

**ALL-ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA’S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Superintendency Union #19
Edgartown School Committee
Oak Bluffs School Committee
Tisbury School Committee
Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee
Up-Island Regional School Committee
6:00PM, Thursday, December 19, 2025
Hybrid Meeting at MVRHS Library or Via Zoom**

Present:

Tisbury	Chair – Amy Houghton, Michael Watts,
Up-Island	Jim Newman, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,
Oak Bluffs	Rizwan Malik, Laurel Schneider, Kathryn Shertzer,
Edgartown	Kelly Scott, Kristin Brown, Sarah Murphy,
Others:	Emilie Townes, Recorder – Marni Lipke,
Supt. Shared	Superintendent – Richie Smith, Business Administrator – Mark Friedman,
Services Of:	Student Support Director – Hope MacLeod,
MVPS:	Suzanne Cioffi,
Press:	MVTV – Lynn Fraker, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

**Late arrivals or early departures of AISC members (see * in text)*

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting was called to order at 6:05PM.
(Recorder’s Note: Some discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda Item #II)

A. Including but not limited to: October 24, 2024 and November 7, 2024

• MR. JIM NEWMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 24, 2024 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2024 MINUTES; MR. ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 13 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: MS. KELLY SCOTT—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. RIZWAN MALIK—AYE, MS. LAUREL SCHNEIDER—AYE, MR. ALEX SALOP—AYE, MR. MICHAEL WATTS—AYE, MR. NEWMAN—AYE, MS. KATHRYN SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. KRISTIN BROWN—AYE, MS. SARAH MURPHY—AYE.

Chair General Remarks (Agenda Item #III)

Chair Amy Houghton welcomed and wished them all a healthy and happy 2025.

• Most taxpayers did not distinguish between the AISC and the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) and every AISC member was an ambassador to Vineyard residents who needed to know about the amazing opportunity for funding a project that would impact the entire Island. Previous experience showed how important it was to explain the MVRHS project process and keep people informed.

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Superintendent's Update (Agenda Item #IV)

D. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Capital Project/Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) (See documents on file.)

The MSBA process was carefully and expertly designed by professionals that built or renovated numerous schools. This was the most critical time when the educational plan determined what the project might become.

- Module One – The MVRHS applied for eligibility through Statements of Interest (SOIs) for 7-9 years, before being invited into the further 270 day process: the formation of a Building Committee, site visits by MSBA representatives, information gathering and securing feasibility study funding.

- Module Two – After the MSBA search and interview process the MVRHS hired designer Chris Blessen of Tappé Architects and CHA as the Owners Project Manager (OPM).

- Module Three – The MVRHS project was now in the Preliminary Design Phase (PDP). Tappé subcontracted a vendor who held educational visioning workshops with staff, the people who knew the current building and needs most intimately. An Education Plan was crafted that described the status of the existing building as well as the 21st Century education goals of the MVRHS as a comprehensive School—i.e. encompassing standard academic, Special Needs and Career Technology Education (CTE). The Plan would likely be presented to and voted by the MVRHSC.

- Based on the Education Plan, Tappé would draft several design iterations: renovation in place, renovation expansion, and a new building—the most of expensive at \$400-430,000,000. The iterations would be reviewed and voted by the MVRHS Building Committee. It was emphasized that all options were open at this time and no decisions had been made.

- The MSBA had minimum sq. ft. per student requirements and determined the design should be between 211,000 – 259,000 sq. ft. At 166,000 sq. ft. the existing building was 30% short—especially in science labs and CTE space. Consequently Tappé advised that a simple renovation in place was not likely to meet MSBA parameters and might not be funded. The goal was to find the right sized building that balanced educational need against cost—which was heavily driven by building size.

- Module Three feasibility was likely to run until the 2025 Annual Town Meetings (ATM) at which point there should be a vote to proceed. In the meantime Building Committee representatives would attend Town Finance Committee meetings to listen to Town concerns and guidance.

- The AISC was reminded that Tisbury reached this Phase of the MSBA process and the vote to approve failed the ballot. The renovated/expanded Tisbury School cost more than twice the original MSBA subsidized price and was delayed 7 years.

- Further information was available on at <https://mvrhsbuildingproject.org/> linked from the MVRHS website <https://mvrhs.org/>.

B. District Improvement Plan

- The AISC Policy Subcommittee was working steadily on a Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) comprehensive policy handbook that would be a great resource for years to come. The members were trained in Massachusetts General Law and working with Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) consultants.

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- There were several goals across the MVPS system: co-teaching, Think Kids, collaborative and local surveys (and the School Committee should have its own goals) but there should be a unifying thread with the District and Superintendent's goals. In a systemwide commitment to students, each school was asked to coordinate the School Improvement Plan (SIP) with the Districtwide/Superintendent's goals.
- The Personnel Subcommittee noted that evaluations were on Superintendent (not District) goals and that School Committee members found evaluating in multiple roles, i.e. local committees or MVRHSC difficult. Watching the Superintendent across the MVPS system and working towards regionalizing various aspects should coordinate the results.
- The AISC commended School leadership dedication needed to attend the multiplying number of MVPS meetings now in progress, not only the local school committees, AISC, MVRHSC and Subcommittees, but also the MVRHS Building Committee, the Edgartown Principal search, Negotiations, and budget season with multiple Finance Committees.

A. Goals (See documents on file.)

This draft posited 3 goals to start the conversation. It was not a single event but an ever deepening and refining process.

- Student Learning Goal – Ensure Tier 1 Literacy Curriculum is firmly established in grades Kindergarten through 2nd Grade (K – 2). Mclass dyslexia screener (a version of Dibbles) advancing since September 2024, was a high quality program that had been vetted and researched by Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Megan Farrell. While maintaining a strong individual school culture the MVPS needed common language and curriculum across the K – 8 schools so that when students advanced to the High School, staff and students could continue the common language for smoother transitions, more available resources and more equitable access to education. Part of regionalizing was to start practicing how to work together.
- Student Learning Goal – Prioritize the establishment of Tier 1 Curriculum across all core subjects in Kindergarten – 5/8 grades MVPS Schools that align with Massachusetts (MA) Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) standards and frameworks. As above the continuing search for common curriculums would start by Principals putting vertical teams together which would then be reviewed by the Cabinet. Common curriculums would also save costs since several modules of the same curriculum were less expensive than each school researching and purchasing its own full curriculum. Tisbury School Assistant Principal Melissa Ogden had demonstrated expertise and clear process in this area.
- Professional Practice Goal – Improved Supervision and Evaluation of Principals and Central Office Leadership.
- Supt. Richard Smith had provided key indicators with each goal. AISC members were requested to consider the goals and select indicators so all would know how to evaluate him on each goal.

C. Edgartown Principal Search Update

The advertisement was posted November 28th for an early February selection process.

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Regionalization – Create Working Group (Agenda Item #V)

The Working Group welcomed all volunteers and would hold public meetings to talk about what resources or processes could be regionalized and to learn the mechanisms that would best facilitate collaboration. Group membership was currently informal:

- AISC Members – Roxanne Ackerman, Amy Houghton, Alex Salop,
- Administrators, including Business Administrator Mark Friedman, and
- representation from all Towns.

There was a brief discussion on the informal and more flexible working group versus a formal Subcommittee that reported to the AISC.

Personnel – Nothing to report (Agenda Item #VI)

Subcommittee Updates (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Negotiations – Negotiations Subcommittee creation of Appendix A and Career Pathways Subcommittee – Nothing discuss

Executive Session – To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining or Litigation if an Open Meeting Would have a Detrimental Effect on the Bargaining or Litigating

Position of the Public Body and the Chair So Declares – Not needed (Agenda Item #VI)

Adjournment (Agenda Item #VIII)

- Thanks went to substitute recorder Marni Lipke for filling in.
- *MR. SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:53PM; MS. SHERTZER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 13 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. SCOTT—AYE, MR. LIONETTE—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MS. SCHNEIDER—AYE, MR. SALOP—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MR. NEWMAN—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE, MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. BROWN—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE.*

Meetings/Events: (by Zoom – TBD)

- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, January 16, 2025 – TBD

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/19/24
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School – MSBA Process Summary (2 p.)
- Draft – 2024-2025 Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, Superintendent's Goals (3 p.)

Minutes approved 1/16/25