

**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 School District
Up Island Regional School District

**Tuesday, August 28, 2025 at 5:30 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Edgartown: Zoom - Sarah Murphy***, Chris Greene
Oak Bluffs: Laurel Schneider, Rizwan Malik
Tisbury: Amy Houghton (Chair), Jenn Cutrer
Up-Island: Alex Salop*(Vice Chair), Marsha Shufrin, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,
Zoom - Alicia Lesnikowska, Jessica Mason
Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., School Business Administrator –
Mark Friedman, Director of Student Services - Hope MacLeod, Administrative
Assistant to the Superintendent - Kristen Lepine, Zoom - All Island Behavioral Health
Coordinator, Kim Garrison*
Press: Zoom - Louisa Hufstader - Vineyard Gazette, Sarah Shaw Dawson - MV Times
Recorder: Rebecca Claussen
*Indicates late arrival
**Indicates early departure

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. Call to Order

Amy Houghton (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Amy Houghton asked the committee and attendees to please take a moment of silence to recognize the late Dr. James Weiss, former Superintendent of schools.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Including But Not Limited to July 31, 2025

Vote Required

To be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

III. Chair General Remarks

A. September 14th Retreat Dates

Amy Houghton indicated the gentleman from MASK cannot attend this meeting on this date but asked the committee if they could still proceed with this meeting, to which they agreed. Skipper Manter seeked clarification for the meeting expectations to which Amy Houghton replied setting committee and district goals, in addition to reviewing the policy manual. This meeting will be posted as a public meeting which will include an agenda. Timing and location confirmed as 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at the MVRHS Library. Amy Houghton welcomed new member, Chris Greene, for Edgartown.

IV. Superintendent General Update

A. Convocation 8/28

Superintendent Richie Smith indicated that Convocation occurred today, new staff began this past Monday, August 25, 2025 and all staff returned Wednesday, August 27, 2025. All schools are preparing buildings, classrooms and participating in professional development and preparing with their teams.

B. MVRHS Project – FAS Update, Timeline

Richie Smith indicated that two important thresholds have been reached, one of which occurred on July 30, 2025 where a team of 8-10 people involved in the project (FAS = Facility Assessment Sub-Committee) where the committee demonstrated that the addition & renovation was the preferred path. There were very few questions and many positive comments which were encouraging. There were comments regarding the adjacencies of Special Education for some adjustments but were extremely pleased that the intention is to keep portions of the existing building, to include the Performing Arts Center and the Gymnasium. On August 27, 2025 a meeting was held by the Massachusetts School Building Authority Board of Governors (MSBA) where the project was voted through, moving to phase IV, schematic design. In this phase Tappe Architects will design out the building in a more robust fashion and develop firm costs. Between now and February the schematic design will move forward, planning to meet again with the MSBA in February in hopes of receiving a funding number, then allowing to move forward with giving the towns a cost.

C. Presentation of Goals and Evidence for Superintendent Evaluation

Richie Smith spoke about Jenn Cutrer being the chair of the personnel subcommittee and mapped out the direction of tonight's presentation, which will include an overview and accomplishments of Richie Smith and the district at this point in his contract term. A feedback form has been developed by Rizwan Malik. Richie Smith will present tonight, seek feedback and include any requested evidence, and then the committee can present the committee evaluation at the next All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting. Jenn Cutrer indicated that the personnel subcommittee will need to have a meeting scheduled in between tonight and the next AISC on Thursday, September 25, 2025, the personnel subcommittee meeting is planned for Monday, September 22, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. The feedback link will be sent out to be completed and will all be received back by one person. Amy Houghton wanted to let the committee know that this feedback form is the same as the paper form but that allows for all feedback to be stored in one location and leaves no need to input into another document or system, which has taken extra time in the past. Amy Houghton expressed concerns about a fast turnover, but Jenn Cutrer was hopeful that the automated feedback system would allow for easier turnover to which the committee agreed that review will happen either at the September, 2025 meeting or at the October, 2025 meeting, of which either would be acceptable. Richie Smith moved into screen share and provided the committee with several documents in regards to Superintendent evaluations as set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in addition to his goals and a year in review. The first slide indicated what the district is committed to:

1. Our children, with teacher models that support all learners;
2. Nurturing the culture within our schools, with an emphasis on physical and emotional support for our staff and develop strategies to improve the school climate;
3. A strong school community approach, to include building maintenance and upgrades and to increase family involvement.

Standard 1A: Instructional Leadership has an emphasis on multi-tiered learning support system to include and support all learning types (MTSS - Multi-tiered systems of support).

1. Tier 1; Universal Support
2. Tier 2; Targeted Support
3. Tier 3; Intensive Support

Multiple interventions have been developed to make sure each child is receiving the support they'll need as an individual learner to include teacher referral, Child Find, early literacy team, in addition to regionalization where the schools are collaborative in the programs they use which better supports consistency and learning within the district. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is a company that developed "Into Reading" which is High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) where DESE signs off on particular curriculum materials and encourages schools to use. This was a program used by the Tisbury School and will be adopted into the other elementary schools across the district. This is the first time a main content (literacy) area has been adopted district wide. *Technical Service Interruption*. This uniform instruction will be

helpful to the children in our communities should they have to switch schools, which happens given the nature of housing on the island. This will also encourage more collaboration across schools. Marsha Shufrin did ask if Houghton Mifflin Harcourt offers ELL learning options to which Richie Smith replied yes, and it needs to be explored further, which is being worked on currently by Leah Palmer. This work will be supported by professional development within each school, and across the district with Communities of Practice (CoP). We have applied for the Prism grant, which we're hopeful will be approved and will be able to support this work with no cost to the district. Marsha Shufrin did ask if there was support for the Indigenous community and their needs, to which this program does not and will be something we will need to be more conscientious of picking up and including in this program's use as this program is considered to be Culturally Responsive by DESE and does allow some flexibility that we will be able to source materials that are appropriate for Indigenous learning. Co-teaching is a tier 1 instructional strategy, whereas "Into Reading" is a resource, and co-teaching has continued to be used district-wide and has supported the 22% of ELL students that exited out of ELL, which is the largest we have exited in a year, to date. Alex Salop asked about which environments co-teaching is used, knowing ELL support is one of them. In addition, Richie indicated that it is also used in special education classrooms where the content teacher and a special education teacher work collaboratively to develop lessons that support all types of learners within one space instead of using the "pull out" model, which would remove certain students from certain classes due to content understanding, allowing students to learn in the content classroom. Amy Houghton did want to express that co-teaching as tier 1 support is expensive and to continue to grow programming, it is likely that there may be budget constraints and that it would have less cost associated as a tier 2 support. Robert Lionette did ask when would be an appropriate time to ask for evidence for these practices, which Amy Houghton indicated that it could all happen now. Robert Lionette asked for some evidence to show the efficacy of these programs school to school, which Richie Smith can provide. Alex Salop asked how DESE feels about co-teaching, to which Richie Smith responded that it is one of the models supported by DESE and is in alignment with equity and access to learning. Alex Salop also asked about different circumstances and if it was sometimes a Teacher and ESP or Teacher and Teacher to which Richie Smith replied that it is always Teacher and Teacher as there is no head teacher in a co-teaching model. Richie Smith moved onto the next section which is Multi-lingual students with disabilities (MLSWD) which has been spearheaded by Hope MacLeod, where we find that ELL is not the only challenge a particular student may face, and how do we make sure our tiered supports are culturally responsive and accurate for that student. Current practices across the district were reviewed and have been updated to put the district in alignment so that we do not over or under identify students, and DESE has asked for particular tools but this isn't specifically a fund need, it's more about evaluating staff using the same processes. The SOA grant did cover some stipends associated with being on this team to develop the work. Amy Houghton indicated at this time, based on the hour of the evening, that the committee expressed a desire to table some of this presentation to the next meeting. In the meantime Richie Smith will share out evidence, goals and standards to the committee to review before the next meeting. In addition to curriculum maps at the high school level as a lot of the data is more specific to the elementary schools. Amy Houghton also reviewed some of the other high school committee questions including, but not limited to a system wide eye on discipline MTSS collaborative problem solving: Think Kids as evidence of doing some of that work, safety care to better support behavioral needs, a 3 tier approach to address behavioral needs. Richie Smith indicated that Kim Garrison and Hope MacLeod did this work and deserve credit. Continued with MAEC, now named Safe and Supportive Skills Implementation Team led largely by Kim Garrison. Looking at Staff Capacity and Discipline using Think Kids multi-tiered system. Safety care is a focus as it is a de-escalation of high emotion and pre-behavioral issues, ESPs and Teachers in shared programs have or will be taking that training. Building staff capacity RTAP (Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program), 8 ESPs have been interviewed for 5 initial cohorts with no bachelors degree that have an interest in moving up to teaching, they would receive a bachelor's

degree at the completion of this program. In addition, there was the reorganization of central staff, including moving Sara Dingley to the central office for more curriculum continuity. Compass was restructured, where the size of the population could be split into K-4 in Tisbury and 5-8 in Oak Bluffs. Transportation restructuring has been in process and continues to move forward. The committee and district work on the policy handbooks was noted as an accomplishment. Five collective bargaining units were successfully negotiated and transportation negotiations will allow a less complex pay rate and moving the drivers from run pays to hourly pay, making the district more financially secure and is close to coming to agreement. Mentoring for new administrators, by former administrators has been very successful. The district has needed a professional development tracker so that we move staff up appropriately and maintain accurate records for credit procurement. In planning to move all schools to TeachPoint we will be able to do that as TeachPoint is an effective evaluation model, supports the PD tracking, and will provide a historical outlook on evaluations. Community and family engagement is another area where work has been done, and can be seen by some on the committee that were a part of the Principal searches and were able to see directly the outreach. Safe schools resolution as indicated from Federal administration there needed to be a focus here where we looked at safe schools practices for example what is our practice if ICE agents were to show up to a building, and engaged an immigration attorney that we will continue to work with, where we were able to hold two “Know Your Rights Training’s” for families in addition to a Q&A with local immigration and family law attorney, partnered with IWYC for family supports. We have scaled up our interpreters across the island with our MOU with CAP, which allowed for better communication with families at the time of ICE raids and the threat of ICE raids for our immigrants on the island. We have also moved forward to phase IV of the MVRHS Building Project. Amy Houghton asked the committee to come to the next meeting, prepared to ask for further clarification if needed. Please ask for any evidence needed and not yet provided, beforehand, allowing the process to continue to move forward.

V. Finance Update – MVRHS Building Project – Funding Options

Amy Houghton indicated that this item will remain on the AISC agenda for the foreseeable future to allow all members to receive regular updates. There are two ways to fund this project, one of which is a vote at the town and a vote on the ballot which is the way Tisbury proceeded. The second way being explored is an island wide vote that would be a school district funded election which would be a majority vote. Each town would then decide how they want to fund, whether it's a debt exclusion, all towns would use the same formula under the regional agreement.

VI. Personnel

A. LOA

Amanda Pachico has requested LOA as an ESP to fill a teaching position. Christina Torres is resigning from project headway as an ESP and moving to the Shared Services Compass program at Tisbury School. Claudia Wilson requested LOA due to child care for the full school year. Skipper Manter made a motion to approve LOA for one year and acknowledge the other two, seconded by Alex Salop. Roll Call: Mason - Aye, Greene - Aye, Lesnikowska - Aye, Schneider - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Salop - Aye

Motion Passes: 11-0-0

B. Resignation

No updates at this time

C. Retirement

No updates at this time

VII. Sub Committee Updates

A. Policy

No updates at this time

B. Personnel

No updates at this time

C. Negotiations

No updates at this time

D. Regionalization

Alex Salop will schedule a September meeting.

The committee agreed to move the meetings to the 4th Thursday of the month.

Amy Houghton asked Chris Greene if he would be interested in joining the Policy and Regionalization committees for Edgartown representation, to which he later followed up saying yes to put him on those two committees.

Rizwan Malik suggested moving the September 12, 2025 meeting to the Tisbury School.

Alex Salop took a moment to encourage as much electronic documentation as possible to save paper. Amy Houghton suggested that the committee go back to binders so that there is no repeated printing of items. Richie Smith suggested the committee bring their devices to the meetings to access those documents. Alex Salop followed up with one additional comment about how important it is to attend these meetings in person, with the understanding that there can be extenuating circumstances, but being in person is critically important to work together.

VIII. Adjournment

Skipper Manter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Mason - Aye, Greene - Aye, Schneider - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Salop - Aye

Motion Passes: 10-0-0

Lesnikowska did not vote

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**
- 2. Final Goals 24-25**
- 3. Evaluation Year in Review**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Richie Smith to provide evidence and other items for committee review**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: 9/25/2025