

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MVRHS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, May 5, 2025 at 5:30 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**

**Present:** Chair – Skipper Manter, Vice Chair (VC) – Rizwan Malik, Jennifer Cutrer,  
Kathryn Shertzer  
*Zoom:* Roxanne Ackerman\*, Sarah Murphy, Kelly Scott, Michael Watts

**Staff:** Principal – Sara Dingley, Information Technology (IT) Director – Rick Mello,  
Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart,  
Curriculum & Instruction Director – Justine DeOliveira,  
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, English Teacher – Spencer D'Agostino

**Supt.'s Office:** Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.,  
Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod,  
School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman

**Others:** President/General Manager M.V. Sharks – Russ Curran, Bob Tankard,  
Unibank Fiscal Advisory Services – Lynne Welsh,  
Oak Bluffs Town Administrator – Deborah Potter

**Towns/County:** Tisbury – Nancy Gilfoy, West Tisbury – Clark Rattet

**Press:** Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader

**Recorder:** Teresa Kruszewski *\*Late arrivals or early departures of MVRHS SC members*

*\*Roxanne Ackerman arrived later and left early.*

**Please note: All business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action.**  
*(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).*

**I. Welcome - Chair:**

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHS SC) was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chair Skipper Manter. Zoom participants indicated difficulty of hearing speakers in the room.

**II. Routine Reports:**

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

The President and Vice President of the Junior Class (The Class Officers) recapped activities including the job fair, the horticulture plant sale, and the upcoming spring shows; the senior assembly, Prom and club updates as well as the performances of the various sports teams'

**B. Superintendent Report**

**1. General Update**

Superintendent Richard M. Smith reviewed upcoming dates for activities, graduations and other items.

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**C. Principal**

**1. New England Association of School and Colleges Report Update**

Justine DeOliveira and Spencer D'Agostino gave an update on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and reviewed the slide presentation for Members. They provided updates for all the areas they continued to work on as the next steps. *(Please see the document on file for details.)*

**2. Preview of Potential Student Handbook Changes**

Principal Sara Dingley discussed potential changes to the student handbook, including raising passing grades and maintaining away-for-the day.

**3. Working group to Discuss Funding for Student Events**

*(Please see below, Appendix B - Zoom AI Next Steps)*

**4. Music at the Park September 13 Request- Russ Curran**

Russ Curran and Bob Tankard presented the details of a music event in the park (Sharks Field) to support the Veterans Outreach Group. Principal Sara Dingley expressed her support for the cause and suggested that the Committee should reach out to see what permits would be needed. Members agreed to move forward with the event pending the completion of the necessary paperwork.

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED THIS CONSENSUS VOTE TO APPROVE THIS PENDING THE ACTUAL FORMAL APPLICATION; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**D. School Building Committee**

Samuel Hart provided updates, deadlines and next steps.

**III. Consents:**

**VOTES REQUIRED**

**A. Minutes: Including but Not Limited to**

**1. April 7, 2025**

*JENNIFER CUTRER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2025 MVRHS SC MINUTES AS WRITTEN; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**B. Personnel None.**

**C. Grants and Donations: Including but Not Limited to**

- 1. Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs**
- 2. FY25 High School Equivalency Test Center**

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*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TWO GRANTS AS LISTED BY MARK FRIEDMAN; JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**D. Out of State & Overnight Travel**

**1. New England Scholastic Press Association**

**2. Great East Music Festivals**

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AS PRESENTED; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**E. Wellness and School Lunch**

**1. Wellness Policy, Third Reading**

Tabled.

**F. FY 25 Budget Recertification - Vote**

**Zoom summary**

***E&D Funds and Credit Ratings:***

*Lynne Welsh from Unibank Fiscal Advisory Services discussed the financial implications of using excess and deficiency funds (E&D) for the high school project. She explained that E&D is a unique reserve in Massachusetts, capped at 5%, which is considered a credit negative by rating agencies. Lynne emphasized the importance of maintaining a policy threshold for E&D, typically between 4% and 3.5%, to improve the district's credit rating. She also highlighted that the rating agencies will consider E&D as a reserve, despite its limited flexibility. The team discussed the potential impact of the towns' financial ratings on the high school project's bonding.*

***Budgeting and E and D Fund***

*The committee discussed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, specifically focusing on the use of the E and D fund. They considered two options: Option A, which would draw down the E and D fund to a low level, and Option B, which would maintain the fund at a higher level. The committee also discussed the potential impact of their decision on the bond rating for future borrowing and the budget process for the following year. They ultimately decided to vote on a consensus of Option A and Option B, with the understanding that line item adjustments would be necessary if Option A was chosen. The committee expressed concerns about the transparency of their budgeting process and the potential consequences of their decisions.*

A lengthy discussion ensued on how to handle the financial implications, and the creation of a stabilization fund and other items.

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Mark Friedman presented two options for the FY25 Excess and Deficiency (E&D) analysis, A & B. (Please see document on file for details: *Projection of E&D Options A and B MVRHS - 5-03-2025.pdf*) A lengthy discussion ensued.

*KELLY SCOTT MOVED TO APPROVE OPTION B; SARAH MURPHY SECONDED.*

Suzanne Cioffi detailed the line item adjustments for this option.

*KELLY SCOTT AND SARAH MURPHY ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT AS STATED BY SUZANNE CIOFFI.*

*MOTION FAILED: 3 AYES, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE & MS. SCOTT—AYE. MS. CUTRER—NAY, MR. MALIK—NAY, MR. MANTER—NAY, MS. SHERTZER—NAY & MR. WATTS—NAY.*

*RIZWAN MALIK MOVED TO ADOPT OPTION A; KATHRYN SHERTZER SECONDED.*

Suzanne Cioffi detailed the line item adjustments for this option.

*RIZWAN MALIK AND KATHRYN SHERTZER ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT AS STATED BY SUZANNE CIOFFI.*

*MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE. MS. MURPHY—NAY & MS. SCOTT—NAY.*

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION OF THE FY2025 OPERATING BUDGET AND SUBMIT THE NEW OPTION A NUMBERS/BUDGET; RIZWAN MALIK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**G. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Policy, First Reading**

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) POLICY, FIRST READING; KELLY SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE, MS. MURPHY—AYE & MS. SCOTT—AYE. MR. WATTS—NAY. MS. SHERTZER ABSTAINED.*

**IV. Finance:**

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne Cioffi recapped the reports (those that were passed out in the room during the meeting); Members reviewed both reports and asked questions where appropriate.

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**B. Potential End of Year Finance Meeting on June 16th**

Members were in agreement.

**V. Subcommittee Updates:**

**A. Transportation**

Nothing new to report.

**B. Facilities**

Nothing new to report.

**C. Athletics**

Nothing new to report.

**D. Budget**

Nothing new to report.

**VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements: None.**

**VII. Old Business:**

**A. Sub Committee Minute Taker**

*(Please see below, Appendix B - Zoom AI Next Steps)*

**VIII. Public Comment:**

❖ None.

**IX. Adjournment:**

*KATHRYN SHERTZER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MVRHS SC MEETING AT 7:50 PM;  
JENNIFER CUTRER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS,  
0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. MALIK—AYE, MR. MANTER—AYE,  
MS. MURPHY—AYE, MS. SCOTT—AYE, MS. SHERTZER—AYE & MR. WATTS—AYE.*

**Appendix A - Documents on File:**

1. 5.5.25 MVRHS School Committee Meeting Recording.docx
2. Agenda MVRHS SC 5.5.25.docx
3. Chart Certified E&D MVRHS - FY20-26.pdf
4. E&D DLS Guidance - May 2023.pdf
5. III. C. Grants MVRHS School Committee Acceptance list 05012025 x (1).pdf
6. III. D. 1. NESPA Out of State & Overnight Travel Form.docx (1).pdf
7. III. D. 2. NH Out of State & Overnight Travel Form.docx.pdf
8. III. E. 1. MVRHS Wellness Policy 3rd Reading.pdf
9. IV. A. MVRHS Expenditure.pdf
10. IV. A. MVRHS Revenue.pdf
11. MA Regional School Districts Certified E&D - FY24.pdf

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12. MVRHS FY25 Budget Line Items Reassessment Options.pdf
13. NEASC Final Report School Committee.pptx
14. Projection of E&D Options A and B MVRHS - 5-03-2025.pdf

**Appendix B - Zoom AI Next Steps:**

1. *Mark Friedman to update the OPEB policy with the most recent financial numbers.*
2. *Mark Friedman and financial advisors to develop a draft stabilization fund proposal with restrictions for future consideration.*
3. *Principal Sara Dingley to organize a working group to discuss funding for school events, including Roxanne Ackerman and potentially one other School Committee Member.*
4. *School Committee Members to contact Principal Sara Dingley if interested in joining the working group on school event funding.*
5. *Mark Friedman to look into AI or third-party options for meeting minute taking.*
6. *School Committee to try AI minute-taking at the next meeting as a test.*
7. *Superintendent Richard M. Smith to get more information about the minute-taking service used by the Airport Commission.*
8. *Land Use subcommittee to schedule a meeting to discuss Skate Park issues with Deb Potter.*
9. *School Committee Members to sign vouchers and warrants.*
10. *Principal Sara Dingley to prepare updates to the student handbook for discussion at the second June meeting, including graduation requirements, raising passing grade to 65, and AI policy.*

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder**

July 14, 2025

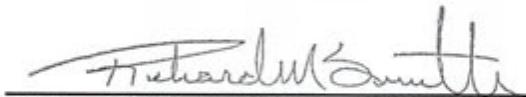
**Date**



**Skipper Manter – MVRHS SC Chair**

8-26-25

**Date**



**Richard M. Smith, Ed.D. – MVRHSD Superintendent**

8/6/25

**Date**

**APPROVED July 14, 2025**