

**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

**Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Edgartown: Chris Greene* / Zoom: Kelly Scott*
Oak Bluffs: Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer
Tisbury: Amy Houghton (Chair), Jenn Cutrer
Up-Island: Alex Salop (Vice Chair), Robert Lionette / Zoom: Jessica Mason**, Marsha Shufrin, Skipper Manter
Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent - Kristen Lepine
Press: Zoom: Sarah Shaw Dawson - MV Times
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)

I. Call to Order

Amy Houghton (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

II. Request for discussion of high school building project finding from Tisbury Finance Committee – Discussion/Informational

Nancy Gilfof, Chair of the Town of Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee and committee member, Rachel Orr attended to discuss the high school building project and its implications for the Town of Tisbury. Richie Smith started a screen share with the presenters documents, which presented some of the anticipated financial impact to the Town of Tisbury should the project move forward. The purpose of their attendance and presentation is not to express and for or against the building project, merely informational. Kathryn Shertzer asked the committee members what their ask was in regards to this presentation to which Nancy Gilfof responded the ask would be that the MVRHS School Committee consider the differences between the towns when you make a decision about the process for approving the project one is to go to six town meetings and have six (6) ballots or the island wide vote but this is a regional program and should have the regional vote as the island is not a single entity.

Vote Required

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Including But Not Limited to June 18, June 24, July 31, 2025, and August 28, 2025

- Alex Salop made a motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2025, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Role Call: Mason - Abstain, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Abstain, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Abstain.
Motion passes: 8-0-3
- Alex Salop made a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2025, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Role Call: Mason - Abstain, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Abstain, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Abstain, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Abstain, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Abstain.
Motion passes: 7-0-4

- *Alex Salop made a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2025, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Abstain.
Motion passes: 10-0-1*
- *Alex Salop made a motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2025, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Abstain, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Abstain, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.
Motion passes: 9-0-2*

IV. Chair General Remarks

Amy Houghton turned her remarks over to Richie Smith.

V. Superintendent General Update

Superintendent Richie Smith has indicated that his intention is to retire at the end of the current school year, ending June 30, 2026. Richie Smith read his letter of resignation and thanked the committee. After a brief discussion about when to start the search for a replacement. Amy Houghton spoke to the next steps which is a search in earnest and possibly engaging Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) with assistance in the search, of which their fee is about \$11,500 where they would advertise the posting, vet the candidates and essentially start the process. After a brief discussion the committee decided to have a special meeting to discuss the plan for the search moving forward and invite Sean Conley from MASC, to attend. Mark Friedman spoke to the funding sources for this type of search, of which there are several possibilities to be explored from either Shared Services, MVRHS Contingency Funds, or possibly having each district cover a percentage of the cost. Alex Salop made a motion to work with MASC to begin the candidate search, spending no more than \$11,500, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Motion tabled after continued discussion and the indication that the committee needs to remain compliant with open meeting laws, whereas this was not listed accurately for this agenda to go to vote.

VI. Finance Update

Mark Friedman indicated that the FY '27 Budget needs to be started and that the committee should start to look at meetings for that, hopefully occurring by November 2025. At this time Amy Houghton asked the committee about the time expected to work on Richie Smith's evaluation and should that be as intensive as originally planned. After a brief discussion the committee agreed to continue with the evaluation to use as an informational tool in the hiring process, but will be less intensive than originally planned, remaining informative in the selection process for a replacement superintendent. In addition to the FY '27 budget, the committee will also have the current Superintendent's evaluation and a superintendent search to work on for this year, so a layout of use of time will need to be worked out.

VII. Policy

Vote Required

A. Review Section A – 2nd reading – Discussion and Vote

Amy Houghton said that edits have been passed on to Jim Hardy, who indicated those edits would not be done for this meeting, requesting a table until the next meeting.

B. Initial Review Section B – 1st Reading

Robert Lionette made a motion to accept a first reading of section B of the School Committee Policy Manual, seconded by Jenn Cutrer

Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.

Motion passes: 11-0-0

Amy Houghton asked the committee if they had any questions about section B to which there were. After brief discussions regarding several sections the committee came to agreements regarding some language additions and changes, edits made during the meeting.

VIII. District and School Committee Goals and MVYPS Commitments – Discussion

Tabled by Amy Houghton until the meeting with MASC can occur.

IX. Personnel

Vote Required

A. Retirement

Kym Cyr has submitted a letter of retirement effective February 4, 2026. Kym has most recently worked as the Student Support Services administrative support person in the central office.

Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept the retirement of Kym Cyr, seconded by Alex Salop.

Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.

Motion passes: 11-0-0

B. LOA

No update at this time.

Vote Required

C. Resignation

Michelle Fokos has submitted a letter of resignation from her shared service position effective October 3, 2025 for outside reasons. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept the resignation of Michelle Fokos, seconded by Alex Salop.*

Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.

Motion passes: 11-0-0

Vote Required

D. Superintendent Contract

Superintendent Richie Smith's current contract states that notification to retire or resign should occur with at least six (6) months prior to the date. *Alex Salop made a motion to accept the retirement of Richie Smith effective June 30, 2026, seconded by Alex Salop.*

Role Call: Mason - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.

Motion passes: 11-0-0

X. Sub Committee Updates

A. Policy

No update at this time.

B. Personnel

No update at this time.

C. Negotiations

No update at this time.

D. Regionalization

Amy Houghton credited Mark Friedman, Alex Salop and the MARS team for a phenomenal presentation and it would be worthwhile sending it out to the committee for review. Alex Salop spoke to what the presentation covered and some of the topics touched on were the financial implications and from the students perspective on social and emotional growth, academic growth and working in unison on the island. This exercise is very much in alignment with the district and school committees. Information was gathered by in person visits and interviews.

Vote Required

XI. Adjournment

*Alex Salop made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Role call: Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Salop - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Greene - Aye.
Motion passes: 10-0-0
Jessica Mason departed before the vote.*

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. A Section - Draft: Regional School District Legal Status**
- 2. B Section - Draft: School Committee Operational Goals**
- 3. DRAFT AISC Minutes 062425**
- 4. DRAFT AISC Minutes 073125**
- 5. DRAFT AISC Minutes 061825**
- 6. DRAFT AISC Minutes 082825**
- 7. Tisbury MSBA EQV PP: Understanding the Financial Impact of the MVRHS MSBA Project on Tisbury**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Engage Sean Conley from MASC to meet with the committee via zoom, tentatively October 9, 2025**
- 2. Schedule FY '27 Budget meeting(s)**
- 3. Send MARS Presentation to committee members**
- 4. Review Section A – 2nd reading – Discussion and Vote moved to next meeting**
- 5. Additional edits or suggestions for Initial Review Section B – 1st Reading to be shared with Kristen Lepine and brought to the next meeting**

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen
Date of Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2025*