

**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

ALL ISLAND REGIONALIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

**Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 5:30 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Chair Alex Salop, Amy Houghton, Rizwan Malik, Roy Cutrer, John Schneider, Jen Cutrer*
Zoom: Roxanne Ackerman, Kristen Brown*
Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman
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)

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Chair Alex Salop at approximately 5:30. Alex started this meeting by informing the group that there is a letter from the attorney and a statement he'd like to make with regards to the legality of the committee. "It is of the opinion of the District's counsel that the formation of this committee is not outside the laws stating: In summary, it is our legal opinion that the All Island Committee has the power to create a subcommittee to perform tasks related to determining the feasibility, advisability and process of expanded regionalization of Island schools, including but not limited to preparing a recommended Request for Proposals for consultant services related to such issues."

2. Regionalization Process and Next Steps

Rizwan Malik said that the town of Oak Bluffs is interested in participating but is currently bogged down by a turnover but the town Administrator did have some questions, requesting to present Alex's statement and minutes once complete. In addition, Rizwan thanked Alex for the clear communication and clarification for this process.

Votes Required

3. RFP Approval - Possible Vote

Mark Friedmann presented the Request for Proposal (RFP) which covers engaging a specialized company in working through what steps are needed to take, and what information needs to be collected to see if that is an appropriate option for our district. We currently have the Rural School Aid Grant from the State which is intended for further regionalization efforts, these monies are under the High School's purview but they can be used for this purpose, with the High School maintaining the funds, but they do need to be under contract by the end of the fiscal year. Alex thought it would be helpful for the audience to understand the actual use of the money. What a region would look like and understanding as much as we can what are the financial and learning ramifications. What kinds of deliverables is the committee and interested parties looking for under the RFP. Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) came in approximately 2014 and had put together a presentation on how to look at regional school districts. We will be able to look at similar regions and where we might find elements that may be easy to transition to, seeing some financial savings, host informational sessions, and see if regionalization is appropriate now when it wasn't before. Alex Salop showed the general idea of the MARS plan, who basically wrote the handbook for the Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education. We are in the very beginning stages where we need to spend some money to get the data we need to make informed decisions about regionalization and moving forward. The draft of the RFP is requesting data, comparisons to similar districts, assessments of revenue enhancement opportunities, with the focus being to improve our education opportunities, recommendations for processes and procedures to achieve the goals in the RFP, and looking for the hired party to be facilitators for the committee and group to understand this work. Amy asked about the opportunity to gain additional funding to complete this process if the current funds are not enough. Mark said this was not a competitive grant so we are hopeful, but there is no certainty that we will be awarded it again. The overall hope is to improve education, while also saving money. Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the RFP and get moving, Malik seconded. Roxanne asked for committee clarification, struck motion and reworded. *Amy Houghton made a motion that the High School school committee recommend a RFP to solicit consultancy services to explore regionalization, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll call: Brown - Aye, Ackerman - Aye, Malik - Aye, Salop - Aye, Houghton - Aye.*

Motion passes: 5-0-0

Mark Friedman said the advertisements can go out next week so the bid would close on or about June 2, 2025. Once the bids close, a subgroup will be needed to review the applications the week after it has closed which can be decided at a later date. Alex asked to schedule a time to meet with the towns but is hesitant to do that just yet. Amy suggested meeting just after the bids close, planning to meet on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Votes Required

4. Adjournment

Amy Houghton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll call: Brown - Aye, Ackerman - Aye, Malik - Aye, Salop - Aye, Houghton - Aye

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Legal Opinion re Expanded Regionalization**
- 2. Alex Salop: Regionalization Subcommittee Opening Remarks**
- 3. Request for Proposal**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1.**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2025