



October 7, 2022

Cynthia Mitchell-Selectboard Chair
West Tisbury Town Hall
POB 278
WT, MA 02575

Honorable Selectboard Members,

The MVRHS School Committee writes to you with good news that on September 22, 2022, the MV Regional School District's (MVRSD) revised regional agreement has been recommended by the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) for certification by the Commissioner of Education. The revised regional agreement, along with a summary of the changes, is included with this letter. The regional agreement includes the revised capital cost allocation formula for a one-time expense relating to a high school building project as part of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program. In order for the Commissioner to certify the newly revised regional agreement and stay on course in the MSBA program, a vote in your town to approve the regional agreement will be required at or before your spring 2023 annual town meeting.

Subsequent to the MSBA notification on March 2, 2022 inviting the MVRSD Statement of Interest (SOI) into the MSBA's Eligibility Period, the Select Boards from your town acted with other towns to form a working group to identify a funding approach that the leadership of all towns could support as it relates to an MVRSD/MSBA building project. This working group comprised a Select Board Member or Finance Committee member as well as the town administrator from your town. The Superintendent of Schools was also a part of this working group. During the spring of 2022 the working group met weekly and reviewed various data and proposals. On June 1, 2022, the working group unanimously recommended a capital cost allocation formula to the MVRSD School Committee for its consideration. The working group also approved a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) concerning the MVRSD annual operating budget, but this MOA was deemed to be in conflict with Massachusetts General Law and DESE Regulations and the MVRSD School Committee is working to address those issues.

Concurrent with the efforts of the working group, the MVRSD School Committee undertook an extensive review of the MVRSD regional agreement to identify areas outside the capital cost allocation formula where the agreement is required to be amended in order to bring it up to current DESE standards. This review took place in a series of School Committee meetings, with many hours devoted by the District's outside counsel and School Committee members to reviewing proposed updates. On August 1, 2022 the MVRSD School Committee unanimously approved amendments to the District's Regional Agreement, including a new capital cost allocation formula specific to an MSBA building project.

In accordance with the MSBA timeline, the School Committee will be placing articles on the warrants of the 2023 annual town meetings in all 6 island towns requesting appropriations to fund a feasibility study for the building project. Given the timeline of the island's annual town meetings and MSBA's May 29, 2023 deadline for town approval of the appropriation for a feasibility study, the District looks forward to answer any and all questions concerning the regional agreement in order to best facilitate a vote on the regional agreement at your earliest convenience.

The School Committee is grateful for the continued leadership and support extended by your town throughout the long hours spent last spring and summer hammering out a revised capital cost allocation formula and for your enthusiasm of ensuring our successful participation in the MSBA program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "M. V. R. H. S.", written over a horizontal line.

MVRHS School Committee Signatures

Enclosure: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Regional Agreement and summary

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

PO Box 1385, 100 Edgartown Road Oak Bluffs, MA, 02557 | 508.693.1033 | www.mvrhs.org

Community. Accountability. Compassion. Resilience. Curiosity