



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Athletics Subcommittee

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 8:00 am

Zoom

Present: Chair - Robert Lionette, New Chair - Kathryn Shertzer, Sarah Murphy
MVRHS: Finance Director - Suzanna Cioffi, Athletic Director - Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director - Jasson O'Donnell
Supt's Office: Superintendent - Richie Smith
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. Call to Order

Chair Robert Lionette called this meeting to order at 8:08 am with a quorum present. The committee moved into Agenda Item IV. to vote for a new chair.

II. Athletic Director Update

Mark McCarthy started by offering appreciation to the committee for their attendance and participation. Mark started with Fall sports participation numbers where 322 students registered for fall sports this year, some did not end up participating, Boys and girls soccer and Field Hockey did have to make cuts this year. Boys soccer has 40 players, Football has 40 players, Girls soccer has 45, Field Hockey has 42, Girls Cross Country has 4 players, boys Cross Country has 4 players, Golf has 15 players, with both Varsity and JV is back again this year, Cheerleading has 19 participants and Unified Basketball has 23 players. This is Mark's first week back, but Mike Joyce will remain the Assistant Athletic Director now that Mark is back so they will work out who will have what responsibilities within the department.

III. Review & Discussion FY27 Budget

Mark asked about the 25% pay increase for coaches that was approved last year, to the best of Mark's recollection, but it does not appear that it has happened yet, where does that stand? Richie Smith confirmed that it was approved by the committee, and the discussions are likely in the executive session meetings on negotiations, but it was expanded due to the union contract negotiations. The teachers side created a committee and there was a desire to push forward with increases for all of Appendix A stipends, so this became a much larger list to address. Anna Cotton is moving things forward and is working from the High School side with some proposals, which were just spoken to with the advisory board and will plan a date to meet. Richie said that there have been some coaches that have approached him with regard to what lane they are sitting on, and he has put them on the proper lane based on credentials and experience, along with two assistant coaches. As Mark has just returned he has not worked on budget yet but will start. Mark has been advocating for replacing the score boards in the gym, as they are well past their useful life. They will need to be replaced

next year, and need to be in the capital purchase for the school budget. The boards did go out during a game last year and they were able to reset them but there is concern if that happens again and they cannot get them working, to which Suzanne replied that yes Jason O'Donnell has included that in the FY '27 Capital Plan for approx \$32,000 and that there are temporary and portable ones we could use at the ground level as an alternative should anything happen before next year. We have been recipients of rural aid money and there have been preliminary discussions with Sean Mulvey where replacing the scoreboard could be within that potential award. Suzanne said that she is hoping to hear by November, early December if we will receive it again. Mark spoke about the travel to Nantucket and how all sports are going, and would like to discuss the inter-island fast ferry that the boosters and parents were trying to put together at the last minute. Mark and the Nantucket Athletic Director are thoughtful in trying to keep the scheduling to when the ferry is operating, but that was not possible for this year. With not a lot of time remaining before travel day the boosters and parents came to ask about money to assist with getting the teams on the inter-island ferry instead of traveling through Hyannis. The cost proposed was \$16,000 but they are backtracking this year due to the time to raise those funds. In the past this has been funded by the Hyline fast ferry line item, then the Woods Hole - Hyannis busses is transportation, which is how we have contributed before but they are in a budget line not quite suitable to this. Booster clubs have paid a portion in the past and the High School made a contribution of \$25 per student athlete and the touchdown club would pay the remaining balance by charging for seats. The original request was made to the Hyline and the Seastreak when the weekend was planned but there was no boat available. Unfortunately, just a couple days ago the Seastreak said they did have a boat, but the booster clubs then realized the cost, hence now going back to the original plan. Robert encouraged the department to be more proactive in looking at the schedule and suggesting to the boosters and parents that raising funds for this type of trip could have started months ago, and logistics could have been planned to execute this. Kathryn asked about the capacity on a high speed ferry, to which the seastreak had 350 seats which would have covered as we have 150 athletes and coaches that would leave about 200 tickets to sell, but this was \$16,000 as it's the more expensive boat. Mark indicates there used to be a Nantucket travel line in the budget, is that something he should reestablish? The grey area is that the Steamship is a contract and that's already paid, so we would need a line item for this. Richie spoke to how this is going to be a tough budget year which means we will have to cut someplace else if we add something. Mark said next that the track field is at the end of its usable life after the last repair done, the cracks have returned and the surface that was done five years ago is wearing away again, the company will not resurface again, with this year likely being the last year we can host home meets so we need to consider moving on that. The tennis courts are also in a very similar situation and are beyond additional repair, expressing there is more crack material on those courts than original material. As of now there hasn't been much discussion about the other side of sanderson road in regards to the building project, with the last estimate on the courts being \$250,000 per court and we have 5 courts. Mark will continue to work with Jason and Cape and Island Track and Tennis but there may not be much more to be done.

Vote Required

IV. Vote Committee Chair

*Robert Lionette made a motion to nominate Kathryn Shertzer to be the Chair of the subcommittee, seconded by Sarah Murphy Roll call: Murphy - Aye, Sherter - Abstain, Lionette - Aye
Motion passes: 2-0-1*

V. Determine Committee Meeting Schedule

Kathryn asked if meeting once per month is adequate to which Robert Lionette reminded the athletics budget for FY '27 needs to be done. Mark McCarthy also asked about having the athletics meetings one to two weeks prior to the school committee meetings so they could be prepared for those. Kathryn asked if 8:00 am on Fridays work for everyone else, thinking the third Friday of every month would be a good ady to aim for. To which Mark and the committee agreed that would work, starting by aiming for the third Friday in November. Robert asked Suzanne how that works into the budget calendar, expressing that he did not feel like that would not leave room. November 13 is when the subcommittees want the budget proposals. Suzanne and Mark can work together and send a proposed budget out. Kathryn suggested meeting on October 31, 2025 at 8:00 am with the budget the main topic. Everyone agreed that would work, and they will work the schedule meeting for the remainder of the year once the budget work is well underway.

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

No unanticipated topics.

Vote Required

VII. Adjournment

Robert Lionette made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll coll: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye.
Motion passes: 3-0-0

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. None

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

1. Catherine Shertzer to chair the Athletic Subcommittee for the following year.
2. Mark to work with Suzanne on creating a budget line for Nantucket travel and identify where to reduce costs elsewhere to accommodate this addition.
3. Mark to share the codified roles and responsibilities between himself and Mike Joyce with the committee.
4. Mark to continue advocating for the gym scoreboards to be included in the capital purchase budget.
5. Athletic Department to be more proactive in communicating with booster clubs and parents about travel logistics for Nantucket trips when schedules are released.
6. Mark to work with Jason on continuing repairs for the tennis courts while planning for eventual replacement.
7. Athletic Subcommittee to meet on October 31st at 8 AM via Zoom with budget as the top priority.
8. Catherine to ensure Jen can attend the October 31st meeting to maintain a quorum.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: October 31, 2025