

MARTHA’S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Library or Zoom

REVISED on 10/3/25

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

Staff: Principal - Sean Mulvey, Director of Student Affairs – Jared Andrews, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Assistant Principal - Justine De Oliveira, Technology Director - Rick Mello
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O’Donnell*

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

Press: Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader, MVTV, MV Times - Sarah Shaw Dawson

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

Chair Skipper Manter called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Routine Reports

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

Student council President, Milo Sullivan and Vice President, Nora Motahari joined the meeting for a presentation on student activities. This week was spirit week, pep rally is this Thursday, and the Student Council is now facilitated by Ms. Thulin. The theme for the homecoming football game is “USA”. The Homecoming dance is Friday, with Starry Night as the theme, hosted by the Sophomore class. Prom planning is underway and the committee has decided to have Joanne Cassidy and her band will play, having live music this year. The Class of 2026 Decisions page has started with the first senior committing to Roger Williams University. The club fair occurred last week, there are some new clubs include Spanish club, Disc Golf Club, Hearts to Hands, Morgan's Messages. Student Nova Smith was awarded a scholarship based off her PSAT score. No student concerns at this time, Milo Sullivan spoke about each of the fall sports and their current records, Boys Soccer 6-2-3, Girls Soccer 8-3-1, Field Hockey 5-4-1, Unified Basketball 1-0, Football 2-2 and Boys Golf 5-8. Robert Lionette asked about the

new clubs and if there was anything needed from the committee at this time. Suzanne Cioffi said that any new club needs to have three years before approaching for approval and funding.

B. Massachusetts School Building Authority Update

Deon Alley reported that there hasn't been much change since he last reported but the district has been granted an extension on the application process, taking us through March. We extended the PSR by two (2) months but that put the time period agreement at the end with MSBA so now the term limit is March, where we should have applied for approval by then. This will allow for the committee to finish by December and then follow the proper approval channels. Schematic design is still being worked on looking at fields, land, parking, gym sizing. Robert Lionette asked whether the discussions for external components is outside the scope of this to which Deon said there are some external components included in the plans. New fields would not be but the project is for the building side of Sanderson Road.

C. Vote to approve a method to ask Towns for the borrowing for the school building project, warrant articles or district wide election.

Amy Houghton expressed concern about how this agenda item is. We are not asking for approval of the school building project, we are looking to determine a process for reviewing the project. This item is written as voting to approve a borrowing method. After a brief discussion the committee agreed this should be rewritten given the importance of the vote. It does not give the community the full understanding if someone does not have the general context. This agenda item will be re-written for the November 2025 meeting. Chair, Skipper Manter struck from the agenda.

D. Principal

1. General Update

Sean Mulvey indicated that October 7, 2025 at 5:30 pm will be back to school night where families will be able to join their students' classes and have a chance to learn more and ask questions. This is a heavy week of athletics, homecoming, etc. Friday for Professional development day staff will have time to work on professional practice and student learning goals.

2. Massachusetts Comprehensive Accountability System (MCAS) Accountability Report for High School

Sean Mulvey started a screen share for the MCAS Results and Accountability report. After a brief presentation the take away is that the report is overall positive. MVRHS is at 32% progress toward improvement target, which was 25% last year. The MVRHS accountability is at 43%, whereas last year it was 34%. Both of these numbers are increasing which shows growth. Overall we are above the state in the meeting or exceeding expectations category. As the data gets broken down there are areas that can continue to be worked on with some plans already in place.

E. Superintendent

1. General Update

Richie Smith reminded the committee of the All Island School Committee for the Superintendent search for this Thursday, October 9 at 5:30 pm over zoom.

2. General Accountability Report for Island Schools

Richie Smith indicated that each of the School Committee meetings will also be presenting their MCAS data in the next meetings. Richie did ask for Sean to pull up the “Accountability Report” again to explain how DESE has two ways of measuring, and that's within, what's called a criterion reference testing In addition he mentioned that the majority all of our schools have met or exceeded our targets, with further data to be provided to the local committees.

III. Consents

Votes Required

A. Minutes: September 8, 2025

*Jenn Cutrer made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025, Seconded by Marsha Shufrin. Roll Call: Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik- Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye
Motion Passes: 7-0-0
Murphy did not vote*

B. Personnel

Votes Required

1. Mary Lee Carlomagno Letter

Sean Mulvey indicated Mary Lee Carlomagno intends to retire after 22 years of teaching, effective June 30, 2026. Amy Houghton made a motion to acknowledge, seconded by Robert Lionette. *Roll Call: Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik- Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Murphy - Aye
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

Votes Required

2. Tatiana Correa Letter

Sean Mulvey indicated Tatianna Correa intends to resign, effective October 21, 2025 or until the position is filled. *Amy Houghton made a motion to acknowledge, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

Votes Required

C. Grants and Donations

Suzanne Cioffi had a couple of donations that need to be approved totaling \$5541.64 (\$250/\$5291.64) to the SWEAR program from Vineyard Youth Tennis and the Vanguard Charitable for the SWEAR activity program. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept with gratitude the donations to support SWEAR in the amount of \$5541.64, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

Mark Friedman indicated there were two grants to be discussed. The first is from the Education Development Center which is a planning grant for behavioral health intended as an all island resource headed by Kim Garrison in the amount of \$5,000.00. The next is from the Sound Foundation to support the ongoing yoga in the schools program specifically for the Oak Bluffs School in the amount of \$26,137.50. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept both grants totaling \$31,137.50, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

1. Island Grown Initiative Compost Machine Donation

Sam Hart spoke about the donation proposal from Island Grown Initiative and composting options for the volume of food waste created. This machine would allow for MVRHS to use that compost on our grounds after 30 days of curing and dehydrating in this unit, in conjunction with the Horticulture Department. Island Grown Initiative will donate the unit and install. MVRHS would be responsible for maintenance as needed and the electricity being supplied to the unit. MVRHS would also partner with the Protect Your Environment Club to make this a student led initiative. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion for the principal to accept the donation from IGI for the Echo Ridge 300 Composting Machine, and all things associated with its installation as well, second by Rizwan Malik. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

D. Out of State and Overnight Travel

Votes Required

1. Italy 2026 Minnesingers

Sean Mulvey indicated that the Minnesingers intended to travel to Italy April 16, 2026 through April 25, 2026 with a total of 31 students, and 9 chaperones, facilitated by Abigail Chandler. *Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the Minnesinger trip to Italy, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

2. Latin Trip to Italy 2027

Sean Mulvey indicated that Amy Crawford intends to take the Latin students to Italy for 8 nights over the April break in 2027. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the Latin students trip to Italy, seconded by Amy Houghton. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

3. RISD Museum Providence

Sean Mulvey indicated that this trip is postponed.

Votes Required

4. Hadestown at the Providence PAC

Sean Mulvey indicated that Brooke Ditchfield and Abigail Chandler intend to take 35 students and 7 chaperones via bus transportation on November 9, 2025 to see the Hadestown play at the Providence Performing Arts Center. *Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the Hadestown trip to Providence, seconded by Robert Lionette. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

5. SWEAR Retreat

Sean Mulvey indicated that the annual SWEAR retreat at Camp Sturgis in Massachusetts, overnight with 35 students and 6 chaperones led by Amy Lilavois and Matt Malowski, intends to travel October 28 to October 29, 2025. The funds used are donations previously accepted. *Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the SWEAR retreat, seconded by Robert Lionette. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

6. Professional Development/Overnight/Out of State, English Department--Ferrone and Hennigan

Sean Mulvey indicated that the annual Christne Ferrone and Kate Hennigan would like to attend a Reader Writer Workshop at Bard College, overnight October 23 -24, 2025. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the professional development, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

E. 8th Grade Hockey JV Waiver

Sean Mulvey indicated the JV Hockey Coach is anticipating 8-9 High School players and bringing about 11 from the elementary 8th grades into the JV team which has been a successful feeder program in the past. Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Jen Cutrer. *Role call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

IV. Finance

Amy Houghton had a couple of questions related to some areas where there are already budget differentials for salary and longevity. The heating of the building is over budget by \$56,000 but we haven't even turned the heat on. Suzanne Cioffi needs to transfer some budget monies to cover the longevity lines. The heating system has been filled up but not used yet but those numbers are just placeholders to engage with Packer to start service and Jason has had to submit purchase orders against eight different accounts.

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Suzanne Cioffi mentioned that Amy Houghton asked at the last meeting to see the PAC revolving account, sending a document around the table for the

committee to see. The document shows both Fiscal year 2025 and Fiscal year 2026 as events occurring in 2026 may have been paid in 2025. The beginning balance for this year is \$95,274.03, the revenue for this summer is \$8,862.50 and expenditures have been \$39,336.06 so the currency balance in the PAC Revolving account is \$64,800.47. Charlie is interested in purchasing a projector that has historically been rented through a third party for the film festival. This expense would benefit the students as in recent years the classes have started hosting community movie nights that have been very successful fundraisers, as the High School has a movie license. Amy Houghton asked about the last time PAC rental rates increased, which was in 2024. The next document passed around was the expenditure reports. There were some more questions about using the PAC to generate more income, and can the committee see how many days the PAC is in use.

B. CTE Expansion Grant Application

Sam Hart gave a quick update on the efforts of keeping the building project cost as low as possible, the Executive office of Education has up to \$5 million in grants awarded to schools on the MSBS program and are looking to expand their CTE program in the MSBA program the app is due Oct 30. All the towns have sent back their requested letters of support. This grant would cover the Carpentry, Auto and Health Assisting. The hope would be a grant award to offset some of the design and construction costs on the project. The grant closes on June 30, 2028 which would only be one year into the actual construction, so we would need to see what could be done reasonably in that time. These spaces were chosen for a few reasons but one of them being the CTE after dark program which would allow adult teaching in those spaces in the evenings.

V. Subcommittee Updates

Kathryn Shertzer indicated that if these committees have not met yet, they need to schedule something today. Robert Lionette indicated we should define the purpose of of the subcommittees. Skipped Manter said he believes the subcommittees should meet and define them simultaneously. Amy Houghton said if they facilities subcommittee had met they may have been able to help the entire committee understand the expenditure discrepancies in the presentation by Suzanne Cioffi.

A. Transportation

On Wednesday, October 9, 2025 there is a negotiations agreement meeting in the finance office.

B. Facilities

A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

C. Athletics

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, October 17, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

D. Budget and FY 27 Budget Process

Skipper Manter proposed Friday at 8:00 am but that is Professional Development day. The committee agreed on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

No topics or announcements today.

VII. Public Comment

No comment at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

*Jen Cutrer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Role call:
Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer
Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Manter - Aye
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. 2024-2025 MCAS Accountability Report**
- 2. Agenda MVRHS SC 10.6.25**
- 3. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 090825**
- 4. Waiver Request - JV Hockey Team**
- 5. Mary Lee Carlomagno Retirement Letter**
- 6. Tatiana Silva Correa Letter**
- 7. Minnesingers_Out of State & Overnight Travel**
- 8. Italy 2026 Minnesingers**
- 9. RISD_Out of State & Overnight Travel**
- 10. Hadestown at the Providence PAC**
- 11. SWEAR Out of State & Overnight Travel**
- 12. Finance Revenue**
- 13. Finance Expenditures**
- 14. A. Expenditures**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Principal Sean Mulvey to provide more detailed data on MCAS scores, particularly the breakdown of English language learners' performance in ELA to Amy.**
- 2. Principal Sean Mulvey to look further into the science MCAS scores aberration and analyze why only 2% of students exceeded expectations.**
- 3. Principal Sean Mulvey to provide an update on the IGI compost machine donation next month, including a tentative installation date and associated electricity/maintenance costs.**
- 4. Principal Sean Mulvey to look deeper into chronic absenteeism data to understand why improvement efforts weren't as effective as expected.**
- 5. Principal Sean Mulvey to ensure proper coding of advanced coursework classes for future Advanced Coursework Completion reporting.**
- 6. Budget Subcommittee to meet on October 15th at 8 AM to discuss budget overview and guidelines.**
- 7. Transportation Subcommittee to meet on October 8th at 10 AM in Suzanne's office to continue transportation contract negotiations.**
- 8. Facilities Subcommittee to meet on October 16th at 8 AM to discuss facilities-related issues.**
- 9. School Committee to revisit the MCAS accountability report at next month's meeting for further discussion.**
- 10. School Committee to vote on the method for asking towns for borrowing for the school building project at the November meeting with revised agenda wording.**
- 11. Sam Hart to continue pursuing the CTE Expansion Grant application and collect letters of support from towns and industry partners.**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2025