

**MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, August 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**

Present: Chair – Skipper Manter, Jennifer Cutrer, Kathryn Shertzer,  
Robert Lionette, Rizwan Malik - Vice Chair  
Zoom: Marsha Shufrin, Jessica Mason, Sarah Murphy\*

Staff: Principal - Sean Mulvey, Director of Student Affairs – Jared Andrews,  
Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi  
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O’Donnell\*

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

Towns/County: West Tisbury – Clark Rattet  
Zoom: Edgartown FinCom - John O’Hara

Bond Council: Zoom: Richard Manley

Press: Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader, MVTV

Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

\*indicates late arrival

**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 5:30 PM by Chair Skipper Manter.

**II. Bond Counsel Review of Borrowing Options for MSBA Building Project**

Mark Friedman introduced Richard Manley attending via zoom to discuss MGL Ch. 71 sec. 16d versus MGL Ch. 71 sec. 16n as borrowing options for school projects. 16d is past practice notifying towns, giving them 60 days from the vote to hold town meetings to express approval or disapproval of the debt, having dates coinciding with town meetings previously scheduled instead of having a special town meeting. Any one community can vote no, which means it does not pass. If 16n was pursued, the district can authorize debt and hold an election meeting that would be an island wide vote on a single day, if a majority vote in agreement that would be considered passing. Skipper Manter asked about how quickly that election would have to happen after a School Committee seeks a district wide vote which Richard Manley said he has generally seen coincide with approval for a grant project. Robert Lionette asked about whether other districts within the Commonwealth have pursued a 16n and what that looked like. Richard has seen it in several, some with success. It has been used typically by Vocational School Districts because their students are from several communities. Tantasqua was successful as a non vocational school so quite a few others have now followed suit (Minuteman, Greater Fall River Regional Voc., Tri-County Regional, Dennis-Yarmouth, Bristol-Plymouth and South Shore Voc.). Robert Lionette asked our position towns would be in for the 2.5 override in their own budgets. For 16n, the voter question would be “Do you approve of the district debt?”. Some towns have done this and their town meeting as concurrent elections, some have done them separately. Skipper Manter asks if this means that the debt may not pass, but the project could, which is yes. Communities can go back to seek debt exclusion at a later date as well. It is possible a town could vote yes subject to

the debt exclusion passing, which would mean it may not pass based on disapproval by one town. Robert Lionette asked if the 120 day response time after awarded grants is flexible or not to which Richard Manley said yes, the typical practice would be for MSBA to remove the grant and start back at the bottom, though MSBA has been more lenient with regional districts. Jessica Mason asks about the vote costs if we pursued 16n, MGL says that is a district fee. Jessica Mason also asked about instances where the 16n approach has backfired. Richard Manley said he only knows of one, which is Whittier in Haverhill and Dennis-Yarmouth for various reasons but Dennis-Yarmouth ended up passing after a court decision and Whittier was a more complex project. Jessica Mason asked about recourse if a town does have a majority vote of no, to which Richard Manley said the laws are written to protect against that and. Community member Nancy Golfof asked about the committee timing and wants to make sure that is considered. Skipper Manter indicated that the committee has a calendar they use for town meetings. Richard Manley suggests working closely with the towns/town clerks to have this run smoothly. Skipper Manter asked if absentee ballots would be included in this election, to which Richard Manley said yes, absentee ballots are required but early voting cannot occur. Rachel Orr of the Town of Tisbury Finance Committee asked about examples of similar districts with widely variant abilities to pay that have done district wide elections and what criteria is used to select one option or the other. Richard Manley explained that there were likely varied reasons for each location (size of regional district, etc.). Mark Friedman informed the committee that the MSBA will have their board meeting in February 2026 to vote on our project, after which we would have 120 days to secure funds. Our towns generally have their meetings in April or by mid-May, meaning it may be possible for this to coincide with those meetings. Richard Manley indicated it may be possible but all the elections would need to occur on the same day island-wide. Though he suggests having it happen sooner, allowing time for a re-vote if it does not pass. Jenn Cutrer asked about the timing of the school committee vote, to which Skipper Manter said we need the number, which we should have soon. Richard Manley was thanked and suggested he may be asked back again.

### **III. Routine Reports**

#### **A. Principal**

Sean Mulvey thanked the committee for the vote of support at the last meeting. The next event for the high school is a parent event focused on incoming students covering school services and school technology and schedules, followed by “Meet the Coaches” for athletes.

#### **B. Superintendent**

Richie Smith informed the committee of an event taking place at the skate park called “Skate Jam”. There is no alcohol but a permit has been applied for to cover amplified sound on August 24, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 8 pm, with a rain date of August 31, 2025.

#### ***Votes Required***

#### **Discussion and vote of MVRHS as a School of Choice**

Richie Smith spoke about a student opting into school choice for the High School. We do not have policy for the 9-12 level, we do have policy in the K-8 schools where principals can make that decision themselves based on space, dynamics, etc. An applicant applies by June 1, is notified by July 1 of acceptance or denial, if accepted the applicant has until July 15 to accept, and on August 1 if roster has space a denied applicant can be approached to attend. Sara Dingley indicated there would be space in the sophomore grade level this year. We do have

the precedent where we have allowed students to continue to attend here if their parents have moved off the island to a relatively close district. MGL automatically opts all schools in the state as school choice schools. Richie Smith has spoken to our attorney and they have indicated that MVRHS should consider any other applicants this year. Richie Smith is seeking to be in concert with the school committee, and have something in place for the high school as we do elementary schools. Robert Lionette makes a motion to acknowledge the decision of Administration to participate in state structures of school choice, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

*Votes Required*

#### **Consents**

##### **C. Minutes**

- 1. Approval of May 5, 2025 Draft Minutes**
- 2. Approval of July 17, 2025 Draft Minutes**
- 3. Approval of July 14, 2025 Draft Minutes**

Rizwan Malik makes a motion to approve the minutes from May 5, 2025, July 17, 2025 and July 14, 2025, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Roll Call: Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Abstain, Lionette - Abstain May 5, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 5-0-2

##### **D. Personnel**

No update at this time

##### **E. Grants & Donations**

No update at this time

##### **F. Overnight Travel & Out of State Travel**

No update at this time

#### **IV. Re-Organizing School Committee for FY 26**

*Votes Required*

##### **A. Secretary**

Skipper Manter indicates Mark Friedman is currently in this position but will move to the new minute taker if ready. Kathryn makes a motion for Rebecca Claussen to be the new secretary, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

##### **B. Subcommittee Membership - Subcommittee Updates**

Suzanne Cioffi indicates there are still missing assignments to subcommittees due to missing members.

##### **C. Athletics**

Jenn Cutrer moved up from being an alternate. Spaces are still open. Noelle Warburton will be asked to send a revised list for re-evaluation.

##### **D. Budget**

Jenn Cutrer moved up from being an alternate. Marsha Shufrin to be an alternate. Noelle Warburton will be asked to send a revised list for re-evaluation.

##### **E. Facilities**

Jenn Cutrer moved up from being an alternate. Spaces are still open. Noelle Warburton will be asked to send a revised list for re-evaluation.

**F. Transportation**

Marsha Shufrin volunteered for this subcommittee. Spaces are still open. Noelle Warburton will be asked to send a revised list for re-evaluation.

**G. Subcommittee Roles & Responsibilities**

Subcommittees will continue to be evaluated for membership. It is the responsibility of the subcommittee to elect their Chair and Vice Chair.

**V. Old/New Business**

No update at this time

**VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements**

No update at this time

**VII. Public Comment**

No public comment at this time

*Votes Required*

**VIII. Adjournment**

Kathryn Shertzer makes a motion to adjourn, second by Jenifer Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Manter - Aye.

Motion Passes: 7-0-0

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen*

*Date of Approval of Minutes: 9/8/2025*