Tasks.)

B. Budget Subcommittee

Because of the difficulties over the FY08 MVRHSD Budget and assessment IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR AND/OR UNTIL THE FY2009 BUDGET AND ASSESSMENTS WERE PASSED.

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Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

B. School Advisory Minutes (See documents on file and below: Tasks.)

- The schedule was being examined to allow students more opportunity to enroll in arts and performing arts classes.
- Staff member Ms. Munn proposed a research project on gender issues in final grading in science analyzing the current data which showed male students do better with male teachers, and female students with female teachers.
- The review of the remedial class continued: to determine if the students were actually in need of academic remediation or if they were under-motivated academically.
- There was a discussion on some physical education requirement issues that were raised during the budget process.
- Some teachers were meeting to discuss and recommend declining enrollment issues.
- Warrant articles to restore the part-time music salary had been placed on three Town Meeting warrants.
- Students had requested interim progress reports before each report card and before the final course grades.

D. Assessment Discussion

Five towns have been participating in the MVRHS Finance Committee meetings since May 31, 2007, and although there have been many interesting discussions there has not been an agreement and was not likely to be one soon. A proposal to move forward to the end of the Mass. State Statutory formula transition period was being researched for the next meeting. The State reimbursements and assessment number was expected around January 23rd/24th after which the MVRHSC would have to decide on assessment methods with all due haste.

Executive Session (Agenda Item # IX)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:27PM UNDER MASS. GENERAL LAW 39 SECTION 23 B NUMBER (3)—I.E. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POSSIBLE LITIGATION STRATEGY AND TO INVITE MR. WEISS, MS. HALT, MS. TIERNEY, MS. REGAN, AND MS. LIPKE TO BE PRESENT; MS. MERCIER SECONDED;

- MR. BACHELLER AND MS. VALLEY RECUSED THEMSELVES AND LEFT THE MEETING; Ms. Valley was a member of the Tisbury School Committee as well as a Tisbury employee whose direct supervisor was the Chair of the Tisbury Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bacheller was a member of the Tisbury School Committee.
- *MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: MS. PARKER AYE, MS. SYLVIA AYE, MR. BAYNES AYE, MS. O'DONOGHUE AYE, MS. ACKERMAN AYE, MS. MERCIER AYE.*

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Adjourn

*MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:40PM, MS. MERCIER SECONDED;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: MS. PARKER AYE, MS. SYLVIA AYE, MR.
BAYNES AYE, MS. O'DONOGHUE AYE, MS. ACKERMAN AYE, MS. MERCIER AYE.*

Agreed Upon Tasks

- Approval of back minutes: 5/7/07, 5/31/07, 6/4/07, 6/25/07
- Next MVRHSC meeting (on audit) 4:00PM 1/22/08 W. Tisb. School Library
- Moving Supt. Shared Programs Office to the Edgartown School
 - Proceed with hiring Architects
 - Place articles to approve sale of old building on all six Annual Town Meeting warrants.
 - Garner support to speak to the articles on Town Meeting floor.
 - Contact Mr. Chris Scott and invite the Preservation Trust to Land Use Subcommittee meeting.
 - Contact Edgartown Town Administrator Pam Dolby.
- Wastewater
 - Mr. Wendt volunteered to help pass the wastewater article at town meetings.
 - Contact OB Town re: authority on user based system.
 - Amend Timeline to read "to move forward with the project..."
- Schedule a joint MVRHSC/School Council meeting in March possibly on Graduation requirements.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 1/14/08

MVRHS Expenditure Budget Balance Report (18 p.) 1/14/08

Schedule MVRHS Budget Sessions

MVPS Request that the MVRHSC accept the following grants:

Enrollment Projections MVPS MVRHS (9 p.) 11/29/07

MVRHS Program of Studies 2008-2009 (76 p. + covers) 1/08

Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting (2 p.) 12/19/07

Land Use Sub-Committee Minutes (2 p.) 1/14/08

Wastewater Timeline

Approved as written February 4, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, January 22, 2008, 4:00 pm
with the Auditor
West Tisbury School Library

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman*,
John Bacheller, Skipper J. Manter*,
Susan Mercier, Judi O’Donoghue*,

Others: Auditor – Chris Rogers

Staff: Principal – Margaret “Peg” Regan
Assist. Prin., - Lynn Rebello

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Business Administrator - Amy Tierney,

Public: W. Tisb. Prin. – Michael Halt,
UIRSC - Dan Cabot

Press: MV Times - Janet Hefler
MVTV: Tom Mayhew

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:15PM. There was no quorum. Mr. Manter protested the lack of quorum and left the meeting.

Mr. Chris Rogers of Sullivan & Rogers reviewed the basic structure and financial statements in the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School District (MVRHSD) Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) Audit (see documents on file).

- The MVRHSD received an unqualified audit (the best possible) which was consistent with the last several years.
- This year the auditors had initiated ‘significant’ findings which were defined as more than inconsequential but less than material (material was anything about or over \$100,000). Significant finding thresholds were at the discretion of the auditor and had been set by Sullivan & Rogers at about \$5,000 - \$10,000.
- There were some reported grant deficits that were purely technical having to do with billing and revenues just after the end of the fiscal year – June 30, 2007.
- Excess & Deficiency (E & D) deficits were similarly technical.

* Ms. Ackerman entered the meeting and Mr. Manter returned at 4:25PM.

- Federal grant awards (see documents on file) mandated reporting of anything over \$5,000 and were currently non-compliant. There were three findings:
 - 1) No physical inventory on capital assets was taken.
 - 2) The Special Education grant showed a material weakness due to a gap in the time reporting documentation of one or two paraprofessionals.

* Ms. O’Donoghue entered the meeting at 4:32PM completing the quorum.

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- 3) The MVRHSD could better minimize the time between receipt and expenditure of grant moneys – which should not be held for interest.
- Mr. Rogers reported that the Federal Government had surveyed audit reports for 2004 and found that of the \$600,000,000,000 in grants about \$50,000,000,000 were inappropriately spent, since which time they have tightened enforcement.
- It was noted that the MVRHSD/Supt. Office grant compliance and documentation had greatly improved in the last 5 years.

The Management Letter detailed nine comments.

- (Repeat) The capital assets inventory had not been updated.
- (New) Vocational special revenue funds were only allowed \$15,000 worth of transactions annually (as differentiated from a \$15,000 balance ceiling) and the Culinary Arts program had almost doubled that amount. Any revenue and expenditure over the \$15,000 should be run through the General Fund. The MVRHSC discussed the matter with Prin. Regan who would find a way to rectify the error.
- (Repeat) If all material Federal grant findings (see above) were resolved for two years in a row, a “low risk audit” could be performed, saving the district auditing fees.
- (Repeat) Outdated student activity accounts continued to be in small deficit or with insignificant residuals. The MVRHSC had voted on this matter (see 9/10/07 Minutes p.3 #C) which was now almost reconciled.
- (Repeat) To further strengthen the district the auditors again recommended the MVRHSD perform a risk assessment to identify areas susceptible to misappropriation.
- (Repeat) The MVRHSD still carried about a \$3,000 balance in the self-funded Dental Trust which should be spent on employee benefits and closed.
- (New) There were two bank accounts not maintained by the Treasurer but using the MVRHSD tax ID number. Treasurer Mary Lee Schroeder was looking into the matter and would remind all banks that only the Treasurer could open such an account.
- (New) – The auditors recommended the MVRHSD develop a disaster recovery plan incase the office and/or server were destroyed. This would include securing file back up and remote locations both for data storage and for a temporary office.
- (Repeat) – Starting in FY09 the General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) would require bi-annual actuarial evaluation of post retirement health insurance liability on the full accrual statement. This was an unfunded liability around retiree health benefits (currently paid as it occurred) that was projected to increase sharply. At the moment there was no mechanism to deposit funds in anticipation of the crisis however special legislation was being drafted to allow a dedicated fund. The school districts were working with Dukes County to address the situation Islandwide.

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- * Ms. Mercier left the meeting at 4:50PM and Mr. Bacheller left the meeting at 5:00PM.
- Mr. Rogers summarized his opening review of the Audit for those members who came late. Prin. Regan thank Mr. Rogers for his presentation and Ms. Tierney and Ms. Rebello for their hard work.

Adjourn

THE MEETING ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS AT 5:04PM.

Agreed Upon Tasks

- Revise Culinary Arts finances.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Posting 1/22/08

MVRHSD Independent Auditor's Report on Basic Financial Statements and Required
Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007,
(40 p. & covers) 1/3/08

MVRHSD Reports on Federal Award Programs Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007
(13 p. plus covers) 1/3/08

MVRHSD Management Letter June 30, 2007, (13 p. and covers) 1/3/08

MVRHS Excess & Deficiency Analysis As of June 30, 2007

Approved as amended February 4, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 4, 2008, 7:00 pm

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman*,
John Bacheller, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Mercier, Judi O’Donoghue, Maura Valley
Student representative: Alexia Schroeder

Others:

Staff: Principal – Margaret “Peg” Reagan
Assist. Prin., - Steve Nixon, Neal Weaver
School Nurse – Linda Leonard
Athletic Trainer –Tania Laslovich
Treasurer – Mary Lee Schroeder

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

Tisbury: Selectman – Tristan Israel, FinCom. – John Snyder

Press: MV Times - Janet Hefler
Sam Bungey - Gazette
MVTV - Carl Holt

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

• *MS. JUDI O’DONOGHUE MOVED TO APPROVE:*
- *ALL BACK MINUTES AS WRITTEN BEING JUNE 4, 2007, JUNE 25, 2007,*
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 AND JANUARY 14, 2008,
- *AND THE JANUARY 22, 2008 MINUTES AS AMENDED;*
MS. SUSAN MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED WITH ABSTENTIONS AS
ABSENT.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- Student Representative Max Nunes was in Boston working with the Hillary Clinton campaign for President.
- The Martin Luther King Day assembly was great with speaker Joe Carter and poetry from the Young Brothers.
- The January midterms were a stressful time.
- The Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Model United Nations Club represented Sweden, Iraq and Somalia at the national conference in New Haven.
- Tomorrow, February 5th the High School would hold a mock primary. In addition 60 seniors registered to vote.
- There was a debate at the last Student Council meeting as to whether it should be mandatory for teachers to give a progress report a couple weeks before the end of each quarter. This was a matter of encouraging teachers to enter grades in the grading software on a regular basis.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Assessment Discussion and Vote (See documents on file.)

- The Budget Subcommittee met to discuss the assessment formulas (see documents on file) and recommended that the Statutory formula be used.
- The matter had been researched with the Mass. Dept. of Education (DOE) and advocated with the region's State legislators and although not a perfect solution timely changes at the State level were not likely.
- The Islandwide unanimity needed to pass the Regional formula was not likely to be forthcoming,
- A random informal sample of some constituents found a lack of willingness to repeat the drawn-out dispute as last year,
- The MVRHS itself would be spending time and energy on the change in principals.
- It was hoped some Mass. State "Pot Hole" money might again be available.
- A letter was received from the Tisbury Board of Selectmen requesting that the Regional formula be voted (see documents on file) and Tisbury School Committee member Mr. John Bacheller and Tisbury Selectman Tristan Israel advocated for it.
- In view of a lack of explanation on faulty data it was felt the Regional formula should be voted to keep pressure on the DOE as well as to make a statement.
- Despite concerted efforts at compromise the Towns could not agree and it was suggested the MVRHSC could be more pro-active.
- The formula was essentially unfair to Tisbury which was now carrying more than its share of the MVRHSD costs.
- *MR. SKIP MANTER MOVED TO USE THE STATUTORY FORMULA UNDER PROTEST; MS. O'DONOGHUE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 3 NAYS – MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN, MR. BACHELLER, MS. MAURA VALLEY; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Expenditure (See documents on file.)

In general the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) Budget was in good shape.

- There were deficits in the Shared Services Supt. Office budget due to the second Project Headway class (see AISC 1/31/08 Minutes p. 4).
- Other deficits included: Legal costs, Advertising, Foreign Language Salaries, Water/Utilities, General Liability Insurance and Ice Time—due to a duplicate payment now being rectified. There was money in the budget to cover these shortfalls.

C. Revenue (See documents on file.)

Revenue was also on track with only 40% outstanding, and Circuit Breaker revenues were expected shortly.

D. Treasurer's Report (See documents on file.)

Treasurer Mary Lee Schroeder was introduced and reported on accounts to reassure the MVRHSC after press reports of troubles in other Massachusetts towns.

- Accounts were reconciled as of December 31, 2007.
- Most moneys were deposited in the Edgartown National Bank which worked closely with Ms. Schroeder to get the best rates possible.

E. Discussion of Audit (See 1/22/08 Minutes.)

• *MS. O'DONOGHUE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SULLIVAN AND ROGERS MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2007 AUDIT; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* (See below: Tasks.)

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

A., Travel/Conferences/Donations

- *MS. O'DONOGHUE MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH APPRECIATION THE FINAL BEQUEST OF \$1,315.70 FROM THE ESTATE OF MR. , DANIEL ALISIO; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

Nurse's Report (See documents on file.)

- School Nurse Linda Leonard and Athletic Trainer Tania Laslovich presented their work with an innovative software that tracked student medical records including athletic injuries, medication tracking and statistical analysis. This helped staff to monitor incidents (such as concussions) with increased accuracy and trending resulting in better diagnosis and care.
 - The program would be greatly enhanced by the local schools coming on-line so that students records could be tracked from school to school.
- There was a surprising number of visits to the Nurse from 524 out of 766 students, so that the Office essentially functioned as a community clinic referring services to the appropriate providers. Ms. Leonard highly commended the Vineyard Health Care Access Program as an important support to her work (see below: Tasks).
- Ms. Laslovich reported on a sports injury workshop touching such issues as: baseline information forms, over-use injuries, reluctance to report, and concussions.
- Prin. Regan commended Ms. Leonard and Ms. Laslovich.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

Principal's Search (See documents on file.)

Out of the 40-45 inquiries 12 applications were received and the Search Committee chose four finalists, Mr. Arthur Arpin, Mr. Stephen Collins, Ms. Eileen Coppola, and Mr. Steve Nixon. Supt. Weiss thanked the Committee for their initial screening. Background checks were in process and the next step was to schedule the finalists to visit the MVRHS for a day and to be interviewed.

- * Ms. Ackerman left the meeting at 8:12PM.
- The MVRHSC could participate as a whole in open meetings but would have to commit to being present for all four interviews. The MVRHSC members could also attend as observers.
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A SUBCOMMITTEE OF MS. SUSAN PARKER, MS. MERCIER, MS. O'DONOGHUE AND ONE OTHER TO ATTEND PRINCIPAL FINALIST INTERVIEWS.** Other MVRHSC members could attend as observers as time permitted.
- The schedule was discussed and it was hoped the final decision could be made before the February break (2/22/08).

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Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

Asst. Prin. Steve Nixon reported on the success of the Senior Project program which had enrolled 9 students this year, more than twice the expected number. The MVRHSC was invited to the presentations (as was the press) May 6-8, 2008 (see documents on file). The Projects were instrumental in college acceptance and both students and staff were commended for their dedication. Mr. Nixon was praised for his accessibility and support of students and staff.

B. School Advisory Minutes (See documents on file.)

The School Council had outlined an ambitious Master Plan (see documents on file) which Prin. Regan reviewed for the MVRHSC (see below: Tasks).

The Minnesingers had raised \$101,000 to go Austria in April (35-38 students and chaperones).

C. Purchase of Special Education Buses (See 6/4/07 Minutes p. 5 #B)

The Special Education buses were in dire condition causing concerns over breakdowns.

• *MS. O'DONOGHUE MOVED TO PROCEED TO PURCHASE TWO SPECIAL EDUCATION BUSES FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BID LIST; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

D. Wastewater Update

At the request of Tisbury and in order to avoid the expense and inconvenience of calling Special Town Meetings Supt. Weiss recommended the Wastewater vote be rescinded to time the 60 day period to encompass all Town Annual Meetings. It was expected that the matter would be re-voted at the March meeting.

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE WASTEWATER BOND VOTE OF JANUARY 14, 2008; MS. O'DONOGHUE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• *MR. MANTER MOVED TO RESCIND THE MOTION THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TOOK ON JANUARY 14, 2008 TO BOND FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT; MS. O'DONOGHUE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Consequently the next meeting was schedule for March 17, 2008 at 7:00 at the MVRHS.
Supt. Weiss will be in New Orleans.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # X)

MS. O'DONOGHUE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:56PM; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

continued

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Ms. Tierney – Update MVRHSC on progress on audit points.
- Investigate/consider grants for a school medical clinic.
- Supt. Weiss - call Mr. Bacheller, Mr. Baynes, Ms. Ackerman, and Ms. Sylvia re: opening on Prin. Candidate Interview Subcommittee
- Contact Prin. Regan with any recommendations on School Master Plan
- Next meeting 7:00PM, March 17, 2008.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 2/4/08

Budget Subcommittee Meeting *posting* 2/4/08

MVRHS Budget Balance Report (16 p.) 2/4/08

MVRHS An Example of FY09 Assessments Using the Dept. of Ed. Statutory Assessment Methodology (19 p.)

MVRHSD Expenditure Budget Balance Report (18 p.)

Treasurer's Report 2/4/08

MVRHS – OB, MA, Health Services Summary 2/4/08

- MVRHS Medical Emergency Procedure (4 p.)
- We can make it all better! *Flyer & translated flyer*
- Your Child May Qualify for Free or Low Cost Breakfast and Lunch *flyer & translated flyer*
- Vineyard Smiles is Bringing Mobile Dental Services to Your Schools *flyer & translated flyer*
- Sports Injury Conference *flyer*
- ImPact the team the Pros trust *flyer and form* (3 p.)

Supt. Weiss Memo re: Principal Finalists 1/30/08

Suggested MVRHS Principal Candidates Visits and Interviews 2/15

2008 Senior Project Students 5/6-8/08

Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting 1/31/08

- School Council Master Plan Subcommittee: Student Achievement 2007-2008
- School Council Master Plan Subcommittee: Curriculum and Instruction 2007-2008
- School Council Master Plan Subcommittee: Professional Development 2007-2008
- School Council Master Plan Subcommittee: School Culture 2007-2008
- School Council Master Plan Subcommittee: School and Community 2007-2008

Approved as written March 17, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, March 17, 2008, 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman*,
John Bacheller, Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley,
Student representative: Alexia Schroeder

Others:

Staff: Principals - Margaret 'Peg' Regan,
Assist. Prin., - Neal Weaver, Stephen Nixon
Science – Dana Munn, Natalie Munn

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

South Mountain John Abrams, Phil Forest
Fin. Com. John Snyder,
Press: Tom Mayhew – MMTV
Secretary: Marni Lipke* *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM.

Principal Peg Regan announced the choice of Asst. Principal Steve Nixon as the new principal starting July 1, 2007 and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) gave him a round of applause. The members of both the Screening Committee and the Final Interview Committee were thanked for their hard work.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 4, 2008 MINUTES; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION - MS. SYLVIA due to absence.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- Max Nunes and eight other students were in Washington, D.C. for the week on the Close Up Club trip, getting a first-hand look at government.
- Boys basketball made the state play offs but lost their first game.
- Boys hockey also made the state play offs and won their first game but lost their second.
- Everyone was asked to donate to this year's MVRHS Blood Drive Thursday, March 20th.
- Motivational speaker Travis Roy had been invited to speak to an assembly.

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* Ms. Ackerman entered the meeting 7:13PM.

- The Student Leadership Class worked hard to raise funds to compensate the Olivera family for the loss of their home which burned down last week. They particularly thanked some businesses which had already contributed but donated again to the MVRHS drive (see below: Donations p.3-4)
- A group of Theater students attended the Preliminary Festival in Bourne where two MVRHS students received awards for acting and set design.
- Sophomore Naomi Scott won the Science Fair for her windmill project.

A. Science Fair

About 200 students participated in the science fair under two divisions:

- independent investigations – exploring a hypothesis, and
 - a recent addition, an engineering competition on renewable energy concepts – this time on wind turbine design. The winners of the engineering competition were on display in the front lobby.
- Science teachers Natalie and Dana Munn and Prin. Regan reported on:
 - the broad spectrum of students, including vocational students, participating in the fair,
 - a panel of judges drawn from scientists across the region,
 - the number of specific awards, such as the farm award,
 - the National Center of Education and Statistics (NCES) website with free statistic conversion to charts.
 - Other forms of renewable energy including a biodiesel conversion unit were discussed.

Madeline Heath had approached South Mountain with a donation to fund an educational, accessible and visible alternative energy project for the High School. South Mountain recommended carport solar panels in the front lot providing, shade, electrical outlets for electric cars, and solar power for the MVRHS (see documents on file). These panels would generate about the same kilowatts as the current wind turbine (14,000kw at \$3,000 per year savings). The MVRHSC discussed:

- vandalism and lighting,
 - snow plowing and driving safety,
 - alternate locations such as the outside lunch area,
 - expansion unit by unit to other MVRHS parking,
 - experiences with similar installations across the country.
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF MONEY AND APPROVE THE SOLAR PROJECT AS A CARPORT OR OTHER USE AS AGREED UPON BY THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expenditure and Report (See documents on file.)

The High School Budget was in good shape, likely to finish the year comfortably and possibly to replenish Excess and Deficiency (E & D) funds. The only true deficit was

in advertising due to the number of positions needing to be posted. Prin. Regan thanked Asst. Prin. Neal Weaver for his frugal but proficient maintenance of the school.

B. Revenue was also in good shape (see documents on file).

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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C. Update on Auditor's Recommendations (See 1/22/08 Minutes.)

- Disaster recovery plans to store and restore records was awaiting Islandwide planning.
- Treasurer Schroeder wrote letters to those not authorized to use the MVRHS tax number.
- The residual in the Dental Fund would be used for a dental insurance payment.
- There was no action on Risk Assessment and Monitoring.
- The Student Council voted to move all old student activity account residuals into the current Student Activities Account.
- Federal grant compliance was being addressed with different personnel time sheets (see below: Tasks).
- Research on how to implement State regulations restricting the Culinary Arts Program revenues to \$15,000 per year were not showing any clear results, the most common practice being the inclusion of most vocational project expenses in the general fund balanced by the project revenues. This might be an option for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) although it meant more administrative accounting work. In general the MVRHSC recommended keeping the status quo and/or requesting guidance from the Auditor (see below: Tasks).
- A consultation with the Auditor and a software training had been scheduled to implement the capital asset updates.
- See below: Supt. Report for General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 regulation.

• MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFERS FROM THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SALARY LINE ITEM OF:

- \$28,168.80 TO INSURANCE OTHER, AND

- UP TO \$1,500 TO TRAVEL / OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE PRINCIPAL SEARCH;

MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- The Business office was working on the End-of-the-Year audit.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for exterior painting would be posted March 21st.
- The Special Education (SpEd) buses had been purchased and would be delivered May 1st.
- The MVRHSC discussed late cancellation/no show penalties for ferry reservations. These were rare and the parties involved were admonished and sometimes charged for the late fee/reservation (see below: Tasks).

D. Donations

• MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$500 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STRIPED BASS AND BLUE FISH DERBY TO THE MVRHS FISHING CLUB: MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$100 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAVINGS BANK TO THE CLASS OF 2008 STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND FOR THE OLIVERA FAMILY FUND DRIVE : MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$200 FROM THE WANT TO KNOW CLUB FOR BOOKS : MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$100 FROM THE DUKES COUNTY SAVINGS BANK TO THE CLASS OF 2008 STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND FOR THE OLIVERA FAMILY FUND DRIVE : MR. BACHELLER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$250 FROM THE EDGARTOWN NATIONAL BANK FOR THE TRIP TO THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE CELEBRATION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP : MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$77.75 FROM THE TARGET STORES: MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Resignations

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET LYNN REBELLO'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2008; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* The MVRHSC expressed their appreciation for her service to the School.
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET JOEL WEINTRAUB'S RESIGNATION AS OF MARCH 21, 2008; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* This was a one year only contract.

B. Resolutions for GASB 45

The Islandwide committee dealing with the unfunded retiree health insurance liability had proposed a joint fund for all the Island municipal units (see documents on file).

MR. BAYNES MOVED TO COSPONSOR LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A PERMISSIVE TRUST FUND FOR OPEB LIABILITY WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO MEMBER UNITS OF THE DUKES COUNTY CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT SYSTEM; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

B. Travel and Conferences

MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM TO TRAVEL TO AND STAY OVERNIGHT AT THE LADY FALCON BASEBALL JAMBOREE IN MASHPEE, MASSACHUSETTS; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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C. Young Brothers of MVRHS Report

The Young brothers were working on a mentoring project with the Oak Bluffs School and would give a presentation at a future meeting.

D. Professional Development Day

The March 12th Professional Development day went well including a workshop on how to write a course syllabus. This was an important component of a new software system that would allow parent/guardians secure and easy access to a comprehensive web page on their child with information on: transcripts, schedules, attendance, discipline, tests, and homework. The MVRHSC discussed: website security, school/parent communication, student independence, facilitation of scheduling, use as a day calendar/organizer.

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # VII)

Land Use

B. Recommendation on Wastewater Proposal (See above: p.2 – solar carports)

- The YMCA will begin clearing their lot shortly in preparation for construction.
- The Sub-Committee considered the options in regards to the wastewater treatment proposal (see documents on file and 1/14/08 Minutes p.5,6 and 2/4/08 Minutes p.4 #VIII D) and recommended the MVRHSD complete all preparatory research, approvals, agreements and estimates before proceeding.
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR OPTION #2 ON THE WASTEWATER PROPOSAL; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

A. Minutes of Meetings (See documents on file.)

The MVRHSC agreed to meet with the MVRHS School Council, from 6:00-7:30PM, Monday, May 5, 2008 to discuss staffing and school culture.

This would be followed by the regular MVRHSC meeting at 7:30PM.

• The next meeting of the MVRHSC meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2008 the day before the Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury annual town meetings.

- Tisbury Finance Committee member Mr. John Snyder reported that the High School Finance Committee (see 5/31/07 Minutes) had disbanded after failing to bridge any differences between the towns and consequently future MVRHSD budgets were likely to be assessed by the Mass. Statutory Formula. The meetings did generate some interesting and creative ideas however all six towns could not even agree to attend meetings.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. School Advisory Minutes (See documents on file.)

B. High School Assessment Group's Minutes (See documents on file.)

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C. Green Committee – Driving to School

It was suggested, in view of the global warming crisis and fossil fuel issues, that students be forbidden to drive to school. The MVRHSC discussed: carpools, fuel savings for college funds, buses and public transportation, and last year's student group and staff for biking and walking. Prin. Regan strongly recommended this suggestion be presented to the Student Council to become a student initiative (see below: Tasks).

E. Surplus Computers (See documents on file.)

The Martha's Vineyard Community Services would hold an electronics disposal fair March 29th.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO DECLARE THE COMPUTER LIST SURPLUS AND TO AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL IN THE BEST POSSIBLE MANNER; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO DECLARE SUPLUS AND TRANSFER THE WOOD LATHE FROM THE VOCATIONAL SHOP TO THE OAK BLUFF SCHOOL AND/OR EDGARTOWN SCHOOL VOCATIONAL SHOPS; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- The MVRHSC discussed the Assistant Principal position left vacant by Mr. Nixon moving up to be Principal. The position had been posted as an appraisal of available talent. The Administration was also considering eliminating/combining the position, hiring a more comprehensive business manager in place of Lynn Rebello, posting a one year only position, and other alternatives. Mr. Nixon would be making the determination in consultation with Ms. Regan and other administrators. The MVRHSC discussed various configurations of administrative personnel, the work load involved in the positions (including support for Mr. Nixon's first year as Principal) , the declining student population, the administrative role in school safety and culture, and the local talent pool.
- The MVRHSC noted that elections were coming up and that Tisbury School Committee member John Bacheller would not be running. They thanked him for his service.

Adjournment

(Agenda Item # XI)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:12PM; MR. MANTER SECONDED;
MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Thank you to Madeline Heath at Island Elderly Housing for the solar donation.
- Islandwide task force on disaster recovery plan.
- Invite Grants Coordinator Pat Ingalls to report re: Audit compliance.
- Ask Auditor re: Culinary Arts revenue.
 - Advocate with MASC to update vocational revenue ceiling.
- Explore municipal exemption from Steamship Authority late/cancellation fees.
- Bring student non-driving / fossil fuel initiative to Student Council.

continued >

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 3/17/08

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2007-2008 (19 p.) 3/08

MVRHS Revenue Report Fiscal Year 2007-2008 (2 p.) 3/08

Auditor's Recommendations – Update to the School Committee 3/17/08

Image Mass. GIS Commonwealth of Mass. EOE 2007 Tele Atlas *aerial view MVRHS*

Artist rendering of proposed carport

Rebello Letter of Resignation 2/25/08

Weintraub Email Resignation 2/14/08

Weintraub Email Resignation 2/14/08

Flanders Email re: GASB 45 legislation 2/12/08

Land Use Sub-Committee Minutes 3/5/08

MVPS Supt. Memo re: Wastewater Proposal 3/5/08

MVPS Supt. Memo re: Wastewater Proposal 2/28/08

Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting 2/20/08

Minutes of High School Assessment Group 2/11/08

Computer Inventory

Approved as amended April 7, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 7, 2008, 4:00 pm

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

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, John Bacheller,
Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Mercier, Judi O’Donoghue*,
Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley
Student representatives: Max Nunes, Alexia Schroeder,

Others:

Staff: Principal – Margaret “Peg” Reagan
Assist. Prin., Steve Nixon, Neal Weaver

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

Press: MVTV: Tom Mahew
Vineyard Gazette - Sam Bungey

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order 7:00PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

MR. SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17, 2008 MINUTES AS AMENDED; MR. LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MS. SUSAN MERCIER due to absence.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- Spring sports have started;
- Boys lacrosse was 5 and 0 and the girls have had one game.
- Baseball was 2 and 1 and softball won their last game.
- Both track teams won their last meet and competed again today.
- Sail MV was working with the faculty on internships for students wanting to learn the basics of sailing.
- The third quarter ended and report cards would be coming out shortly.
- Seniors were receiving their college acceptances and facing decisions. Applications had widened to include a good range of excellent colleges (not just Ivy League) and many had been wait listed. At \$40-\$50,000 per year higher education cost meant financial aid / scholarship responses were often as important as college acceptances.
- The Junior Prom would be at the Beach Plum Inn this year.
- Students were looking forward to a number of international spring trips including Germany, Vienna, Venice, Paris, and Ireland; not to mention two exchanges with English schools, one for girls lacrosse and one for the student exchange from last year.

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- The National Honor Society Dance-a-Thon from 10:30PM to 5:00AM would benefit the Safe Haven camp.
- Freshman homerooms would compete in various activities at the Freshman Cup Assembly, meanwhile the other classes would take part in an interactive theatre production.
- * Ms. Judi O'Donoghue entered the meeting at 7:08PM.
- The Close Up Club had a great time in Washington, D.C. getting a private tour of the Capitol, and visiting the offices of various Senators and Representatives. The students debated issues and were reminded of the political diversity of the country by meeting others from different states and political affiliations. Max Nunes would again work for Hillary Clinton during the April break.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expenditure (See documents on file.)

The Budget was in good shape with 3% remaining. Deficits in Advertising and Athletics would continue to rise but could be covered by other residuals. At the end of the fiscal year the remaining amount could be dedicated to facility maintenance and replenishing Excess and Deficiency (E & D).

- The only pressing need was the replacement of the press box/bleachers (see 4/4/05 Minutes p. 2 #III and 8/29/05 Minutes 0.2 # III D) –the press box being now condemned since a part of the floor had given way.

B. Revenue (See documents on file.)

70% of all revenues had been received.

C. Update in Auditor's Recommendations (See 1/22/08 Minutes)

MV Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Amy Tierney and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) accounting staff were trained in entering capital assets into the new software so the General Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 34 inventory could be regularly updated (see 11/7/05 Minutes p. 3 #7).

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Town Meeting Update

- Tisbury had passed the MVRHSD Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) budget without any questions, and both the West Tisbury and the Edgartown Finance Committees (FinCom) supported the High School budget for their towns. However two towns had put parts of the MVRHSD FY09 Budget on overrides, requiring not only passage at Town Meeting but also passage at the ballot box.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 7, 2008

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- Chilmark school assessments had risen significantly however the Board of Selectmen were supportive and felt the override was likely to pass.
- Oak Bluffs had put not only parts of the MVRHSD budget but also parts of the Oak Bluffs School budget on overrides as its FY09 budget had shown a significant shortfall. The situation was complicated by citizen concern over the rise in taxes.
- Aquinnah was considered likely to approve the High School budget but there was some questions over the Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD) budget.
- Town Meeting dates and advocacy were reviewed.

B. School Advisory Council/School Committee Meeting

Supt. Weiss was greatly encouraged by an excellent attendance (48) and positive comments on increasing such Islandwide meetings. The Council and Committee members has also discussed the Strategic Plan.

The African American Trail Board proposed a plaque at the Shared Services / Supt. Office recognizing the first African American educators: Quentin Bannister, Rufus Shorter, Robert Tankard and Helen Vanderhoop.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. End-of-Year Calendar (See documents on file.)

Prin. Regan reviewed the schedule, noting the \$900,000 in Island donated scholarships that would be given out on Class Night.

D. Reminder – Combined School Council/School Committee Meeting

The meeting (6:00PM Monday, May 5, 2008) would focus on the issue of staffing during a period of declining enrollment and increased State mandates.

B. Senior Projects

Nine seniors would present their Senior Projects from 9:00 to 11:30AM, May 6th, 7th, and 8th in the Culinary Arts Dining Room.

- The Minnesinger concert was scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 3rd and 4th.
- Travis Roy would speak at an Assembly April 14th; disabled community members had been invited to attend.

C. MCAS Testing

Testing had started in March and would run through June. To graduate sophomores would have to pass English/Language Arts, Math, and Biology. If students did not score “proficient” an individualized EEP would have to be developed – which would be a significant 2008/09 focus for staff.

- Spring also brought on the Advanced Placement (AP) and college preparatory Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT's), consequently spring was becoming known as ‘test city’. Breakfasts and pep rallies continued a part of school test support.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Personnel

1. Advertised Positions

Asst. Supt Laurie Halt advocated for the MVPS at the University of Massachusetts Job Fair. The Administration noted that although there were new teachers in English, French, art and elementary schools, there were few or no candidates for Spanish, math, sciences, technology or Special Education. To conserve costs the Shared Services / Supt. Office was collecting local and MVRHS positions to advertise nationally in Education Week and regionally in the Boston Globe; in addition administrators would continue to contact and recruit from trade associations and colleges as above.

2. Leave of Absence Request

MR. BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION OF CAREER ALTERNATIVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR DANIELLE GARCIA FOR HER SECOND YEAR; MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. School Advisory Minutes

The major points proposed for the School Improvement Plan were reviewed (see documents on file and below: Tasks).

- There was a brief discussion on instituting annotated research papers in each year. This had been a major feedback point of Alumni moving on to universities and colleges.

Chair Susan Parker thanked Mr. John Bacheller for his service and Prin. Regan thanked all the MVRHSC members for their devotion, dedication and citizenship.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XI)

MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:50PM, MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Send Prin. Regan and comments or suggestions for the School Improvement Plan
- MVRHSC/MVRHSAC meeting 6:00PM Monday, May 5, 2008.
- Senior projects 9:00 AM May 6-8, 2008 Culinary Arts Dining Room.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 4/7/08

MVRHS Expenditure Budget Balance Report (19 p.) 4/4/08

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 4/4/08

Seniors End of Year Activities & Final Exam Schedule – 2008 (2 p.)

Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting 3/19/08

The Vineyarder April, 2008 (11 p. + mailer)

MVRHSD memo re: New Maritime Program 3/31/08

Approved as amended May 5, 2008.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Special Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2008, 6:00 pm
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room**

Present: MVRHSC Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman*,
Skipper J. Manter, Susan Mercier,
Priscilla Sylvia*, Maura Valley
Student representatives: Max Nunes,

School Council Cynthia Cowan, Injy Lew, Mike McCarthy,
Jim Reynolds, Rachel Schubert,
Teresa Temple, Elaine Weintraub, Ben Williams

Others:

Staff: Assist. Prin., Steve Nixon, Neal Weaver

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Business Affairs – Amy Tierney

Press: Tom Mayhew - MVTV
Janet Hefler - MV Times
Sam Bungey - Vineyard Gazette

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order

The Chair of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) and the Chair of the MVRHS School Council called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) was reviewed (see documents on file).

- The MVRHSC considered the C1/C2 classes study (see 11/5/07 Minutes p. 5 #D) on whether the classes had become an 'easy track' both for students not wishing to work or for staff to place students with behavioral problems.

* Sue Mercier entered the meeting at 6:13PM

- A Committee would focus on staffing levels in relation to dropping enrollment particularly in regards to:

- increased Mass. State and Federal mandates,
- stress on staff and students,
- maintaining and increasing flexibility of staff certification,
- consistent class sizes, and
- maintaining elective choices as much as possible.

* Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 6:14PM

- The SIP included a plan to increase staff and student connections with the wider community through newsletters, meetings, etc.

- College level paper writing skills would be stressed across curriculums in response to alumni feedback (see 4/7/08 p.4 #VIII A).
- There was a plan to coordinate curriculum and have a common assessment tool for mid and final exams as well as a uniform grading system.

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- The Advisory Program (see 1/14/08 Minutes p.4 #C) would be modified to include more frequent meetings, and better faculty preparation.

- Homerooms had been largely superceded by electronic attendance and the Advisory Groups and might be eliminated to gain more time.

* Priscilla Sylvia entered the meeting at 6:50PM

- As part of the effort to streamline parental notification, and to cut down on paper, printing, folding, mailing, etc. more information was going on line for parent/guardian and student accessibility, including: student schedules, course curriculums, homework assignments, and behavioral write ups. There was a brief discussion on detention moving from a focus on the punishment to a focus on the education.

- As previously decided the MVRHSC Budget Subcommittee would continue to meet all year (see 1/14/08 Minutes p.6 #C).

- The Press Box had been condemned and would be replaced this summer (see 4/4/05 Minutes p. 2 #III and 8/29/05 Minutes 0.2 # III D).

Asst. Prin. Steve Nixon and the MVRHSC thanked the School Council for their hard work.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Mike McCarthy - call Pembroke re: Press Box/bleacher unit.
- A School Council volunteer was requested to evaluate the lunch service bid.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 5/5/08

The Annual School Improvement Plan of the MVRHS Council May 2008 (19 p.)

Approved as amended June 2, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 5, 2008, 6:00 pm

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

Present: MVRHSC Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman*,
Skipper J. Manter, Susan Mercier,
Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley
Student representatives: Max Nunes,

Others:

Staff: Assist. Prin., Steve Nixon, Neal Weaver

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Business Affairs – Amy Tierney

Press: Tom Mahew - MVTV
Janet Hefler - MV Times
Sam Bungey - Vineyard Gazette

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order 7:38PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2008 MINUTES; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- Sports teams had done well.
 - The Baseball team had won 5, lost 8 and tied 2 games.
 - Girls lacrosse was 6 and 3; and Girls softball was 12 and 0.
 - Boys Lacrosse was 9 and 3.
- Windermere residents and Martha's Vineyard Community Services had been invited to the assembly with inspirational speaker Travis Roy, who will be introduced by the hockey team.
- There was a good response to Holocaust survivor Dr. Maurice Van Der Pol's talk.
- The National Honor Society fundraiser will be held May 17, 2008 at the Hebrew Center.
- Many groups had completed their annual trips which included Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Ireland, Quebec, and two exchanges with England.
- The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School newspaper took second prize in New England and first prize for the region.
- The new and improved edition of Seabreezes would be published shortly.

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- The Evening of the Arts would be Thursday, May 22nd.
- The Minnesingers performed their spring show last weekend.
- World Language Night including cultural events would be Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30PM. Seven students had garnered art scholarships.
- Student Council nomination forms would be available in June.
- The First Annual Ice Cream Party would be held as a farewell from the Senior Class.
- The Junior Prom would be at the Beach Plum Inn this Saturday, May 10th.
- This was 'Testing Time' with sophomore MCAS tests, junior Advanced Placement (AP) and Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT's).
- The Student Council bought a cake from the Culinary Arts Department for Teacher Appreciation Day.
- Chair Susan Parker commended school spirit and thanked Mr. Nunes for his report.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expenditure (See documents on file.)

There were some intradepartmental or accounting deficits of no significance, however as projected there would be true deficits in Athletics, and Special Education (SpEd) – which could be covered by residuals in other lines. Possible end-of-year actions to alleviate the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) budget would be presented at the next meeting.

B. Revenue

79% of all revenues were in and no big losses were anticipated although the Charter School tuition and reimbursement would be higher than expected.

C. Certification of E & D Amount

Excess & Deficiency (E & D) was certified at \$663,531 (slightly reduced by Tisbury's failure to pay into the Professional Enhancement Fund—see 1/30/08 AISC Minutes p.2).

MR. MANTER MOVED TO RECONFIRM AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF TWO PRIOR YEAR BILLS AND \$250,000 TO FISCAL YEAR 2009 MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FROM EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY: MS. MERCER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Mr. Manter objected to the use of E & D for the operating budget. (See 10/1/07 Minutes p. 3 and 12/3/07 Minutes p. 4.)

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Town Meeting Update

Supt. Jim Weiss congratulated the MVRHSC on the passage of its FY09 Budget by four towns Edgartown, Tisbury, West Tisbury, and Chilmark—at the ballot box.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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C. Resignation

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATIONS OF GERMAN TEACHE MR. CHAD CARD AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE BOOKKEEPER MS. TALEN NIXON; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

B. African American Heritage Trail Dedication (See 4/7/08 Minutes p. 3)

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP) would dedicate the Shared Services and Superintendent's Office as Site #21 on the African American Trail with a plaque commemorating the first African American educators on Martha's Vineyard at 12:30PM, Wednesday, May 28th.

The last day of school would be Friday, June 20th.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

Prin. Peg Regan was participating in an evaluation team for another High School.

A. Letter of Agreement as Steamship Summer Shelter

The Steamship Authority requested use of the grounds for emergency parking, shelter, etc.

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ALLOW THE CONCEPT OF THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STEAMSHIP AUTHORITY; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• The MVRHS wind turbine developed mechanical difficulties last weekend and was being repaired (see below: Tasks).

B. Handbook – There were no major changes except for the addition of the Compliance Coordinators (see documents on file).

C. Senior Projects Dates & Times (See 2/4/08 Minutes p. 4 #VIII.)

All MVRHSC members were encouraged to attend the Senior projects presentations starting tomorrow May 6th. (see below; Tasks).

D. Assistant Principal Search

Excellent advertising garnered 30 resumes in the Assistant Principal search and seven finalists would be interviewed May 13th (see below: Tasks).

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. June Meetings – June 2nd & June 23rd.

B. Greening of the School

The MVRHSC debated ways to reduce carbon emissions by discouraging driving.

• Mr. Manter strongly advocated for banning students from driving to school if the Student Council did not take action.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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- Mr. Nunes noted the work of the Student Council Green Committee, the lack of interest in the Student/Staff Walking/Biking initiative, and the timing of the request with the outgoing(lame duck) Student Council.
- Ms. Parker warned of the complexities of the situation for example banning student driving might increase parental drop off /pick up thus doubling carbon fuel use.
- Asst. Supt. Ms. Halt emphasized that the MVRHSC should not impose any conditions they themselves were not willing to practice.
- Other issues included: public transportation, school bus pick-ups/drop offs, parking fees, after school activities, scheduling burdens on students and staff.
- **MS. MERCIER MOVED THAT THE MVRHSC BE VERY PROACTIVE TO GREEN THE HIGH SCHOOL; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION WITHDRAWN.**
- The following actions were agreed upon (see also below: Tasks):
 - Mr. Nunes would bring the issue before the Student Council in its summer meetings.
 - The administration would begin picking up students on existing bus routes who lived within the 1 1/2 mile radius as soon as possible.

C. Transportation Policy

Mass. State has grant money available for bus routing software to increase efficiency.

D. Advertised Positions – included French Teacher, Administrative Accounting Assistant, Bookkeeper, and Assistant Principal.

- The first part of a two part exterior painting contract will start shortly.
- Delivery of the SpEd buses was delayed by a strike (see 3/17/08 Minutes p3 #C).
- The food service contract had been put out to bid (see below: Tasks). There was a brief discussion on the possibility of in-house service. Mr. Nunes reported on the move to reduce French fries as an entire meal and the attendant loss of revenue.
- The MVRHS was sponsoring a reception in Culinary Arts Dining Room to honor Prin. Peg Regan at the end of her nine years and service at 6:00PM June 2nd.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XI)

*MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:44PM; MR. MANTER SECONDED;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

continued >

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Appendix A - Agreed Upon Tasks

- Mr. Nixon – present fuel catalyst proposal at June regular meeting.
- Senior projects 9:00 AM May 6-8, 2008 Culinary Arts Dining Room.
- Make sure the community has emergency numbers for wind turbine problems.
- Report on wind turbine and emergency measures at June meeting.
- Meet and greet Asst. Prin. candidates 8:00AM, Tuesday, May 13th.
- Consider ways to reduce carbon fuel in attending MVRHSC meetings.
- Ms. Valley – Food Service Bid Committee.
- *Reconfirm E&D prior year bill from 9/10/07 Minutes.*

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 5/5/08

The Annual School Improvement Plan of the MVRHS Council May 2008 (19 p.)

07-08 School Year Expenses...*Facility Report* (3 p.)

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures (10 p.) 5/5/08

MVRHS Excess & Deficiency Analysis as of June 30, 2007

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 5/5/08

FY08 MVRHS School Committee Votes for Transfers of E&D

Chad Card letter re: Resignation 5/5/08

Approved as amended June 2, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 2, 2008, 7:30 pm
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman
Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Mercier, Lisa Reagan,
Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley, Bob Tankard
Student representative: Max Nunes, Alexia Schroeder,

Others:

Staff: Principal – Margaret “Peg” Reagan
Assist. Prin., Steve Nixon, Neal Weaver
Marjorie Whitmore – Financial Assistant

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

Student: Laura Kimball
Brock Callen – Sail MV

FinCom Tisb. - John Snyder

Press MV Times - Janet Hefler
Vineyard Gazette - Sam Bungey

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM.

- As this was Principal Peg Regan’s last meeting Chair Susan Parker acknowledged her outstanding contributions to the School to a loud round of applause.
- Chair Parker welcomed Marjorie Whitmore to the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) staff as the new Senior Financial Assistant. Later in the meeting it was noted that Deb Montalbaut would be the new bookkeeper.
- Chair Parker also welcomed new MVRHSC member Lisa Reagan of Oak Bluffs and returning Tisbury member Robert Tankard.
- She commended MVRHS graduating senior Laura Kimball for her Senior Project (see also below: Student Report).

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

MS. MERCIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2008 SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: SPECIAL MEETING: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MS. SYLVIA due to absence; REGULAR MEETING: AS AMENDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MS. REAGAN due to absences.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- The latest volume of Seabreezes was in color for the first time (see documents on file) and the Evening of Arts was a big success.
- In sports: Boys tennis made it into and through two rounds of the post game play offs.
 - Boys lacrosse also made it to the playoffs but lost the first round.
 - Girls lacrosse made it into the playoffs and won their second round – the next game (the semi-finals) will be played at home this Thursday, June 4 at 4:00PM.
 - Both boys and girls track won their league and 10 students went to the State meet with one student qualifying.
- Junior prom at the Beach Plum Inn was reportedly the best ever with the Sultans of Swing, great dancing and a good time.
- The Travis Roy assembly kept student's attention and gave them some things to think about.
- The Minnesingers show was a big hit.
- The first Ice Cream Social with teachers serving free ice cream on the newly opened patio solicited a freshman to remark that this was the best high school in the world.
- Student Council candidate speeches were scheduled for June 9th with elections on the next day – Mr. Nunes was running for President.
- Awards night kicked off the final week of school for seniors and everyone was invited to various end-of-the-year events especially Graduation at 1:30PM, June 8th and Class night on June 6th.
- The previous month was full of fairly stressful tests including Advanced Placement (AP), Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT's) and the MCAS.

• Senior Laura Kimball and friends, Carol Mercier and Rosa Parker, have been fund-raising for China earthquake relief, raising \$3,205 which they hoped to send to Save the Children Foundation to pay for new schools, and basic necessities. They had researched the Foundation's charity standing and administrative/service ratio.

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ESTABLISH A STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE DONATIONS; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Ms. Kimball was born in China and did her senior project on international adoption during which she learned a great deal. She was accepted into Edgar College but has deferred attendance one year to work in an orphanage in China. Chair Parker thanked the seniors, the community members and the staff for the outstanding work on senior projects. Ms. Kimball noted that the project had not only been an end to her high school experience but also a beginning of her adult life.

- Ms. Parker thanked both student representatives for being a liaison between the MVRHSC and students with candor, humor and involvement.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Finance Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expenditure (See documents on file.)

The Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) budget was in pretty good shape; deficits included Special Education, athletics and especially advertising; with residuals in transportation and the after school program.

- Each line would be reconciled to insure all moneys were spent by June 30th.

B. Revenue (See documents on file.)

All outstanding revenue was either in the mail or in process. Circuit Breaker funds would prepay a residential placement – as was allowed.

C. Excess & Deficiency

Excess and Deficiency (E & D) would be considered June 23rd, when the Budget Subcommittee would discuss projects for the coming year and the MVRHSC would vote final FY08 transactions.

D. Donations

- The Parents of Class of 2008 collected funds to purchase a good quality coffee machine for staff and to endow an account for the ongoing purchase of coffee and supplies.

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE DONATION OF \$700 FROM THE PARENTS OF CLASS 2008 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 2008 COFFEE STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT; MS. MERCIER AND MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- In the hope of producing licensed mariners, Sail MV proposed to donate a maritime vocational studies programs assuming all costs including salary / benefits, regulatory / certification, equipment, and off-Island field trips. They would also apply for Mass. State funding.

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A MARITIME STUDIES PROGRAM FROM MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAIL AND TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM; MS. REGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MVRHSC expressed their enthusiastic appreciation.

- *MR. BAYNES MOVED AUTHORIZE THE USE OF WORLD LANGUAGE SUPPLIES MONEY TO ALLOW KERRY O'KEEFE TO ATTEND THE COLLEGE BOARD CONFERENCE CHINA BRIDGE IN CHINA AT A COST OF \$900, SUSAN MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 9 AYES, 1 NAY- MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* It was hoped the conference which could sponsor salary costs for teachers of Mandarin to come to the MVRHS for two years (MVRHSD to pay housing costs only).

- *MS. MERCIER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE LANDSCAPE TEACHER JOHN WOJTKIELO TO USE PERKINS GRANT FUNDS OF \$800 TO GO TO A CONFERENCE IN MARLBORO, MASS; MR. TANKARD SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE BILL SEABOURNE TO TAKE THE REMAINING STUDENTS IN HIS BUILDING CLASS OVERNIGHT TO GREENFIELD*

MASS FOR A POST AND BEAM WORKSHOP; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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E. Updated Capital Plan

- Three new quotes solicited to update the cost of replacing the press box / bleachers (see 4/7/08 Minutes p.2 #IV A) came in around \$300,000 -- \$260,000 from E & D and \$40,000 from the general fund. The project should be completed for the Spring 2009 season. As many groups used the fields community input should be solicited.
- Exterior painting was in progress with a savings of about \$50,000 overall.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V)

B. Bus Update

Moody's sent preliminary notification that the MVRHSD Bond Rating had been raised from A to A1; timely news for the bus purchase bond bids. The bids were due this week and should be voted this month. The purchase itself entailed complex coordination of spec's, Vineyard Transit Authority requirements, driver input, and manufacturer conditions.

D. Donations (Agenda Item # IV)

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT:

- \$10,000 FROM THE HECHINSHUR FOUNDATION TO PURCHASE SMART BOARDS FOR THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL

- \$30,800 FROM THE TOWER FOUNDATION FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT;

- \$11,725 FROM THE DEPT. OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (DOE/DESE) FOR TRANSPORTAION SOFTWARE to facilitate bus route efficiency;

- 25 BOOKS FROM THE WE THE PEOPLE GROUP FOR THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL (it was hoped the books would be circulated to other schools);

MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

A. Technology Plan Approval

DESE approved the MVRHSD Technology Plan – qualifying the District for the e-rate.

C. Wastewater

All community suggestions / solutions have been passed on to the consulting engineers. The Administration was working with the Oak Bluffs authorities and Schofield, Hoehn & Barbini on designs to use the Oak Bluffs treatment plant (see 9/10/07 Minutes p.3 #IV C/E).

B. Administrative and Non-Union Salaries for 2008-2009

Supt. Weiss recommended FY09 salary raises for administrative and non-union staff within the budgeted amounts (see documents on file). Raises varied from 3.5% Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to 5-6% as appropriate. New MVRHS Principal Steve Nixon's contract was not included.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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- The discussions covered such issues as:
 - capping administrative salaries
 - salaries in comparative districts,
 - administrative / teacher salary comparisons,
 - steep rise in the cost of living, gas, food, etc.,
 - whether the second asst. principal position was necessary.

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION SALARY RAISES AS RECOMMENDED; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Assistant Principal Update

A large pool of applicants and 7 interviews produced one candidate who eventually refused the appointment so after some conferring a one year only interim position was offered to and accepted by Oak Bluffs School Assistant Principal Carlin Hart. The MVRHSC thanked Oak Bluffs for its generosity and the Search Committee for their hard work, and expressed their satisfaction.

B. Staffing Update

The Administration was very busy posting, interviewing and hiring positions including positions in French, German, Spanish/Portuguese (still open), Driver Ed. (turning out to be a very helpful course), Math, and Earth Sciences. The MVRHSC discussed World Language staffing and increased student interest.

C. Senior Projects

The Senior Projects have been a tremendous success for the whole school, including school and community participants, mentors, technology support, culinary staff, and other students. The MVRHSC, especially those who were parents of the senior participants talked about the broadened horizons, empowerment, hard work and transition to the next level.

D. Evening of the Arts was a wonderful creative celebration of interactive pottery, art, poetry, musicians, filmmakers and rappers.

E. Honors Night

1000 certificates were given out to honor not only the top academic students but excellence in all departments.

F. End of Year Events Reminder

The MVRHSC was welcomed to attend most year-end events (see documents on file). Principal Regan participated in the Senior Prank sleep over which she enjoyed but did not recommend be repeated. She praised the graduating class which was special to her.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # VII)

A. School Improvement Plan Q&A – (See below: Actions).

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 2, 2008

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B. Re-Organization of Leadership

MR. BAYNES NOMINATED MS. SUSAN MERCIER AS CHAIR AND MS. SYLVIA AS VICE CHAIR; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MS. REAGAN MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS; MS. MERCIER ACCEPTED WITH EXCITEMENT AND THANKS; MS. SYLVIA ACCEPTED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Chair Mercier and the MVRHSC thanked Ms. Parker for her amazing work and example over the last two years.

C. Re-Organization of Subcommittees

Land Use Subcommittee – Ms. Ackerman, Mr. Baynes, Ms. Mercier, Ms. Parker, Ms. Sylvia.

Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Ackerman, Mr. Baynes, Ms. Mercier, Ms. Parker, Mr. Tankard (see below: Actions).

All MVRHSC members were invited to attend any Subcommittee meeting.

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPOINT MR. TANKARD TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS THE MVRHSC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MVTV BOARD; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MR. TANKARD ACCEPTED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

* Mr. Manter left the meeting 9:17PM.

Adjournment

(Agenda Item # IX)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:44PM; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Budget Subcommittee meetings 7:30AM 6/11/08
- MVRHSC meeting – 7:00PM 6/23/08
 - vote press box/bleacher project.
 - solicit Community input on project.
- Contact Ms. Mercier for referral to DEP Representative Frank Cappa re: Wastewater.
- Ms. Tierney – Update Capital Plan re: deleting completed projects

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 6/2/08

Seabreezes Volume 28 (63 p. + covers)

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures (10 p.) 6/2/08

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 6/2/06

MVRHS Excess & Deficiency Analysis as of June 30, 2007

MVPS Weiss Memo re: Management and Non-Union Salary Adjustments (2 p.) 6/2/08

MVRHS Capital Budget FY 2008-2013

Honors Night MVRHS / PAC May 29, 2008 *program*

Seniors End of Year Activities and Final Exam Schedule 2008

Approved as amended 6/23/08

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, June 9, 2008, 7:30 pm
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Vice Chair – Priscilla Sylvia, Roxanne Ackerman*,
Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Parker, Lisa Reagan,
Maura Valley, Bob Tankard

Others:

Staff: Assist. Prin., Steve Nixon,

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss

Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,

Secretary: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals, or

Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Bond Sale (Agenda Item # I)

Ms. Tierney thanked the members for coming out on such a hot night and apologized for the extra meeting. Eight bids were received of which Roosevelt and Croft had the lowest average interest rate at 2.77%.

MR. TANKARD MOVED THAT THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE: THAT THE SALE OF THE 1,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE DISTRICT DATED JUNE 15, 2008 (THE "BONDS") TO ROOSEVELT & CROSS, INC. AT THE PRICE OF \$1,308,452.60 AND ACCRUED INTEREST IS HEREBY APPROVED AND CONFIRMED. THE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE ON JUNE 15 OF THE YEARS AND IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNTS AND BEAR INTEREST AT THE RESPECTIVE RATES, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	YEAR	AMOUNTS	INTEREST RATE
2009	\$260,000	3.00%	2012	\$260,000	3.00%
2010	260,000	3.00%	2013	260,000	3.00
2011	260,000	3.00			

AND FURTHER VOTE: THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARKETING AND SALE OF THE BONDS, THE PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF A NOTICE OF SALE AND PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED MAY 21, 2008, AND A FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JUNE 4, 2008, (THE "OFFICIAL STATEMENT") BE AND HEREBY ARE RATIFIED, CONFIRMED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

AND FURTHER VOTE: THAT THE BONDS SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION PRIOR TO THEIR STATE MATURITY DATES.

AND FURTHER VOTE THAT THE BUSINESS MANAGER BE AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

*UNDERTAKING IN COMPLIANCE WITH SEC RULE 15C2-12 IN SUCH FORM AS
MAY BE APPROVED BY BOND COUNSEL TO THE DISTRICT, WHICH
UNDERTAKING SHALL BE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE BONDS, FOR
THE BENEFIT OF THE HOLDERS OF THE BONDS FROM TIME TO TIME.*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 9, 2008

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AND FURTHER VOTE: THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, THE DISTRICT SECRETARY, THE BUSINESS MANAGER AND THE DISTRICT TREASURER BE, AND EACH HEREBY ARE INDIVIDUALLY, AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY AND ALL SUCH ACTIONS, AND EXECUTE AND DELIVER SUCH CERTIFICATES, RECEIPTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THEM, OR ANY OF THEM, TO BE NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOREGOING VOTES.

MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES , 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

* Ms. Ackerman entered the meeting at 7:11PM.

Mr. Manter:

- thought more buses should be purchased and students banned from driving (see 5/5/08 Minutes p. 3-4 #VIII B). The discussion was briefly recapped including issues on unintended results, college practices and age limitations.
- repeated his views that Oak Bluffs and Tisbury were not paying their share of capital costs. Again previous discussions were briefly recapped including issues, of state reimbursement, higher maintenance fees to the two towns, and trade offs in length of routes etc.

Adjournment

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:15PM; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Documents on File:

Agenda 6/9/08

Vote of the MVRHSD School Committee (2 p.) 6/9/08

Approved as written 6/23/08

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 23, 2008, 7:00 pm

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

Present: Chair – Susan Parker, Roxanne Ackerman,
Bob Tankard, Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Mercier, Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley

Others:

Staff: Assist. Prin., - Stephen Nixon, Neal Weaver

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss

Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt

Business Affairs - Amy Tierney

Student Support – Dan Seklecki

Press: Tom Mayhew – MVTV

Janet Hefler - MV Times

Sam Bungey - Gazette

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes

(Agenda Item # I)

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2008 MINUTES AS AMENDED; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9, 2008 MINUTES; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MR. BAYNES due to absence.*

Financial Report

(See documents on file.)

(Agenda Item # III)

B. Expenditure

Payroll and end of the year encumbrances had been entered and fuel tanks topped off. Funds had been set aside for final anticipated and unanticipated end of the year expenses. Special Revenue Funds (grants) were caught up and expected to draw only minimal funds for final reimbursement. Ms. Tierney requested transfers to ensure end of the year line item balances. The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) discussed: fuel savings, the Teachers Increment line balance, items on the capital plan, and returning moneys to the towns.

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS FROM THE TEACHERS SALARY INCREMENT LINE:*

- *\$16,000 TO PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE (ADVERTISING),*

- *\$12,000 TO ATHLETICS (ICE TIME AND INTRAMURAL),*

- *\$10,000 TO BUILDING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE (EARLY INSTALLATION OF FUEL CATALYST);*

MS. PARKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 23, 2008

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A. Revenue Report

Most revenues had been received however a final \$1,100,000 was expected before June 30, 2008. This left the MVRHSD in good financial shape with a roughly \$1,600,000 residual of which about \$825,000 (5% of the Fiscal Year 2008 – FY08 budget) could be retained in Excess & Deficiency (E & D).

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Budget Subcommittee Recommendations for E & D (See documents on file.)

- A bargain had been negotiated with Rosetta Stone® for 30 language software versions with access by 1,000 computers. Therefore a mobile language lab was recommended at \$41,000.
- As textbooks were now about \$100 each losses were substantial and 15 bar code readers with attendant software at \$6,000 total were proposed to track books (using student ID numbers) and facilitate paperwork.
- Point of Sale cafeteria software at \$20,000 would allow parents to preload a lunch account onto student cards, as well as eliminating a separate line for free and reduced lunch students.
- The interior copy room needed air conditioning at \$6,000 for preventative maintenance on the machines.
- Some administrative offices would be moved from the front of the building requiring \$26,853 in transition moneys for moving expenses, equipment for new staff, and additional staff training.
- Funding the residual moneys to replace the bleachers and press box—\$100,000 from E & D with \$200,000 already dedicated/voted (see 6/2/08 Minutes p. 4#E).
- In addition in order to cut Steamship Authority (SSA) fees the Subcommittee proposed re-building the off-Island fleet with two hybrid cars (\$48,000).

The MVRHSC discussed:

- text book losses per year (\$3-5,000) and replacement cycle (5 years) and the number of scanners needed,
- the status, use and history of off-Island vehicles, mileage and the SSA contracts,
- lumping in software purchases with regular department line items (see below: Actions),
- the importance of the cafeteria software for student/family financial confidentiality,
- Mr. Manter objected to the use of E & D moneys for non-emergency purposes and its inclusion or evasion of the regular budget process.

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE OF \$247,853 FROM EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY TO FUND:

- *A MOBILE LANGUAGE LAB AND SOFTWARE,*
- *15 BAR CODE READERS AND SOFTWARE,*
- *POINT OF SALE CAFETERIA SYSTEM,*
- *AIR CONDITIONING FOR THE COPY ROOM,*
- *TRANSITION EXPENSES TO MOVE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 23, 2008

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- *RESIDUAL FUNDING TO REPLACE THE PRESS BOX / BLEACHERS,*
- *TWO HYBRID VEHICLES FOR THE OFF-ISLAND FLEET;*
MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0
ABSTENTIONS.

• Previous tree work on the back road was being completed with grading and landscaping.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # VII)

MR. BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:59PM; MR. TANKARD SECONDED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

Ms. Tierney/Mr. Nixon – draft way to insure any moneys earmarked for capital purchases, software, etc. not be placed in regular department budget line items.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 6/23/08

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures (10 p.) 6/23/08

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 4/3/06

MVRHSD E&D Projection June 24, 2008

FY08 MVRHS School Committee Votes for Transfer of E & D

Minutes Budget Subcommittee Meeting May 11, 2008

Approved as amended 9/8/08

All-Island School Committee of the 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, June 23, 2008 8:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Library

Present: Up Island	Chair – Dan Cabot Susan Mercier Roxanne Ackerman, Skip Manter, Susan Parker, Marshall Segall,
Edgartown	Les Baynes, Susan Mercier
Oak Bluffs	Priscilla Sylvia
Tisbury	Rebecca Duart-Cass, Bob Tankard, Maura Valley
Others	
Supt. Of.	Supt. Jim Weiss, Asst. Supt. Laurie Halt, Business Affairs Amy Tierney Student Support: Dan Seklecki,
Principals:	Michael Halt – West Tisbury School
Press:	Tom Mayhew – MVTV Janet Hefler - MV Times Sam Bungey - Gazette
Recorder	Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures

1st Reading of Administering Prescription Medicine to Students Policy

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

This draft was the standard policy used in Massachusetts schools with a slight language change to the line on student use. The AISC recessed at 9:02 to allow the local school committees to vote.

- THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE (TSC) WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:02PM.
- *MR. TANKARD MOVED THE FIRST READING OF ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY; MS. DUART-CASS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- THE TSC ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS.

- THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ESC) WAS CALLED TO ORDER.
- *MR. BAYNES MOVED THE FIRST READING OF ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY; MS. MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- THE ESC ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS.

**All-Island School Committee of the 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
June 23, 2008**

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- THE UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (UIRSC) WAS CALLED TO ORDER.
- *MR. MANTER MOVED THE FIRST READING OF ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY; MR. CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- THE UIRSC ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS.

- THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE (MVRHSC) WAS CALLED TO ORDER.
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED THE FIRST READING OF ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY; MR. TANKARD SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- THE MVRHSC ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS.

Adjournment

THE ALL ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE (AISC) ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS
AT 9:05PM.

Documents on File:

Agenda 6/23/08

*Administering Prescription Medicines to Students Attending the Martha's Vineyard
Public Schools*

Approved as written 6/23/08

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 8, 2008, 7:00 pm
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Mercier, Roxanne Ackerman,
Skipper J. Manter, Susan Parker,
Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia, Maura Valley
Student representative: Eric Dolliver, Olivia Gross,

Others:

Staff: Prin., - Stephen Nixon,
Asst. Prin. – Carlin Hart, Neal Weaver
Admin. Asst. – Marjorie Whitmore
Art Dept. – Chair Paul Brisette, Chris Baer,
Scott Campbell, Janice Frame,
Athletic Dir. – Mike Joyce,

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

Alumni: Sandra Brown Arnold

Press: Tom Mayhew – MVTV
MV Times – Janet Hefler

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

• *MR. SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 23, 2008 MINUTES AS AMENDED/CLARIFIED; MS, LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MS. REAGAN* due to absence.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

The new student representatives were introduced as well as Alumni Sandra Brown Arnold, invited here to commemorate this year's Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) 50th graduating class; there was a round of applause.

- School had only been open a few days and students were still getting used to the new year and the homeroom change (see below: # VII B). The only complaint was the lack of explanation on the rise in lunch prices.
- Girls soccer lost last week 2-0 while Boys soccer lost 4-0. On the other hand Girls field hockey won 1-3 against Pembroke.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 8, 2008

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- The Football team would open away against Rochester Friday, September 12th with the home field opener on Friday, September 26th.
- Ms. Brown/Arnold spoke to the MVRHSC about the changes in the school and school building since 1960 noting the especially changes in girls basketball to the full court, the then graduating class of 80 to 90 students, and getting used to going to school with students from other Island towns.
- The MVRHSC thanked everyone and looked forward to more such reports.

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

Principal Steve Nixon proposed that each department report to the MVHRSC to keep the Committee updated and to inform the public. He then introduced the Art Department.

Department Chair Paul Brissette thanked the MVRHSC for their years of support and introduced the Department and his colleagues.

- The MVRHS had a strong art department that sent students to some of the best art and design schools in the nation. 53-63% of MVRHS students chose to take an art course compared with 27% nationally. The 18 courses were all electives and the Department preferred that none be required. The faculty were all practicing artists.
- Mr. Brissette taught architecture, environmental design and portfolio classes and was currently working on the exciting mural competition for the Tisbury parking lot.
- Ms. Janice Frame has taught drawing and painting for 30 years in the MV Public Schools and stressed basic fundamentals that helped guide a person's discovery of themselves through discipline, play, achievement, and accountability.
- Mr. Scott Campbell presided over a messy project room working on three dimensional art and ceramics including yearly wood kilning.
- Mr. Chris Baer taught film and photography, including the production of the yearbook and archive restoration – for example restoring/preserving school committee minutes as far back as 1865.

The MVRHSC thanked everyone for the presentation.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Donations (See documents on file.)

MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE VAN AMERINGEN FOUNDATION DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY GRANT OF \$10,000 PAYABLE TO THE MVRHS OF WEST TISBURY FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 8, 2008

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- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE ALEXANDRA M.M. GAGNON FOUNDATION GRANT OF \$3,423.50 FOR THE MVRHS PEER-OUTREACH PROGRAM; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

The MVRHSC reviewed the Report noting accounting anomalies.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE WITHDRAWAL OF \$4,740.18 FROM EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY (E & D) – THE VOTE TO BE CONFIRMED WHEN E & D WAS CERTIFIED – TO PAY FOUR PRIOR YEAR BILLS:*

- *\$54.42 TO CENGAGE LEARNING FOR LIBRARY SUPPLIES,*

- *\$806.86 TO CBWG FOR ART SUPPLIES,*

- *\$459.40 TO SAKS ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR ART SUPPLIES, AND*

- *\$3,419.50 TOTAL TO B & H (2 INVOICES) FOR 5 AMPLIFIERS;*

MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- The warrants being signed at this meeting had been authorized by the MVRHSC Chair or Vice Chair and paid over the summer. The MVRHSC discussed the process (see below: Tasks).

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Arena Turbine and Cell Tower (See documents on file.)

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) held a hearing on the Arena's request to install a wind turbine and cell tower which was scheduled for further discussion and vote later in the month; the MVC being friendly to the wind turbine but having questions on the cell tower (see below: Tasks).

- There was a brief update on the neighborhood relations to the MVRHS wind turbine (see 1/14/08 Minutes p. 5).

B. Substitute Rate Change (See documents on file.)

Having surveyed comparable school districts, Supt. Weiss proposed raising substitute rates to be more in scale with regional practice. Long term substitutes were paid by letters of agreement according to their experience and education.

C. Home Schooling

As would now be standard practice an initial request for home schooling was recommended for approval by Supt. Weiss who reviewed the parents' qualifications and the proposed curriculum. The MVRHSC discussed graduation and credit protocol.

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE HOME SCHOOLING FOR EDWARD AND CAM MCCORMACK; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 8, 2008

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Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Opening School Report

The opening went smoothly with the new bus pick ups within the 1.5 mile radius (see 5/5/08 Minutes p. 4 and below: Tasks). Freshman orientation went well. Asst. Prin. Carlin Hart enjoyed being as new to the building as they were and felt working beside Asst. Prin. Neal Weaver was very helpful. Asst. Prin Weaver was impressed with the transition to new leadership and commended the good tone in the building. The Administration hosted and served the staff at a barbecue.

B. Homeroom Change

Mass. State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) mandated 990 hours of instruction, so to increase flexibility and add instruction hours, homeroom periods had been eliminated. Attendance was taken in the classes and the advisory groups (increased to two per month) served to monitor and support students.

C. Change Calendar Request (See documents on file.)

Due to the above change Prin. Nixon requested permission to amend the calendar to include two more in-service professional development days to be spent on:

- cross curriculum alignment / mapping,
- common rubrics for regularized grading—particularly for the new protocol that every student turn in a major paper every semester (see 4/7/08 Minutes p.4 #VIII A).
- No contract, transportation or day care issues were anticipated.

MS. ACKERMAN MOVED TO AMEND THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-2009 CALENDAR TO INCLUDE TWO ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE DAYS, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2008 AND WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

D. Athletic Director and League Update

The MVRHS continued to research joining an athletic league (see 3/5/07 Minutes p.6 #D) and was currently working on an agreement with the Eastern Athletic Conference (about 1 hour from Woods Hole). The MVRHS would pay all Steamship Authority costs under the MV Public Schools contract (see below – Tasks). There was a brief discussion on alternative leagues.

E. Sports Travel

MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM TO TRAVEL TO THE COMPETITION IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2008; MS. MAURA VALLEY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

F. Drop-out Rate (See documents on file.)

The preliminary data for Academic Year 2007-08 (AY 08-09) showed only 16 students for a very low rate of 2%. The MVRHSC discussed causes, follow through and data parameters.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 8, 2008

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G. NEASC Report (See documents on file.)

New England Assoc. of School and Colleges (NEASC) accepted the MVRHS Five Year Plan (see below: Tasks).

H. SAC Schedule (See documents on file and below: Tasks.)

Personnel (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. New Staff 2008-2009 (See documents on file.)

Prin. Nixon reviewed internal staffing shifts as well as new staff (some with impressive educational or work experience credentials). It was noted that 12 teachers were commuting from off-Island this year.

B. Accept Resignation

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BOOKKEEPER DEBORAH MONTAMBAULT; MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED WITH REGRET; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO GRANT THE WONDERFUL REQUEST OF A 3 TO 4 WEEK LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO CHRIS BAER FOR CHILD BEARING/REARING FAMILY LEAVE TO FACILITATE ADOPTION; MS. VALLEY AND MS. MERCIER SECONDED WITH CONGRATULATIONS; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Policy (Agenda Item # IX)

A. Vehicle Use – First Reading (See documents on file.)

To regularized issues with school owned vehicles this policy was presented after consulting with the Mass. State Inspector Generals Office (see below: Tasks).

- *MR. MANTER MOVED THE FIRST READING OF THE MVRHS VEHICLE USE POLICY; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # X)

A. Review of Disciplinary Action

Two MVRHS personnel and their spouses used a School vehicle to drive to a private event off-Island. The incident was reported and letters of reprimand were placed in their files. Mr. Manter protested the leniency of the disciplinary action for clear misuse of public property by those who should be setting an example to young people. Other MVRHSC members agreed with Supt. Weiss' handling of the matter particularly the drafting of the new policy to prevent further problems.

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # XI)

A. Schedule Land Use Meetings

The meeting would consider athletic fields and the Arena turbine/cell tower (see below: Tasks).

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 8, 2008

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B. Budget Subcommittee Meeting Schedule (See documents on file.)

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XIII)

The MVRHSC expressed their appreciation of Prin. Nixon's new ideas and initiatives and congratulated him on his first MVRHSC meeting as Principal.

- A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS DULY MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED BY CONSENSUS AT 8:45PM

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Respond to student request for lunch price information/explanation.
- Revisit chair/vice chair vote on next agenda.
- Send financial manual to all new members.
- Supt. Weiss research Oak Bluffs zoning re: cell towers.
- Inform bus drivers that they must pick up all students within the 1.5 mile radius.
- Land Use Subcommittee meeting – 9:00AM September 25th.
- Draft emergency plan for Athletic Conference travel
 - other schools stranded on the Island and,
 - MVRHS teams missing the last boat.
- Redistribute NEASC letter with page 2.
- Email SAC minutes to MVRHSC members.
- Send suggestions or corrections on Vehicle Use Police to Supt. Weiss.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 9/8/08

MVRHS Department Report (Art, Design & Technology) 9/8/08

van Ameringen Foundation letter re: \$10,000 grant 6/10/08

van Ameringen FDN, Inc check 6/10/08

MVRHS letter re: Thank you to van Ameringen Found. 6/17/08

Gagnon Foundation letter re: Peer Outreach Grant 8/20/08

Proposal Peer Outreach Program MVRHS 2008-2009 (2 p.)

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures (9 p.) 9/8/08

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 9/8/08

Supt. Weiss memo re: MV Arena Turbine and Cell Tower 8/20/08

Site Plan, Oak Bluffs, Mass 8/14/08

continued

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Appendix B - Documents on File (cont.):

Substitute Rates

 Google Map of Massachusetts 9/8/08

High School Professional Days Overview June 24, 2008 (2 p.)

Mass. DESE 2007-08 Preliminary Dropout Data Summary Report (2 p.) 8/19/08

NEASC letter re: acceptance of Five Year Progress Report (2 p.) 8/7/08

School Advisory Council Meeting Schedule 2008-2009

New/Reassigned Faculty for the 2008-2009 School Year

Montambault letter re: Resignation 7/7/08

Vehicle Use Policy

 Vehicle Use Regulations

 Vehicle Usage Form

Budget Sub Committee Meeting Schedule

Approved as written November 3, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 6, 2008, 7:00 pm
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Mercier,
Roxanne Ackerman, Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Susan Parker, Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia,
Maura Valley
Student: Lisa Wilson

Others:
Staff: Principal – Steven Nixon
Assist. Prin. - Carlin Hart, Neal Weaver
Admin. Asst. - Marjorie Whitmore
Soc. Studies - Joel Graves, Corinne Kurtz,
Elaine Weintraub

Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss
Asst. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Bus. Admin. – Amy Tierney

Press: MV Times – Janet Hefler
Vineyard Gazette -Sam Bungey

Secretary: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals, or
Early departures (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

The minutes were not yet available.

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

Ms. Lisa Wilson reported on the intense leadership class / student push to green the school including:

- convenient recycling (mixing all recyclables – paper, cardboard, cans, glass, plastics, etc.),
- researching and advocating the purchase of green supplies,
- collaborating with the Culinary Dept. and the cafeteria staff on composting,
- planning a “Green Week” on education, outreach, and information.

Ms. Wilson was greatly encouraged by an overflowing classroom recycle bin next to a wastebasket with a piece of gum and a wrapper in it. The Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) suggested the students contact the Living Local initiative for further conversion to a greener school. They also asked that she keep them informed.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 6, 2008

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Department Report (Agenda Item #III)

A. Social Studies

Social Studies Chair Elaine Weintraub introduced her colleagues and reported on the various Department courses (see documents on file) particularly the success and popularity of the Advanced Placement courses. The Department included eight teachers and had recently been reduced without detriment to educational quality – although some classes were on the large size.

- Ms. Corrine Kurtz talked about the student exchange program with West Yorkshire, England, the side trips both in England and on the Island and the broadening experience of living in a foreign country.
- Mr. Joel Graves described and showed slides of the African American Heritage Trail trip which has been a highlight of the sophomore year studies. The MVRHSC commended the excellence of the course as well as recognizing many of the faces of those who were honored for their courage and community service.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

The budget was in good shape for the beginning of the year. There was a brief discussion on dropping fuel prices (see below: Tasks).

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

Revenue was on track with 25% received.

In a continuation of a Budget Subcommittee discussion the MVRHSC explored the security of school funds in the current unpredictable financial crisis and instability of financial institutions. Supt. Jim Weiss acknowledged the direction and commended the financial team (see below: Tasks).

C. Donations (See documents on file.)

- *MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE \$57.62 DONATION INTO THE GENERAL FUND FROM THE TARGET TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM; MR. SKIP MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A PIECE OF ELECTRICAL STIMULATION AND THERAPY ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT VALUED AT \$3-5,000 FROM LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER HOPKINS; MS. LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT A \$13,470 DONATION FOR PROJECT HEADWAY FROM PARENT RUN SUMMER FUNDRAISER(S); MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Thank you notes were sent to all donators including each individual parent.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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D. Piano Gift and Surplus (See documents on file.)

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT A YAMAHA CLAVINOVA ELECTRIC PIANO VALUED AT \$1,000 TO THE PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT FROM A CHILMARK RESIDENT; MS. REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO DECLARE SURPLUS AND DONATE OR DISPOSE OF AN EVERETT STUDIO 1974 UPRIGHT PIANO VALUED AT \$500 AND A YAMAHA 1972 STUDIO UPRIGHT PIANO VALUED AT \$800; MS. SUSAN PARKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Each piano would cost about \$2,000 to repair.

E. School Building Authority Audit

For over four years Business Administrator Ms. Amy Tierney has been sending documentation to the relentless Mass. School Building Authority audit of the MVRHS 1995 construction project. Finally a Letter of Completion of the Audit was received (see documents on file) confirming an increase in the Mass. State reimbursement percentage. Supt. Weiss again commended Ms. Tierney (and the MVRHSC gave her a round of applause) for her hard work, persistent patience and attention to detail..

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Bus Purchase

In another impressive achievement Ms. Tierney announced a successful bus bid and contract award to O'Connor Bus of Portland, Maine for Bluebird buses, regular, mid-size and large wheel chair accessible models. Sixteen of the old buses would be traded in and the rest retained for parts and emergencies. In addition 3 hybrid Prius's had been purchased for an off-Island fleet (see 6/23/08 Minutes p. 2 #VII A) and the two Special Education (SpEd) mini-busses which had been delayed by a strike should be delivered within the month. Supt. Weiss noting the competitive field and the long bid process again paid tribute to Ms. Tierney as well as Ms. Angie Gompers of the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) and Mr. Jimmy Flynn. The MVRHSC was pleased to hear the buses were "greener" with lower emissions and able to burn bio-diesel.

B. Executive Summary of Rural School Report (See documents on file.)

The Mass. Association of School Superintendents has finished and released a study on the effects of regionalization (see documents on file) which showed:

- small districts were more successful with lower drop out and higher graduation rates;
- the economic advantages of regionalization could be realized by district collaboration;
- forced regionalization (as opposed to voluntary) had uneven and often detrimental results.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Trip Approval (Grand Canyon)

MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE BIOLOGY TEACHER MR. ELLIOT BENNET TO TRAVEL WITH STUDENTS TO THE GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA FROM APRIL 18-25, 2008 (DURING SCHOOL BREAK); MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

B. Back-To-School Night

Principal Steve Nixon gave credit to the enthusiastic staff for a successful, well attended event. The Culinary Arts Department provided refreshments. Numerous compliments were received from parents (including some whose children had been in private schools).

C. Parent Conferences

These would be the last week in October with a staggered schedule for both day and evening consultations. National Honor students would direct parents to classrooms (see below: Tasks). The MVRHSC discussed levels of participation, socio-economic trends, outreach, and availability of staff for conferences at all times during the year.

D. School Council (SAC) Minutes (See documents on file.)

The SAC reviewed the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and will organize into committees to work on various aspects of it. Asst. Principal Neal Weaver was drafting a policy on cyber-bullying.

Asst. Supt. Laurie Halt and Prin. Nixon explained the new Mass. State best practice guidelines for those students scoring "needs improvement" on the MCAS tests. These included meetings with guidance, students, parents and teachers, a written Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) and specifically designed curriculums. Attendant labor and resource costs would not be State reimbursed or funded, possibly effecting the pace of staff reduction that might otherwise occur from dropping enrollment. Consequently it was very important

- to publicize the effect of these new requirements on budgets,
- and to emphasize professional development.

E. NEASC Report (See documents on file.)

The complete letter with the missing second page was distributed (see 9/23/08 Minutes). New procedures for emergency crisis teams were being prepared as were steps for the next school audit.

Personnel (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. Retirements (See documents on file.)

- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RETIREMENTS OF*
 - *SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER MR. JOHN TIRELL EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 7, 2008;*
 - *PERFORMING ARTS CENTER DIRECTOR JIM NOVACK EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2008;*
- MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Policy (Agenda Item # IX)

A. Vehicle Use – Second Reading (September 8, 2008 First Reading)

The policy had been amended for form and to include a prohibition on cell phone or text use while driving (see documents on file). Further amendments were proposed for wording and tighter content (see also below: Tasks). There was a discussion on:

- whether to require a Mass. Drivers License as well as a clean driving record,
- fuel purchase procedures and mileage,
- passing keys from one driver to the next – prohibited for security reasons.

MS. SYLVIA MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE AMENDED MVRHS VEHICLE USE POLICY; MR. LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # X)

A. Energy Initiatives

i. Green Committee

The Committee (Co-Chairs - Vocational Director Jeff Rothwell and Asst. Prin. Weaver) were coordinating a number of initiatives to educate the school and green the campus and would make a presentation at the next MVRHSC meeting.

ii. Fuel Catalysts

The catalysts, installed last week, used nano-technology at a molecular level to increase the surface of fuel injected into the boiler burner for more efficient burning (see below: Tasks).

iii. Bus Routes

The MVRHSC request to reduce parent driving and fuel consumption by picking up students living within 1.5 miles of the school (see 5/5/08 Minutes p. 4) was proving increasingly successful as the initiative became better known. The change did not entail any expenses or route deviations/additions. Supt. Weiss commended the MVRHSC and bus team for making it happen and noted that national trends were in the opposite direction with school bus routes disappearing. The conversation then returned to discouraging students from driving to school (see 5/5/08 Minutes p.3-4 #VII B and below: Tasks) including: driving as a right of passage, alternate forms of transportation (biking, walking, car pooling VTA) for students, staff and MVRHSC members) and Student Council participation.

B. Financial Manuals (See documents on file.)

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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C. Warrant Signature Process

The MVRHSC considered the current warrant signatory process and policy (see 3/7/05 Minutes p. 2 #D and 1/8/07 Minutes p.3 #). As it was fiscally prudent to pay bills twice a month a warrant needed to be signed between meetings. The discussion focused on: accessibility of the warrant for MV RHSC members, number of required signatories, and maintaining sufficient financial checks and balances.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT:

- THE ADMINISTRATION INFORM ALL MEMBERS THAT
 - A WARRANT WAS READY FOR SIGNATURES AND
 - THE LOCATION OF THE WARRANT,
- AND THAT AS SO INFORMED IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO REVIEW AND SIGN THE WARRANT IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME, AND
- THAT FAILING THE PREFERRED THREE OR MORE SIGNATURES THE WARRANT COULD BE SIGNED AND AUTHORIZED BY EITHER THE CHAIR OR IN THEIR ABSENCE THE VICE CHAIR OF THE MVRHSC.

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # XI)

A. Land Use (See documents on file.)

i. Athletic Fields

Athletic Director Mike Joyce had proposed a new (lacrosse, field hockey, soccer) athletic field to relieve crowding and reduce wear and tear from over use of existing fields.

ii. MV Arena Tower

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) approved a wind turbine / cell tower for the Ice Arena at the far back portion where buses parked. The approval process would now move to Oak Bluffs Town boards.

iv. Housing

The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS)—along with other major Island Institutions—were approached by the Bridge Housing Project on earmarking a unit for interim or long term staff use. Other affordable housing possibilities included renting a house for staff use and/or subsidizing transitional housing for staff new to the Island. The MVRHSC discussed the issues at length:

- should the MVPS be in the housing business,
- costs and capital outlay,
- the issue as an assigned 2008/09 goal for the Supt. (see 6/23/08 AISC Minutes p 3 # V),
- time frame.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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• *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THESE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ISSUES AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE MVRHSC AS APPROPRIATE; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES; 2 NAYS – MS. ACKERMAN, MR. MANTER; 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

iii. Wastewater

The wastewater proposal to bring the MVRHS into Mass. State compliance and to reduce nitrogen loading to local waters was progressing, with the pipeline designed and an agreement with the YMCA to pay 10% of the cost for a tie in. Supt Weiss requested permission to apply for a 40% grant / 60% loan to fund the remaining 90% of the project. The bond rate was a little high but would be turned over for a better rate immediately.

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MVPS SUPERINTENDENT JIM WEISS TO APPLY FOR A U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT/LOAN TO FUND THE PROPOSED MVRHS WASTEWATER PROJECT; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

The November 3, 2008 meeting was scheduled as follows:

- 5:00PM Up Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) auditor's presentation,
- 6:00PM MVRHSC Budget Sub-Committee,
- 7:00PM MVRHSC monthly meeting and auditor's presentation.

Adjournment

(Agenda Item # XIII)

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS DULY MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED BY CONSENSUS AT 9:42PM.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Ms. Tierney - call to County Manager Russell Smith re: renegotiation of fuel contract rate.
- Supt. Weiss/Ms. Tierney – Consult with Auditors and Treasurer re: capital preservation.
- Include map on parent conferences website and forms to facilitate parent scheduling.
- Vehicle Use Policy amendments:
 - Vehicle “shall not” be ...
 - research and possibly amend re: **Mass.** Drivers license
 - research and possibly amend re: insurance surcharges
 - using cell phones “or other electronic devices” to talk or text...
 - gasoline purchase procedure,
 - emergency after hour key access.
- Track oil usage to document catalyst effectiveness.
- Student report on student initiative to reduce student driving at November meeting

continued >

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda (2 p.) 10/6/08

MVRHS Department Report (2 p.) 10/6/08

MVRHS General Fund Expenditures(9 p.) 10/6/08

MVRHS General Fund Revenues (2 p.) 10/6/08

Congratulations Take Charge of Education Target *note and check* 8/31/08

Laslovich email re: Donation of Equipment 9/10/08

Wightman email re: Piano Donation (10/3/08

Evaluated10/1/07 Stanwood Pianos (2 p.)

Mass. School Building Authority letter re: Project #C199533359 – MVRHS (2 p.)
10/1/08

Executive Summary (5 p.) (*Mass. Rural Small and Rural School District Task Force*)

Bennet Email re: Grand Canyon Trip (10/3/008

Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting 9/17/08

NEASC letter re: Acceptance of Five-Year Progress Report (3 p.) 8/7/08

Turrell note re: Resignation 9/18/08

Novack email re: Retirement 9/30/08

MVRHS Vehicle Use Policy (3 p.)

MVRHS Vehicle Use Policy (3 p.) 10/3/08

Financial Manual: Guidelines for the MVRHSD (56 p.) 11/04

Land Use Sub-Committee Minutes

Approved as written November 3, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 3, 2008, 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, Priscilla Sylvia,
Maura Valley, Robert Tankard

Others:

Staff: Principals – Stephen Nixon
Assist. Prin., - Neal Weaver, Carlin Hart
Vocational Director – Jeff Rothwell
Treasurer – Mary Lee Schroeder,
Guidance – Mike McCarthy
Math – Dept. Head - Doug DeBettencourt,
Mary Lee Carlomgano, Kris Chvatal,
Ken DeBettencourt, Bill McGrath,
Jaime Norton,

Supt.'s Of: Technology – Woody Filley
Superintendent - Jim Weiss,
Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,
Student Support - Dan Seklecki

Auditor: Chris Rogers

MVPS Staff. Victoria Philips

Press: Sam Bungey - Vineyard Gazette,
Janet Hefler - MV Times

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order 7:01PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

A. September 8, 2008

MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 MINUTES; MR. SKIP MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

B. October 6, 2008

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2008 MINUTES; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
November 3, 2008

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Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

One of the Student Representatives had a conflict and the other was not willing to report solo. The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) expressed their regret and sent their encouragement to the students.

- A great time was had by all at the Homecoming Dance last Saturday, November 1st. It was the largest such event ever (about 330 students). Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses were crowned.
- Girls field hockey ended a great season with a 2-1 loss in the play-offs.
- Football was doing well.
- The School play The Miracle Worker would be presented November 13-15.
- Students had made infomercials on the two presidential candidates which would be shown on Election Day. Max Nunes was in New Hampshire campaigning for Obama.
- MVRHSC Chair Susan Mercier complimented the Administration on great staff costumes and the energy, fun and awesome morale in the building on Halloween.

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

Mr. Chris Rogers commended the region for being ready for its Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) audit in July 2008 an impressive achievement showing good financial management. The District had received an unqualified opinion – the best possible level. The Audit highlights were reviewed:

- Dukes County Retirement Fund and the Bus Purchase Bond were broken out into new columns.
- There was still about \$3,000 in the old Dental Trust – which the MVRHSC assured Mr. Rogers would be expended in the FY10 budget.
- Excess and Deficiency (E & D) was estimated to be about \$823,000
 - (the maximum allowable was \$836,000 with Certification estimates at \$798,000 due to some immaterial debts).
 - About \$500,000 of E & D was spent on the FY09 Operating Budget, the replacement of the bleachers / press box (see 6/2/08 Minutes p. 4 #E), hybrid cars, text book bar code systems, etc. (see 6/23/08 Minutes p. 2 #7A).
- There was a discussion now and later in the report about E & D use for operating budgets (any termination of the practice would put the next budget in the hole) and, whether it was a form of over taxing since, in a perfect world, the budget should be raised and then expended to zero. Mr. Rogers stated a number of points.
 - It was reasonable practice to use E & D to offset the operating budget.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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- Like most towns (free cash) and corporations, a reserve was necessary (usually recommended at 10%) for emergency situations when it was likely to be quickly expended.
- Budgets were never absolutely exact as they were methodical estimations of both
 - ° revenue (the MVRHSD estimated Mass. State revenues long before they were decided) and
 - ° expenses (in FY08 both the Charter School draw and the Special Education line were each at least \$100,000 off);in this sense it was much better to have reserves than to be suddenly lacking funds – a situation fraught with serious trouble.
- E & D was not raised in taxes each year but instead was a cumulative reserve rolling over from previous years and substantially expended when needed.

- Revenue ‘surplus’ included Foundation Aid (Chapter 70), Charter School reimbursement, Transportation and other departments. Expenditure ‘draws’ included under-budgeted transportation, building and grounds, and administrative expenses.
- Non-governmental funds included Wastewater, Exterior Painting, and the implementation of the Capital Plan, Scholarship funds, and the Supt. Shared Services Office assessments and subsequent payments.
- Capital asset expenditures included: paving the parking lot, fencing bus parking, and bus purchases.
- Mass. General Law mandated tight restrictions on municipal investments so that the MVRHSD’s capital risk was not great. The Auditors recommended confirming the stability of the MVRHSD banks and monitoring the situation. Insurance was available to cover all assets over and above FDIC insurance however it was likely to cost the District whatever percentage points had been gained in investment.
- The Draft Federal Awards Audit was awaiting outside information and was expected to be finalized shortly. This report also included a new internal control component due to changes in Government Auditing Standards which now required auditors to report significant deficiencies. It was noted that the Federal Government was looking towards greater strictness in correct documentation for its grants. (See below: Tasks.)
 - 1. The MVRHSD had no financial staff who could prepare Generally Accepted Financial Practices (GAFP) financial statements. All but two municipalities in Massachusetts received the same comment. The GAFP statements were not reported by the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and no consequences were likely from receiving and continuing to receive the comment. The MVRHSD kept its day to day operations on a modified cash basis which was completely appropriate.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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- 2. The 21st Century Program Grant showed a material weakness in that the sub-recipient (the YMCA) was paid without appropriate payroll documentation in the form of semi-annual certification or detailed time sheets.
- 3. The SpEd Program Grant required semi-annual certifications (currently only annuals were on file).
 - The Management Letter showed ten comments, five of them repeats (see below: Tasks).
 - 1. A security weakness was noted in the Treasurer's access to purchasing, payables, and vendor maintenance so the software should be modified to segregate models. In addition vendor checks were not in a secure location. Nothing suspicious was noted.
 - 2. Time cards were not signed by the preparer/employee and/or supervisor.
 - 3. Ten random Journal Entries showed ten without signatures, six lacking documentation, six lacking or having inadequate explanations.
 - 4. In some cases (AP test line, lost text books, and others) cash receipts and disbursement were entered against revenue making transactions hard to track and monitor. Revenues should be entered as credits, expenses as debits. The bottom line would remain the same.
 - 5. For obvious security reasons there should be a policy on purging past employees from computer access.
 - 6. (Repeat) A periodic risk assessment was recommended (see 11/7/05 Minutes p.3 #8). Mr. Rogers stressed that the process was long, painful and detail oriented but extremely valuable in acquiring a complete knowledge of all MVRHSD financial transactions.
 - 7. (Repeat) Other Post Employment Benefits – Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 – was being addressed Islandwide through the Dukes County Treasurer's office (see 11/6/06 Minutes p. 7 #V). As yet there was no mandate or even vehicle for funding the liability.
 - 8. (Repeat) The Culinary Arts Special Revenue had again exceeded the State mandated ceiling of \$15,000 total transactions (see 1/22/08 Minutes p.2). Vocational Director Mr. Jeff Rothwell had researched the situation with many other vocational schools who considered the \$15,000 ceiling an obsolete figure and were advocating to change the law.
 - 9. (Repeat) The Student Activities funds were being cleaned up but there were still some issues to be addressed (see 1/22/08 Minutes p.2).
 - 10. (Repeat) The MVRHSD should develop a disaster recovery plan not only for data but for hardware and personnel (see 1/22/08 Minutes p.2).
- Thanks were exchanged from the MVRHSC for Mr. Rogers' time and work and from Mr. Rogers for the MVRHSC attention and business.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Department Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Math Department (See documents on file.)

- Department Head Doug DeBettencourt introduced the Math Department with a staff of nine teachers. The Department was embarked on two major projects:
 - a detailed question by question analysis of the MCAS results, and
 - a comprehensive review and update of the math curriculum, materials and structure including strengths, weaknesses from MCAS data. Teachers talked briefly about classes with some highlights.
- There was a definite need for the Practical Math course on such day-to-day skills as check writing, home mortgages, renting, medical bills, insurance premiums, money rates, etc.
- Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics had jumped from 7 to 21 students in its second year. The class, currently taken up with election statistics, was hard charging, and well prepared. Mr. McGrath had started a blog.
- The Robotics class first built simple robots and then designed and built robots of their choice – and might work on light sensitive devices to save electricity.
- The popular engineering events included the linguine bridge contest on weight bearing loads for bridges constructed of not more than 1 lb. of linguine and Elmer's glue, as well as the self designed boat races.
- Anecdotal evidence suggested some success with the Star Program targeting students at risk of dropping out (see 9/10/07 Minutes p. 5 #C).
- Last year's 8th grade honor's algebra class, well prepared by Ms. Eve Hayman, was doing very well in Freshman Algebra and the team was looking forward with interest to the next class which will have been taught in each of the elementary schools.
- There was no math team although staff made themselves available for questions, discussions and projects. The MVRHC thanked and gave a round of applause to the Dept.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

B. October 1, 2008 Enrollments (See documents on file.)

The Supt. Shared Services Office had made every attempt to track all Island students whether attending the MV Public Schools (MVPS), Charter, private, residential or home schooled. Islandwide MVPS enrollment had only dropped by about 40 students.

C. Adams Scholarship (See documents on file.)

Each year the Commonwealth of Mass. honored top MCAS scorers with John and Abigail Adams scholarship tuition waivers to Mass. State schools. It was emphasized that although many more MVRHS students achieved proficient and advanced status, the scholarships were available to the top 25% in each school.

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A. Funds Security

In response to MVRHSC concerns Supt Weiss reported on the security of roughly \$16,000,000 of MVRHSD moneys (see 10/6/08 Minutes p.2 #V B).

- The funds were not static but were pass through moneys which ebbed and flowed – although at some point as much as \$2,500,000 might be in one or another bank.
- In addition to the FDIC insured \$250,000, Government Agency Backed Securities backed up deposits with letters of credit on Federal Home Bank – meaning there were federal securities behind each dollar.
- Account Registries or CDARS were also being looked at by Treasurer Mary Lee Schroeder and the MVPS financial advisor to further secure funds.
- In consultation with other schools, the auditor, the financial advisor and the Administration felt the funds were fairly secure.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Expenditure (See documents on file.)

The FY09 budget continued to be in good shape. Deficits were being monitored in:

- Other Contracts and Stipends – due to unbudgeted Appendix A increases (see 1/21/06 AISC Minutes p. 2 #IIIA),
- SpEd Teachers Salary– as there was one more than had been budgeted,
- PAC Director salary - due to Mr. Novack’s retirement, training and two replacements. (In this case money could reluctantly be taken from the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Special Revenue Fund.

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

Revenue was on target so far and Mass. State Chapter 70 funds had been received as hoped.

C. Donations

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$102 FOR THE FINE OR PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS FROM THE HEART OF STONE DONATION PROGRAM; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. MANTER MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$200 FOR THE CLOSE UP TRIP TO WASHINGTON FROM THE EDGARTOWN NATIONAL BANK; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VIII)

A. Green Committee (See documents on file.)

The Committee was working hard to sustain initial enthusiasm on several projects:

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- Encouraging student/staff recycling (see 10/6/08 Minutes p. 1 # II), including new class bins and Allied dumpsters. The program was so successful that dumpster pick up had to be dramatically increased,
- Working with the Vineyard Energy Project to set up a composting program,
- Pressuring staff to turn off lights, computers, overhead projectors, etc. when not in use,
- Working with the Univ. of New Hampshire Energy Star program, Packer and NStar on a facilities energy audit and analysis.
- Monitoring the efficiency of the new fuel catalyst (see 10/6/08 Minutes p.5 #X A ii), (the drop in fuel prices after County lock-in was glumly noted),
- Filter replacement and thermostat repair throughout the building,
- Installing sensors on all lights so that they would turn off when not needed,
- Collaborative Science/Vocational/Art and Technology educational initiative on converting a gas powered car to electric (see below: p. 9).
- The issue of reducing student driving, the original impetus for the Green Committee, was not making much headway with students, but continued to be put on the agenda.

B. SAT Report (See documents on file.)

81% of all the 2008 class took the test.

- Two means were shown, one with the highest scores of each student including multiple test takers, the other with all scores— counting all scores of multiple test takers tended to skew the mean downward.
- English/Language Arts had been split into two parts: critical reading and writing.
- This was a strong class with a good curve showing all three core tests above regional and national means.
- Other test scores were solid, although it was noted that due to the very high Mass. academic standards less students made the National Honor Society than might in a State with less stringent requirements.
- Of the 81% that expected to go on to college 77% went, some being discouraged by rising tuition costs. The MVRHS sent students to an impressive list of post secondary institutions and some students opted for a year out with Americorps, travel or work. These students were not counted statistically if they continued their education after their time off. Surveys had not garnered sufficient responses to be helpful.
- Mr. McCarthy once again commended Doug DeBettencourt and Tod Sawyer for their reasonably priced well run After School SAT Tutoring program, as well as Shauna Nute for her excellent labor in coordinating and supervising these well run tests.

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C. Edline

The MVRHSC watched a demonstration of the secure Edline electronic access system (see 3/17/08 Minutes p. 5 #D) providing 24 hr. – 7 day per week information on class syllabus, on line tests, homework, open dialogs, blogs, test results, discipline actions, etc. with secure links directly to teacher emails. For example the system took all teacher and syllabus dates and student schedules and consolidated them into a master calendars for both student's and staff's coordination.

- The website was no substitute for personal contact but was extremely useful for parent background information in monitoring students and talking to staff.
- The site was fairly self-policing as any teachers who did not update information regularly were quickly identified by parents.
- Not all students and families had internet access at home. Although computers were available in the MVRHS library and all public libraries on the Island, there was some concern on maintaining equality (see below: Tasks).
- As a parent Ms. Mercier was very enthusiastic about this highly informative and useful tool.

The MVRHSC thanked Mr. Filley for his time and report.

D. Trip Requests (See documents on file.)

• MR. MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MR. WILLIAM SEABOURNE AND THE MVRHS SNOW CLUB TO TRAVEL TO INDIAN HEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE ON A SKI TRIP MARCH 6-8, 2009; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• MS. SYLVIA MOVED AUTHORIZE MS. CORINNE KURTZ AND MVRHS STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND IN THE RETURN EXCHANGE PROGRAM DURING APRIL BREAK 2009; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

E. Student compliment Letter (See documents on file.)

Ms. Helen Guy sent a letter complimenting the knowledgeable and caring actions of student Taylor Perrotta in attending Ms. Guy during a fall on the facility grounds (see below: Tasks).

The School Advisory Council (SAC) would take up the pressures of enrollment reduction and the financial squeeze – minutes would be emailed to all members (see below: Tasks).

Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended including reach out to Brazilian parents.

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Policy (Agenda Item # IX)

A. Vehicle Use – Third Reading (See documents on file.)

The following amendments were agreed.

- “Vehicle shall not be used for personal use.” would be broken out into a separate item.
- “Vehicle should not exceed carrying passenger capacity” would be added.

MS. SYLVIA MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE MVRHS VEHICLE USE POLICY AS AMENDED; MR. ROBERT TANKARD SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # X)

Due to purely personal reasons Financial Administrative Assistant Marjorie Whitmore tendered her resignation.

- *MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MS. MARJORIE WHITMORE WITH DEEP REGRET; MR. LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 9 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # XI)

A. Land Use (See documents on file.)

- *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE:*
 - *THAT MVTV MOVE FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR AN EXTENSION TO THEIR BUILDING AND RETURN TO THE LAND-USE SUBCOMMITTEE AND MVRHSC WITH A DETAILED PROPOSAL;*
 - *THAT NATALIE MUNN AND COLLEAGUES FAST TRACK PLANS FOR A BUILDING TO HOUSE A GREEN ELECTRIC CAR, EQUIPMENT AND CLASSROOM SPACE AND RETURN TO THE LAND-USE SUBCOMMITTEE AND MVRHSC WITH A DETAILED PROPOSAL; MR. TANKARD SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 8 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XIII)

MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:40PM; MS. LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS MEANING EVERYONE LEFT.

continued >

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Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

• Audit

- Confirm stability of MVRHSD banks
- Monitor the financial crisis – bank situation
- Get payroll documentation from the YMCA.
- Set up semi-annual certification for SpEd grant.
- Modify BudgetSense re: Treasurer's access
- Put all vendor checks in a secure location.
- Have employees and supervisors sign time sheets/cards.
- Tighten journal entries documentation.
- Enter all revenue as credits and expenses as debits
(AP tests, music supplies, lost books, ground transportation, health ins. etc.)
- Draft policy on purging past employees from computer access.
- MVRHSC members may get an access accounts for EdLine.
- Survey students/families on home access to internet.
- Send Ms. Guy's letter to Ms. Perrotta's parents and send a thank you letter to Ms. Guy.
- Schedule an MVRHSC/SAC meeting on budget pressures.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/3/08
- MVRHSD Independent Auditor's Report on Basic financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008 10/27/08 (42 p. plus covers)
- MVRHSD Reports on Federal Award Programs for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008 Draft 10/30/08 (14 p.)
- MVRHSD Management Letter June 30, 2008 10/27/08 (14 p. plus covers)
- MVRHS Department Report – 11/3/08
- October 1, 2008 Enrollment Census MVPS K – 12 (9 p. incl. cover) 10/9/08
- October 1, 2008 Enrollment Census MVPS K – 12 (9 p. incl. cover) Revised
- MVPS Student Enrollment Comparison
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients 2008
- MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (9 p.) 11/3/08
- MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (8 p.) 11/3/08
- Heart of Stone letter and check copy (2 p.) 10/1/08
- Edg. Nat. Bank letter re: Donation Request 9/26/08
- check copy 9/29/08
- Green Committee Report

continued >

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Appendix B - Documents on File (cont.):

- SAT Results for the Class of 2008 (2 p.)
MVRHS Profile 2008-2009 (2 p.)
- Nixon/Seabourne email re: Ski Trip 10/20/08
- Kurtz email re: England Exchange 10/3/08
- Taylor Perrota note 10/19/08
- MVRHS Vehicle Use Policy (2 p.) 10/6/08
- Whitmore letter of resignation 10/29/08
- MVRHS Land Use Sub-Committee Minutes 10/29/08

Approved as written December 1, 2008.

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
BUDGET HEARING
Monday, November 24, 2008 – 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Performing Arts Center**

Present: About 50-60 members of the public.
MVRHSC Chair – Susan Mercier, Roxanne Ackerman
Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
Lisa Reagan, Priscilla Sylvia,
Maura Valley,
MVRHS Admin. Staff: Principal – Stephen Nixon
Assist. Prin., - Neal Weaver, Carlin Hart
Vocational Director – Jeff Rothwell
Administrative Asst. – Marjorie Whitmore,
Admin. Secretary – Ruda Stone
Supt.'s Of: Superintendent - Jim Weiss,
Assist. Supt. – Laurie Halt
Business Affairs - Amy Tierney,
Student Support - Dan Seklecki
W. Tisb. Prin: Michael Halt
FinComs Oak Bluffs - Doug Best, Mimi Davisson, Bill McGrath,
Peter Palches, Hans Von Steiger
Tisbury – Peter Goodale, Muriel Mill, John Snyder
Secretary: Marni Lipke

The meeting began at 7:05PM

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) Chair Susan Mercier thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Principal Steve Nixon. Prin. Nixon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The MVRHSD Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Budget (see documents on file) was presented with a bottom line of \$16,460,782.68 which after revenues would be assessed at \$12,479,121 or a 1.87% rise over FY09.

Prin. Nixon explained the budget from a number of perspectives including, categories, departments, personnel, performance, comparisons, and per pupil costs. Handouts at the meeting included the same information in easily understood charts and graphs (see documents on file). Some of the main points are reported here.

- The MVRHS was unique in the Commonwealth as a regional comprehensive high school which offered both Special Education (SpEd) and Vocational programs usually housed in separate schools. Consequently statistical comparisons with other high schools (per pupil costs, student teacher ratios, budgets, etc.) were of limited value.

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- If the SpEd and Vocational programs were not offered the Island community would be required to pay
 - ° tuition, residential and travel costs for off-Island schools for SpEd students (often \$100,000 - \$200,000 per student). Currently the MVRHSD paid \$1,000,000 per year in residential placements for those SpEd students who could not be accommodated with local services.
 - ° tuition and travel costs for vocational students.
- Vocational and SpEd costs skewed a number of comparable statistics as they mandated smaller classes, greater student - teacher ratios, more expensive equipment and sometimes triggered Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration (OSHA) restrictions.
- Communities on the Mainland and Cape Cod were able to shift their vocational and SpEd students to different schools with no tuitions, and either without transportation costs or with simple busing expenses.
- Both SpEd and Vocational programs were associated with State revenue reimbursements.
- Other programs with low class sizes were:
 - the alternate high school for students at risk,
 - Advanced Placement (AP) courses required by high level colleges,
 - EPP classes newly mandated for students scoring 'needs improvement' on MCAS tests,
 - C2 classes for behaviorally difficult students.
- Population projections showed a 10% decrease in enrollment over the next three years and Prin. Nixon expected staff levels to mirror this decline.
- Conversely while projected enrollment was dropping projected SpEd numbers were rising.
- The FY10 budget reduced faculty by 5.4 positions (by attrition) including reductions in Math and English/Language Arts (E/LA) where class sizes were low.
- Island cost of living issues, affordable housing shortages and isolation made teacher recruitment / retention both challenging and expensive tending towards teachers with greater experience and schooling who could afford to live on the Vineyard.
- The MVRHS was charged with maintaining subject specific 'highly qualified' certified professional staff in all departments so that Reductions in Force (RIF) were complex.
- The MVRHS averaged lower student-teacher ratios, lower computer-student ratios, higher classroom internet access, and lower class sizes than other State high schools.

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- However the High School consistently performed above the State averages in graduation rates and post secondary education attendance while maintaining suspension and dropout rates below State averages.
- These high performance statistics also held good for SpEd and Vocational students.
- In contrast with an Island cost of living reported as 16 - 25% higher than the rest of the country, the cost of education was only 1-2% higher.

The Budget would be voted at the MVRHS Committee meeting at 7:00PM, Monday, December 1, 2008 at the High School. Prin. Nixon and Chair Ms. Mercier opened the floor for public questions and comments which are summarized below.

- Most of the budget was beyond the immediate control of the Principal (Supt. Shared Services Office assessment, insurance, retirement costs, Charter School reimbursement, transportation costs, utilities, bond payments, contractual salaries. The 9.9% of discretionary spending was mostly instructional supplies.
- The MVRHS SpEd student population was significantly higher than the State average. Almost all such students were diagnosed in elementary and middle school settings. Causes were unknown but might involve better diagnosis than most districts.
- Supt. Weiss and Prin. Nixon were appealed to to petition the State for exemptions and extra revenues. In these troubled times the Island might not be able to support a first class education.
- Discrepancies in department averages vs. comprehensive average salary levels could be accounted for by the inclusion of paraprofessionals and smaller departments with lower salaried teachers.
- The Administration did not know how Nantucket handled their SpEd and Vocational students. The MVRHSD had not tried sending vocational students off Island in the recent past.
- Discrepancies in SpEd numbers and percentages were accounted for by some duplicated categories.
- Use of volunteers and local businesses for vocational programs was precluded by very strict regulations however the High School had successful mentoring and work/study programs.
- Faculty teaching outside of their certification required written notice to parents. Incentives for multiple certification would be complicated by ongoing professional development requirements including extra transportation expenses and accessibility of courses for teachers isolated on the Vineyard.
- Standard language classes were larger than AP language classes.

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- There was an important economic and spiritual relationship between good quality education and the Island community for example the excellence of the schools attracted qualified professionals and their families.

The meeting closed at 8:16PM and the public again thanked for their comments and attendance.

Appendix A - Documents on File:

- Meeting Notice 11/24/08
- MVRHSD FY' 10 High School Budget (21 p. + covers)
- MVRHS Budget" Miscellaneous Data (19 p. + covers)
- MVRHS Budget Key Points

Approved as written December 1, 2008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, December 1, 2008, 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

Present: Chair – Susan Mercier, Roxanne Ackerman
Les Baynes, Skipper J. Manter,
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
Athletic Dept. – Mike Joyce, Anne Lemenager,
Guidance – Mike McCarthy
Bus. Dept. - Leo Frame, Jeffery Bernier,
Joshua Burgoyne
SpEd Dept. - Laura Gliga, Jeff Caruthers, Laura
DeBettencourt, Joy Flanders,
Margaret Stafursky,
STAR: Matt Malowski,
Culinary Dept. – Dianne McDonough

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

Other schools: WTS Prin. Michael Halt
Fin. Com. Tisbury - Jon Snyder,
W. Tisbury – Antone Sylva III,

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 7:05PM.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)

- *MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2008 MINUTES; MS. LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *MR. LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 24, 2008 MINUTES; MS. SUSAN MERCIER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – MR. BOB TANKARD due to absence.*

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Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

- The fall sports season was over except for football – congratulation on beating Nantucket for the Island Cup. The Regional play-off game would be tomorrow with South Boston for a place in the Super Bowl.
 - In view of the above this week's winter sports tryouts presented a conflict for the football team.
 - Spirit Week was a success with hall decorations and a bonfire.
 - The Junior girls won the Jr/Sr. girls football game
 - The pep rally was more successful than last year with Seniors getting the most points.
 - The Red Stocking Fund and Food Drive had started.
 - The school drama The Miracle Worker was a great success
 - Student leadership continued to do a good job on keeping up school recycling.
- Mr. Baynes expressed his appreciation of the MV Times High School insert and student letter.

Department Report (Agenda Item # III)

A. Business Department (See documents in file.)

Chair Leo Frame thanked the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) for their support over the years; introduced his staff and spoke about the evolution of the Business Department.

- Mr. Jeff Bernier demonstrated computer technologies including the MVRHS website, web design, pod casts, email, programming, spread sheets, charts and graphing, graphics, animation, and cutting edge technology such as cloud computing. His content changed so fast textbooks were obsolete before they were printed so he relied on internet references.
- Mr. Josh Burgoyne, an MVRHS alumna, taught basic accounting, marketing, sports management, advertising, and Quickbooks®. The curriculum included a college level research / opinion paper and students collaborating on real life projects. In addition he taught entrepreneurship for vocational students.
- Mr. Frame covered Introduction to Business, including entrepreneurship, tourism, the stock market and personal finance. He noted that a lack of financial literacy was partly responsible for the current economic crisis; for example people needed to understand their own mortgages and budgeting.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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A. Special Education Department (See documents in file.)

Chair Laura Gliga introduced some her staff and spoke about the increasingly complex mandates covering Special Education (SpEd) students. Nine full time teachers, one teacher for the deaf and 7 paraprofessionals taught 178 students – a quarter of the student body – with 10 more in residential placement. In general there were three components.

- Small group classes were offered in such core subjects as: world history, math skills, English/Language Arts (E/LA), writing skills, etc. Although mainstreaming students was the goal of the Department many students could not achieve it on a consistent basis.
- Life Skills taught students with the most intensive needs basic social, personal and academic skills to promote independent living and working in community. Aside from specialist support in speech, occupational and physical therapies the team might teach coping skills in math, cooking, reading the phone book, personal scheduling and hygiene, community access, grocery shopping, and career/job training.
- The Resource Room included a number of technologies and skills designed to help students navigate around weaknesses. These included DragonSpeak® -- voice recognition software, memory and attention tools, temporal / sequential devices, study skills, etc. Staff strove to make the students more successful, accountable, independent and determined in what they wanted.
- There was strong collaboration with other MVRHS teachers as well as other agencies on the Island. The school's success could be measured in SpEd MCAS scores, SpEd student awards, percentages going on to secondary education and alumna working in the community. The MVRHSC noted the cut off of governmental support when the individuals turned 22 years old. The MVRHSC applauded this special staff and thanks were extended to both Departments.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # V)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

Personnel changes had resulted in a deficit in the Principal's Secretary Line, the Administrative Assistant Line, a SpEd teacher line, and the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Director's line (this could be covered from the PAC fund if necessary). Stipends would be funded from other lines.

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO OFFER THE LATE MR. DAVID JON BRAND'S ESTATE \$1,000 AND \$250 FOR EACH DEPENDENT CHILD AND TO TRANSFER SAID AMOUNT; MR BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* (See below: Tasks.)

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B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

All assessments for the first half of the year have been collected from the Towns. The completion of the favorable Building Audit increased reimbursement revenue.

C. Certification of FY10 Budget (See documents on file.)

- There was a small change to the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Budget not effecting the bottom line: \$50,000 from the Elementary Transportation Reimbursement Line #188 was transferred to the Surface Transportation Line #192.

- Prin. Steve Nixon was commended for his presentation (see 11/24/08 Minutes) and some tips suggested (see below: Tasks).

The MVRHSC discussed:

- transportation alternatives for Nantucket games,
- unfunded retiree health insurance liability,
- reductions in staff,
- finance committee reactions.

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET*

- *AS AMENDED ABOVE FOR TRANSPORTATION LINES # 188 AND # 192,*

- *AT A BOTTOM LINE OF \$16,460,732.68,*

- *ASSESSED AT \$12, 479,120.90;*

MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

D. Determination of Assessment to Towns

The Regional and Statutory assessment formulas were reviewed. The Mass. State numbers for the Statutory Assessment would not be available until late January 2009. At this point and a little later in the meeting the MVRHSC discussed the timing and political likelihood of achieving the unanimous vote required to apply the Regional Formula.

- *MR. BAYNES MOVED TO RATIFY THE STATUTORY FORMULA FOR THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MR. TANKARD CALLED THE VOTE; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

E. Grant – Big Yellow School Bus

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR \$200; MR. MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. Discussion of Audit Report

Supt. Weiss took note of two comments from the FY08 MVRHSD Audit Management Letter (see 11/3/08 Minutes p. 4).

- 1) The Treasurer's access and a secure location for vendor documents was being rectified.
- 2) The first step in a disaster recovery plan was better records protection. Official records were now in an un-sprinklered basement in no particular order making retrieval of documents difficult. Supt. Weiss expected to appeal to each of the Island school districts to contribute towards record organization and preservation. The MVRHSC discussed:
 - proportional amount of regional records,
 - project performance by local staff versus expert consultants,
 - new technology storage alternatives,
 - MVRHSC exposure if records were lost.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Star Program – Matt Malowski

This program addressed the needs of freshman and sophomore students at risk with small classes and team meetings focusing on behavior modification and academics (see 9/10/07 Minutes p.5 #C and documents on file). Academics kept pace with mainstream classes. The MVRHSC discussed:

- class size,
- results and mainstreaming,
- Star program in other schools on Cape Cod,
- community participation (see below: Tasks).

B. EAC League – Mike Joyce

The Eastern Athletic Conference (EAC) principals voted unanimously to accept the MVRHS into the league (see documents on file). A letter of release from the Mayflower League would be tendered. The MVRHS would begin League games next fall in a trial year.

Transportation alternatives to Nantucket were again discussed.

C. Patrick Hart – MIAA Student Sportsmanship Award

The award (including a plaque and \$300) was granted to Patrick Hart at a banquet at Gillette Stadium for his essay *The Ultimate Fan* (see documents on file and below: Tasks). Other MVRHS students were finalists.

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Old/New Business (Agenda Item # IX)

A. School Advisory Minutes (See documents on file.)

The meeting focused on the FY10 Budget and how to maintain excellence in education during these difficult economic times.

Personnel issues had reduced Driver Ed. It was hoped that next year the course would continue in a public/private partnership—but not in the MVRHS operating budget.

Subcommittee Reports (Agenda Item # XI)

A. Transportation (See documents on file.)

The next MVRHSC meeting dates were set for 7:00PM Monday, January 5, 2009 and 7:00PM Tuesday, February 9, 2009.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XI)

MR. TANKARD MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:13PM; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Set up unfunded line in benefit section for estate transfers.
- Consider Mr. Manter's suggestions for budget presentations
 - compare MVRHS with schools of similar size,
 - include salary spread sheet,
 - add dollar amounts to pie chart,
 - include total cost to other towns of academic, vocational and SpEd high schools,
 - what it costs to educate a child.
- All – are encouraged to attend STAR: *This I Believe* – Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:00PM.
- Post *The Ultimate Fan* essay on MVRHS website.

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 12/1/08

Sign In Sheet 12/1/08

continued

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
December 1, 2008

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Appendix B - Documents on File (cont.):

MVRHS Business Education/Technology Report (2 p.) 12/1/08
Sports Management – Mr. Burgoyne 1st Quarter Project: Research/Opinion Paper (2 p.)
Financial Education for a New Generation
Frame cover letter 12/1/08
hsfpp.nefe.org *book mark*
John Palfrey NEFE *business card*
National Endowment for Financial Education certificate
High schools need to focus on financial lesson - Investment News excerpt
NEFE High School Financial Planning Program (128 p. + covers) 2006©
MVRHSD Special Education Department *report* 12/1/08
MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (10 p.) 12/1/08
MVRHS General Fund Revenue Report Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (2 p.) 12/1/08
MVRHSD Proposed Budget Summary for FY'10 Draft 5 November 13, 2008 (9 p.)
Dept. of State Treasurer *transfer record* Mass. Cultural Council 10/29/08
These STARS Believe Community Outreach Project
Minutes MVRHS Council Meeting 11/19/08
MIAA letter re: Sportsmanship Essay Award 10/28/08
Second Place – The Ultimate Fan Patrick Hart
MVRHSD Transportation Budget – Proposed for FY10 (2 p.) 12/1/08

Approved as written January 5, 2009.