

**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

**Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Up-Island: Alex Salop
Edgartown: Kirsten Brown
Oak Bluffs: Rizwan Malik
Supt.'s Office: School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman
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)

REVISED AGENDA

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order before the recording started.

2. Introduction of New Members

In addition to the following introductions, there was also attendance from Kristen Brown committee member representing Edgartown, Selectboard member from Tisbury, Roy Cutrer, School Committee member Rizwan Malik representing Oak Bluffs, Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator and School Committee member, Jen Cutrer representing Tisbury along with individual introductions from Vicky with the town of Chilmark and expressed she has been very interested in this particular issue for many years, Tom Hallahan from Oak Bluffs who is also very interested in this meaningful project and Greg Orcutt has also been participating as part of the FinCom. There are still two remaining towns without official representation which are Edgartown and Aquinnah (Jeffrey Madison arrived after the start of the meeting to represent Aquinnah). Alex Salop spoke about what has occurred to date with regards to this committee which included discussions with some town participants but has mainly covered a plan with regards to executing an RFP, which was put out on May 9, 2025 and the bid closed on June 2, 2025. MARS responded to the build and are participating in today's meeting.

3. Mark Friedman

a. Status of RFP

Mark Friedman said that the RFP (Request for Proposal) was released on May 9, 2025 and closed on June 2, 2025. There are not a broad swath of firms that cover this type of work but there was one response received from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS), who are present in today's meeting. On June 16, 2025 this will be presented to the MVRHS School Committee for a vote as the grant that will cover this cost was issued to the high school. Alex Salop told the committee and participants that this RFP is specifically designed to help lay out what regionalization would look like, what questions are there and what are the pros and cons for us and will this give us a better educational experience with a lower cost. The process used by MARS has been adopted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

b. Update from MARS

Mac Reid and Steve from MARS, which was formed in 2012 as there had previously been lots of inquiries about handling regionalization questions. As an original team of four, they created this consulting firm to assist districts with regionalization. Since they started the firm, they have assisted over 40 districts in regionalization. In addition there will be Nadine Enstrom to look at the academic side and the Abrams Group to look at the financials. The majority of these meetings will be over zoom. The ultimate goal is to be as efficient operationally as possible while using tax dollars wisely. Steve read portions of the RFP to discuss the framework that the district is looking for and had some follow up questions:

<p>District Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How are the five schools/districts organized now? ● What are the inefficiencies? ● How could one regional district address the inefficiencies and how would it be organized? ● Where could overall district costs be lowered? ● How could staff be shared and organized more efficiently? ● How could the central office be more efficient? ● How would one district affect the number of school committee meetings and the preparation for those meetings?
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the educational structure of the five districts? ● What data explains the differences in educational achievement among the five districts? ● How could one district make the educational process more efficient? ● How could one district save resources and money, for example on staffing and programs? ● How could one district make special education better for students and less expensive?
<p>Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do the five total district budgets compare to other similar communities? ● What would a one region budget look like, compared to the current five individual budgets? ● How would the total bottom line budgets compare? ● What revenue enhancements and/or expenditures reductions could be achieved by a one region district? ● What are the options for individual town assessments - operational, capital, debt and transportation? ● What would be the impact of a pre-k to 12 transportation reimbursement from the State? ● What would be the savings in the central office? ● How could staffing be streamlined and be made more efficient, and cost less?

The above covers what MARS will be working on the next few months, with data collecting in the next three months, planning to meet in approximately early October, 2025 but will be available at any time prior to that should the need arise. It is also possible to plan a status update in September, 2025. Alex Salop asked the group for questions to which Tom Hallahan had one in regards to the island and the significant families that do the shuffle in the summer, mentioned non homeowners and immigrant families, recognizing the moves from one town to another with a student attending a new school because of said moves. This would be a great benefit to families in this situation. Steve said they are aware of this and will be looking at enrollment numbers and demographics at the beginning and end of the school year. Our schools still want to focus on some of their

individuality, for example Chilmark has cross grade classrooms. Steve said they have seen that in other districts so they are aware of making sure those are topics also visited.

4. Roundtable Discussion of Regionalization: Benefits and Concerns

Alex opened the floor to any attendees and anything they would like to add to this conversation, pros or cons. Roy Cutrer spoke about being an assistant at Tisbury School for eleven years and believes in continuity of curriculum, as you spend a few weeks with a student that has just recently transferred and finding they are ahead, behind or in a different order as the curriculum was different. He would like to see students transferring from one school to another and having it be more seamless. Rizwan agreed as all of our students come to MVRHS, meaning it is hard and teachers to start with a level playing field teaching all those kids together cohesively, believing this would help to address that in part. In addition budgets have been steadily increasing, therefore he feels that is enough of a reason to try and save all the towns financially. Alex expressed seeing budgets move from 3-5% increases, to something more in line with double that amount. John Schneider from the Town of Tisbury expressed the finance aspect of regionalization is going to be difficult if we discuss how we share costs and will be a critical part of this conversation. The hope is that we can develop a formula that each town is happy with. Tom Hallahan wanted to address the ELL population and the Special Education population and how there may be effective cost savings in working to find more efficiencies and inclusiveness of other students. Alex said that DESE is strongly encouraging districts to regionalize, so we are not the only geographic area in this situation and it is possible we may miss out on grant funding if we don't think of new ways to operate.

5. Scheduling Next Meeting

Alex said the next meeting should be scheduled after there are some preliminary findings from MARS or if MARS would like to meet sooner to ask questions. The committee will reconvene when they hear from MARS.

Vote Required

6. Adjournment

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

Motion passes: 3-0-0

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. None

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2025