

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, April 6, 2009, 7:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Library Conference Room

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

Others: Alumni: Judy Williamson
Staff: Principals – Stephen Nixon
Assist. Prin., - Neal Weaver, Carlin Hart
Admin Assist/Accounts Manager – Mark Freeman
Health – Linda Leonard, Tania Laslarch,
Library – Sandra Mott
Performing Arts –Katharine Murray,
Melanie Sroka-Chaunce, Michael Tinns,
Janice Wightman,
SpEd – Laura Gliga,
CTE – Jeff Rothwell

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

Oak Bluffs: Wastewater Supt. – Joe Alosso

Press: Tom Mayhew – MVTV

Secretary: Marni Lipke

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

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes (Agenda Item # I)]

A. February 9, 2009

*MR. SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9, 2009 MINUTES;
MS. PRISCILLA SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0
NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Student Report (Agenda Item # II)

As no student representatives were present Assistant Principal Carlin Hart spoke.

- Spring sports (softball, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, track, and sailing) had begun—
although today's heavy April rain forced all events to be canceled.
- The 10th grade successfully took the MCAS last week.
- Friday, April 10th was the end of the third quarter so grading would close.
- The Advanced Placement tests were scheduled for two weeks in May.

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- The Leadership Class was sponsoring a Purple Goes Green Week:
 - website launch,
 - Monday - composting and recycling in the cafeteria, t-shirts and water bottles on sale,
 - Tuesday - 'buy local', Island Grown Initiative, organic vs. non-organic foods,
 - Wednesday - green economy job fair in the Library,
 - Thursday – sticker distribution for bringing own water bottles, movie Water.
 - Friday - clean energy, alternative means of transport to school, optional lights out period.
- About 15 Juniors had a great time on the Close Up Club trip to Washington, DC.
- 50 units were donated by students and staff in last month's blood drive.
- The Minnesingers were going strong.

A. Judy Williamson – Class of 1960

Ms. Williamson spoke of her years at the new Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) mentioning some recurring themes among alumni:

- finding Islandwide friendships and team spirit after competing against each other in separate schools;
 - disappointment still fresh after 50 years in missing the class trip to Washington D.C.,
 - the lay out of the old building in comparison with the current greatly expanded facility.
- She spoke of the fashions and school dress at that time as well as the configuration of the students by town. She also noted the different atmosphere around travel in today's students and her class which only made field trips to Nantucket. She emphasized the family nature of the Island, seeing the children of her teachers now teaching at the MVRHS, and the pull of the Island for students who couldn't wait to adventure out and then couldn't wait to return. The MVRHSC thanked her with a round of applause.

* Ms. Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting.

Department Report (Agenda Item # III)

A. Music and Library Departments

Library (See documents on file.)

Librarian Ms. Sandra Mott reviewed the history of the library from a small side room to the current complex that filled the old gymnasium space. She emphasized the good fortune of the MVRHS in relation to other schools around the country, especially in terms of technology—inventorying for the MVRHSC the large number of computers, smart boards, and sophisticated accessible websites, as well as a number of choices in learning styles (audio books, CD's, ipod like book recordings). The Library was always filled with students and teachers doing homework, research, college / scholarship exploration, and learning how to investigate and write papers. Extra hours and bus service increased library access and made it an Islandwide resource. The library was currently replacing all spine labels to review the collection and make shelving easier for volunteers. Thanks were exchanged all around.

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Performing Arts (See documents on file.)

The Music Dept., Drama, Dept. and Performing Arts Center (PAC) faculty were introduced.

- The year's performing arts highlights and coming attractions were reviewed (see below: Actions) with a special nod for a number of recognitions:
 - Minnesingers for a bronze medal in the Mass. Instrumental and Choral Festival;
 - the MVRHS Miracle Worker production for representation at the Ivy Green Archives;
 - original student play Letters as semi finalist at the Mass. Theatre Guild Productions.
- The MVRHS offered a wide variety of courses, performance groups and extra curricular / independent studies as well as biannual foreign trips.
- The faculty emphasized life skills and cross curriculum learning.
 - Life skills included: responsibility, problem solving, collaboration, self confidence, public speaking, building relationships and diversity appreciation.
 - Students learned: the history and culture surrounding the productions, languages; science, math, architecture and industrial arts in set design, English / Language Arts, etc.
- The MVRHS sent a number of students on to secondary education and careers in the arts.
- The MVRHSC commended the departments with a round of applause and expressed their appreciation of the comprehensive nature of the school.

Public Comment (Agenda Item # IV)

Old/New Business (Agenda Item # IX)

A. Updates

3. Wastewater Recommendation

Due to a looming US. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) grant deadline Oak Bluffs Wastewater Superintendent Mr. Joseph Alosso, Oak Bluffs Town Administrator Mr. Michael Dutton, and Supt. Jim Weiss met over the weekend and presented a new proposal to the Land Use Subcommittee which recommended approval (see documents on file).

- Oak Bluffs would take over the MVRHSD grant application and pipe all the district sewage to the Oak Bluffs Treatment Plant and the Leonardo lots leaching field. The pipe would be large enough to service adjacent properties such as the Ice Arena, future YMCA, MV Community Services, Woodside Village, etc.. No adverse effects were expected regarding neighboring residents.
- The advantages were clear.
 - The MVRHSD would not have to own and operate wastewater facilities.
 - The price was expected to drop substantially.
 - The MVRHSD could put bathrooms in auxiliary buildings as required by law and could even add buildings to the campus.
 - Equally the MVRHSD would finally meet Mass. State compliance on wastewater.

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- The sewage would be properly treated and the effluent released into Nantucket Bay thus improving the water quality of Sengekontacket and Lagoon Ponds.
 - Oak Bluffs would be able to remediate problems with Ocean Park.
 - The pipeline would not require approval from all six Island towns.
 - The MVRHSD or any other entities could choose not to tie-in.
 - The MVRHSD would negotiate with the Town of Oak Bluffs as to paying their share of the costs. Supt. Weiss continued to consult with septic treatment experts Tye & Bond.
 - *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE REVISED WASTEWATER PLAN BY TRANSFERRING THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS AND TO AWAIT A DETAILED FINANCIAL AGREEMENT DRAFT; MR. LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 7 AYES, 1 NAY – MR. MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- Mr. Manter might be in favor but could not approve so large a project on short notice.
- The MVRHSC expressed their appreciation for Supt. Weiss's diligence.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

A. Mark Friedman Introduction

Mr. Friedman, a 1985 MVRHS graduate, had accepted the position of Accounts Manager and moved back to the Island with his family.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # V)

MV Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Amy Tierney welcomed and commended Mr. Friedman and thanked all staff who took on extra duties while the position was vacant.

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

The Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) Budget was in stable condition. Accounting quirks effected some lines and would be cleared shortly. Lines in true deficit were:

- Other Contracted Stipends
- Special Education Salaries
- PAC salaries – due to position transfers,

B. Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

* Mr. Manter left the meeting.

C. Federal Grant Audit (See documents on file.)

The Final Report on Federal Grants had been submitted with corrective actions taken. All five Mass. State reports were filed and the audits completed and mailed.

D. School to Career Partnership Grant (See documents on file.)

This grant, made in conjunction with schools and businesses on Cape Cod, and Cape Cod Community College, supported job fairs, appreciation breakfasts, and over 200 students working in the community under tight learning requirements and monitoring.

- *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$5,833 FROM THE SCHOOL TO CAREER PARTNERSHIP GRANT; MR. BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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E. Donations (See documents on file.)

• *MS. SYLVIA MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$112.16 FROM TARGET; MS. LISA REAGAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI)

A. State and Local Graduation and Dropout Rates (See documents on file.)

The MVRHS was well above Mass. State average graduation rate and remarkably below the State drop out rate, due to a variety of alternatives such as the Rebecca Amos Institute. Continuing educational resources were available for those students who had left.

B. ARRA Update

Reports on the MVPS share of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Federal Stimulus funds continued to change. Some moneys might be available for SpEd and Title One Reading Recovery.

Principal's Report (Agenda Item # VII)

B. Nurse's Report (See documents on file.)

MVRHS Nurse Linda Leonard introduced her staff and reviewed statistics and trends laid out in the two information reports showing a very active office with at least 655 of 709 students having visited the Office at least once. Activities included: referrals, teacher alerts, illness visits, guidance, athletic trainer alerts, immunization monitoring, dispensing medications, family contacts, free and reduced meals management, health promotion, insurance referrals and claims, sports physicals, impact concussion management, etc.

- Next year the Office would focus on emergency preparedness, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, updating communications, staff education, collaborations with other schools, and developing a Medical Advisory Committee.
- In accordance with Mass. State mandates students had been screened for vision, hearing, posture, and Body/Mass Index (BMI). The BMI mandates were likely to be controversial especially as no distinction was being made for athletic muscle differential.
- The MVRHSC thanked and applauded Ms. Leonard and Ms. Laslarch.

C. Student Leadership Meeting

The annual survey of MVRHS alumni had shown that students were more appreciative of their High School after hearing of their college roommates' or off-Island friends' high schools. Consequently Prin. Steve Nixon was implementing exchange visits with other Massachusetts schools. Teams of two staff and two students would visit and report back on schools and student culture.

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D. Trip Requests

- *MS. REAGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MVRHS SAILING TEAM TO TRAVEL:
- TO NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND TO PARTICPATE IN THE REGATTA ON APRIL 18,
2009, AND IF THEY QUALIFY*
 - *TO PORTLAND, MAINE ON APRIL 29, 2009;*
- MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0
ABSTENTIONS.*

E. Senior Projects.

Twenty students had signed up for projects (with a ratio of 16 girls to 4 boys).
Projects included: a poetry anthology, a study on rape victims, art projects in partnership
with Featherstone Center for the Arts, plays, and wool production with Allen Farm. Final
presentations would be judged in May (see below: Actions).

Personnel

(Agenda Item # VIII)

A. Maternity Leave Request

- *MS. REAGAN MOVED TO GRANT MS. ENA LUV THULIN MATERNITY LEAVE AS
REQUESTED; MS. SYLVIA SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES,
0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Old/New Business

(Agenda Item # IX)

The exterior painting was going into its second phase (see documents on file) and
it was hoped that the bids would be equivalently low.

A. Updates

2. Football Bleachers

The bleachers/press box were being demolished and the MVRHS was working
with Engineer Chuck Sullivan and Architect Maurice O'Connor to meet a September
2009 deadline.

1. PAC

Working with the Oak Bluffs Building Dept. and Architect Maurice O'Conner
new handrails and lighting were being designed and installed, hopefully without major
reconstruction or cost. The width of the aisles was within regulations.

The plumbing, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC), and electrical contracts
were being re-bid.

New buses were being delivered three at a time, and sent for Vineyard Transit Authority,
Registry of Motor Vehicles and Mass. State inspections.

Excess and Deficiency was certified at \$691,830.

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The School Advisory Council (SAC) was working on revising the Student Handbook (see documents on file).

The next MVRHSC meeting date was set for 7:00PM Monday, May 4, 2009.

Adjournment (Agenda Item # XI)
Meeting adjourned at 9:27PM.

Appendix A - Agreed upon tasks

- Current Student Art Show at Featherstone.
- MVRHS Evening of the Arts. – Wednesday, May 20th.
- Mr. Hart - email senior project schedule MVRHSC members.
- **5/4/09 Agenda**
 - E & D Certification
 - Student Handbook Revisions
 - MVTV Events Coordinator Pam Basset

Appendix B - Documents on File:

Agenda 4/6/09
Sign In Sheet 4/6/09
MVRHS Library (3 p.) 4/6/09
MVRHS Gregory T. Scotten Library
Performing Arts Department (3 p.)
MVRHS General Fund Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (10 p.) 4/3/09
MVRHS General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2008-2009 4/3/09
Congratulations Here's Your Take Charge of Education Check from Target
School to Career Partnership Grant FY08 STC Award: \$5,833.00
School To Careers Connecting Activity, Offering to Community folder
Career & Work Study Youth Workers Information Student & Employer/Mentors
MVPS Memo re: Graduation and Drop Out Rates 2/24/09
 DESE Press Release: New Report Shows Continued Increase in Four-Year
 Graduation Rates (9 p.) 2/5/09
MVRHS Health Department School Health Services Data Report 2008/2009 (13 p.)
Essential School Health Services Program Data Report 2007-2008 School Year, (44 p.)
 Spring, 2009
MVRHS High School Sailing Team out of state competition
School Council Meeting Minutes 2/18/09
School Council Meeting Minutes (2 p.) 3/18/09

continued

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Appendix B - Documents on File (continued):

MVRHS Land Use Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes (2 p.) 4/6/09

Town of Oak Bluffs Memo re: MVRHS Wastewater Planning (4 p.) 4/5/09

MVRHS building plan / painting timeline

Bleacher Seating Plan – National Recreation System, Inc. 5/6/08

Foundation Plan for Bleacher– National Recreation System, Inc. 3/31/09

Pressbox Exterior Elevations – National Recreation System, Inc. 1/6/00

Elevation Bleacher Submittal – National Recreation System, Inc. 3/31/09

Thulin letter re: Maternity Leave

Approved as written May 4, 2009.