



REVISED on 10/29/25

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Athletics Subcommittee

Friday, October 31, 2025 at 8:00 am

Zoom

Present: Chair - Kathryn Shertzer, Robert Lionette, Jen Cutrer
MVRHS: Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Athletic Director - Mark McCarthy, Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell, Director of Operations - Sam Hart
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 Kathryn Shertzer called this meeting to order at 8:02 am.

II. Approval of Minutes October 17, 2025

Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2025, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Abstain.

Motion Passes: 2-0-1

III. Athletic Director Update on Fall Sports Season

Boys and Girls soccer went to Nantucket and brought the golden anchors home. Boys Cross Country won their division. The trophies will be on display in the front case soon. Boys and girls soccer will be in the playoffs and most likely getting a home game next week. Cross Country has their state meets coming up. Robert asked Mark about expressing record numbers at the last meeting for fall sports, and wanting to understand the numbers and trends and where the needs might be, this would be helpful information for the budget.

a. Island Cup Update

SEE III. b.

b. Football Update

After Saturday's game Mark received a call from a coach where he was down in numbers and felt unsafe to play the game, which had been an ongoing conversation and the team finally got to that breaking point. The team is not going to have enough able bodied kids to play the game, 21 healthy enough to play, 9 of which were Freshman that are not yet prepared to play in a Varsity game, giving the team about 12-13 kids which just did not feel like a safe number. Most of the feedback is positive given it is because the school is concerned about the health and safety of the students. There are two non

playoff games that the school has opted out of, allowing the kids to recover. Football should have 40-50 kids on a team to start, and this year MVRHS started with 36. The hope is to promote the sport and hopefully have some 7th and 8th graders wanting to play by the time they get to the high school.

Vote Required

IV. 7th & 8th Grade Waiver for Swimming

There will be 13 boys and 13 girls from the high school and 3-5 boys and 1-3 girls from the junior high. The coach aims for about 15-20 to fulfill the team and to increase relay play. *Robert Lionette made a motion to allow a waiver for the 7th and 8th grade for swimming, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll call: Lionette - Aye Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye. Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

Votes Required

V. New Sport, Fall 2026 Volleyball

Last year girls Volleyball was brought up in the hopes of bringing it to the Fall sports. Dhakir Warren is currently leading the club team, which is in its third year. The plan is to add this as a JV sport next year, getting us into the JV schedule to allow for some competitions and evaluate the program afterwards, and move to Varsity if they're ready. The current numbers are about 12-15 girls which is a good size for Volleyball. Robert Lionette expressed support as long as this does not require a waiver, and keeping this for high school age. Kathryn asked about the kids participating and if these are girls that gave up another sport to participate, to which Mark said that these are girls that were not involved in another fall sport at this time. Volleyball is a fall sport for girls and a spring sport for boys, at this time there are not a lot of boy participants so Mark does not think we will be seeking a boys team as well, though Girls Volleyball does all for male participation with certain MIAA restrictions, if there isn't a boys team. Robert asked about financial obligations to which Mark said yes, he has included a line for next fall including officials, uniforms and some basic supplies, but the school has already purchased balls out of this year's budget and we already have the nets in the gym. In addition, travel will need to be covered. Robert asked how many JV teams there are on the Cape, to which Mark estimated approximately 7-8 teams. *Robert Lionette made a motion to move this to the full committee for approval, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll call - Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye. Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

VI. Field Safety

Kathryn requested this agenda item as it was brought up in the facilities subcommittee meeting and the need to do the GMAX Field Safety testing. Jason O'Donnell is working on the cost associated with this so that we can get our fields tested this year. Robert asked about the baseline GMAX tests in the past, and what is precipitating the need now? Jason did some digging and he was not able to find anything. Robert also asked about the STS (Specialized Turf Services) contract and being an industry leader in turf maintenance, and curious what their take is - have Mark and Jason spoken with them as they are our current contracted experts? Richie said we should look into the Huntress work to see what they have, and Richie will get that to Jason and Mark. Robert agreed that there may be differences given the length of time between the last study and now but strongly encourages speaking with STS, and if they don't have this information, maybe they can make an appropriate recommendation. There needs to be a new plan for the fields across Sanderson Road, giving the possibility to seek private funding. Mark also asked about the parking layout on Sanderson Road and is that part of the building project or is that going to have to

be separate, given the backing out and the speed with which some travel on that road. Huntress did present multiple options so it is possible a different option may be a better option for us now. Sam Hart spoke about how there are plans from Tappe Architects to make Sanderson Road wider, removing the parking and many of these questions are covered. The three things to be completed on Sanderson Road with the building project, which are making it a safe road, marked pathways to the fields that are ADA compliant and Horticulture will be updated.

VII. Overnight & Out of State Travel

Cross Country is heading to states and the MIAA is heading to locations that are harder for us to access. This competition is in South Deerfield, the athletes will leave on the 7th and return on the 8th of November. Football has been offered an opportunity to attend a Yale / Brown Football game at Brown next Saturday which is out of state. There will be a campus tour, meet the team and lunch will be provided. Robert asked about the students that had not been playing football due to disciplinary reasons and wondered if they will also attend to which Mark responded that he will check with Coach Mottola and let the committee know.

Robert Lionette made a motion to move both travel requests to the full committee, seconded by Cutrer. Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye.

Motion Passes: 3-0-0

VIII. Athletic Budget FY27

Mark provided a draft budget for next year, keeping in mind trying to level funds per Richie's request. Mark did have to include the line for Nantucket travel as previously discussed, in addition there is a fee increase for MIAA officials. The parents that traveled to Nantucket this year did charter a boat that seems to have gone really well. Mark has reached out requesting an estimate to possibly use that company next year, but they need some time to complete that for Mark. Mark is hopeful this will be an option moving forward, it's island to island and takes about an hour and a half, the company has several boats in their fleet, all coast guard certified. There will not be an increase in ice costs but that does not come out of the Athletic budget, they are their own dedicated lines, though something to touch upon, in addition this does not include coach salaries. Robert asked about the Nantucket line item to which Mark offered this was his best estimate at \$25 per student athlete and coach traveling to Nantucket. Mark will likely have a better idea once he hears back from the Hyannis company that could offer the interisland Nantucket travel, with the thought of recouping the cost by parents buying tickets for the remaining seats. Robert asked about the redundancies in line items for entry fees and police to which Mark said Cross Country has their own, in addition track has their own so they reside with each sports line item. Robert asked if Mark had a discretionary line to which Mark has a general fund which he uses for things like buying pizza for Nantucket. Robert asked Suzanne to email this budget out for review. Kathryn asked about Safe Sport being listed, to which it is. Jen asked about the Nantucket line item to which Mark responded that this was in response to the previous meeting and finding a way to contribute to athletes using an interisland chartered ferry, if approached by parents, which will allow for a less complex way to reimburse for our athletes. Robert suggested a joint meeting with the budget subcommittee to hash out remaining questions. Suzanne indicated the next Budget subcommittee meeting is November 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm, does that allow Mark enough time to complete his missing piece for Nantucket travel? The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 8:00 am.

IX. Old/New Business

No Old/New Business for this meeting.

X. Public Comment

No Public Comment for this meeting.

XI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

Vote Required

XII. Adjournment

Jennifer Cutrer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll call: Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye.

Motion Passes: 3-0-0

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. 10.31.25 MVRHS Sub Committee Agenda
2. Draft Athletics Subcommittee 101725
3. Athletics FY27

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

1. **Mark:** Get information from the inter-island boat company in Hyannis about their proposal for charter travel to Nantucket and present at next meeting
2. **Mark:** Provide participation trend data showing strengths and weaknesses across sports programs to the committee
3. **Jason:** Get cost estimate for G-Max testing of athletic fields
4. **Jason:** Find out who is available to conduct G-Max testing
5. **Richie:** Work with Jason and Mark to provide historical Huntress field testing information and comparison models
6. **Mark:** Follow up on whether disciplinary-suspended football players will be eligible to travel to Yale Brown game on November 8th
7. **Mark:** Respond to any budget questions committee members send via email before next meeting
8. **Suzanne:** Email the athletics budget spreadsheet to committee members
9. **Committee:** Schedule and hold meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 8 AM to finalize budget discussion
10. **Committee:** Coordinate with Skip about joining the budget subcommittee meeting on November 13th at 5:30 PM to present athletics budget
11. **Chris O'Brien:** Send Huntress's traffic study and Master Plan to the committee

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2025