



**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN**

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September 09, 2019

Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea
4 Pine Street
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568


Subject: October 7th 2019 at 4:00pm in the Fred B. Morgan Meeting Room.

Dear Dr. D'Andrea:

Recently, the All Island Finance Committee voted to propose a new formula for funding the Regional High School. This would change the enrollment, or per-pupil formula (the one used by over 92% of K-12 regional districts in Massachusetts), to one where Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and West Tisbury, with a total of 68% of the High School students, would pay 40% of the cost. That leaves Edgartown, Chilmark, and Aquinnah with 32% of the enrollment, paying 60% of the High School costs. This proposal has very little chance of acceptance by Edgartown, Chilmark, or Aquinnah, let alone acceptance by all three collectively. The requirement for changing the assessment formula is a unanimous vote by all six towns.

Since Oak Bluffs has announced that they will not back any capital expenditure without the proposed formula change, which is highly unlikely, it is time to focus attention on the deferred maintenance and repair that has been put off for too long. We would like to invite you, the MVRHS Principal, Facilities Director, our Representative to the High School Building Subcommittee, our Building Inspector, and our School Committee to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the scope of work needed to make the current building safe and usable (October 7th 2019 at 4:00pm in the Fred B. Morgan Meeting Room). Our fear is that while everyone is waiting to see if three Towns with 32% of the school population will pay 60% of the costs, our current building will become unusable, and we will not have the financial channels to execute timely repairs due to the status of a Regional School District Stabilization Fund (G.L. c.71, s.16 G ½).

Respectfully,


Margaret Serpa, Chairman


Arthur Smadbeck


Michael Donaroma

Edgartown Board of Selectmen

Cc: MVRHS Principal
Cc: MVRHS Facilities Director
Cc: Edgartown Representative to the School Building Subcommittee
Cc: Edgartown Building Inspector
Cc: Edgartown School Committee (MVRHS)
Cc: Board of Selectmen of the Town of Aquinnah
Cc: Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chilmark