



**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Transportation Subcommittee**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 8:00 am**  
**Zoom**

**Present:** Chair - Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer\*, Skipper Manter, Kelly Scott  
**Transportation:** Assistant Transportation Director - Cheyenne Ward  
**MVRHS:** Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi  
**Supt's Office:** Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman  
**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**

This meeting was called to order at 8:07 am by Mark Friedman.

***Vote Required***

**II. Subcommittee Leadership Reorganization**

*Skipper Manter made a motion to nominate Marsha Shufrin as Chair, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Manter - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Abstain.  
Motion passes: 3-0-1*

**III. Subcommittee Meeting Schedule - FY26**

Chair Marsha Shufrin asked what time was historically the best time. Mark Friedman indicated 8 am is complicated in terms of getting the administration transportation staff available, can we select a day starting at 9 am. Marsha asked for clarification on how many times per month to which Mark said typically once per month, but likely a little more frequently for the next few weeks. Sean Mulvey said that Thursdays are also Budget committee meetings, so we should alternate dates. The next meeting dates are going to be Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 8:30 am, Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 8:30 am, and Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 8:30 am.

**IV. Transportation Dept - Update**

Richie Smith spoke on behalf of the Transportation Department as Troy and Chyenne have been filling in due to the driver shortage. The reorganization in the office is moving forward with a 1400 ASP now within the department, working closely with Suzanne Cioffi to address the new wage proposals and finances. Marsha circled back to this item to ask about route issues and late buses, to which Richie said yes, there are issues a lot of days as we don't have enough drivers, having to come back for a second afternoon run to get students home. Marsha asked if these schools are aware which days the buses are late, to which Richie replied yes, there is usually early morning communication to the schools affected. Kelly said that as a parent she does receive an early morning text if the bus is running late and thanked the transportation department for that increased communication.

**V. Transportation Negotiations - Update**

Richie Smith said we are on the cusp of getting everyone into an hourly rate as the previous contract has expired, negotiating with a team of four from the department. There will need another volunteer for the next negotiations meetings from the committee, the previous meeting had to be rescheduled. We have always been a run based program and we are trying to move the staff to an hourly wage but this has been a complex process in making sure we are in alignment with state compliance. Richie urged the committee to select a member to consistently attend negotiation meetings to cull through the remaining vital information and the transportation department's adjusted proposal. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 11:30 am. Skipper asked to be the alternate, but agreed to attend as he is aware of the process, Marsha will attend should Skipper not be able to attend.

**VI. Transportation Dept FY27 Budget**

Mark Friedman plans to have a draft budget for the next meeting and will send out in advance, but he is currently working on it. The fleet is in good shape, two off island buses were replaced last year, and two more that will need to be looked at, given reliability concerns from the transportation department. The Steamship Authority contract will be increasing about \$5000 per year for the next three years as our usage has increased, \$55,000 is the three year goal which feels pretty reasonable to Mark. The current “double” runs have left some savings but we are looking for more drivers and that savings is not ideal in regards to staffing and needing more drivers. Final contract negotiations will also have a large impact on the budget for next year. For those that are new to the committee, there are reimbursables from the State for To and From school runs for the Regional School Districts (High School and Up Island). Special Education transportation has also increased due to the Shared Services Special Education programs and the program at the Tisbury School. We will also need to look at summer program transportation so that will also need to be budgeted for. Mark was told years ago that transportation needs to be thought of as a full time job with part time work based on the hours needed. Marsha asked about the wage preparation on the budget, is this being done off the hourly wage scale of the current wage scale, to which Mark replied that we do not have actuals yet but is looking at what is suggested and being thoughtful and informed in how the budget is created. Suzanne asked to speak about off island transportation and wanted to mention the most recent conversation related to the Athletics subcommittee and the Nantucket travel. This will be a part of the transportation budget but the hope is to create a line item for renting an interisland ferry instead of going through Hyannis, making the route more direct. Suzanne will make sure Mark is informed when she has more concrete information. Kelly Scott wanted to speak about conversations she has had with volunteer coaches and how taxing that currently is, and would be in support of adding a line item to cover more direct travel.

**VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair**

No unanticipated topics today.

**VIII. Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

*Vote Required*

**IX. Adjournment**

*Skipper Manter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shertzer - Aye.*

*Motion passes: 4-0-0*

**Appendix A: Documents on File**

1. None

**Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps**

1. Someone : Send out a memo with all the scheduled meeting dates and times
2. Mark : Prepare and send out a draft FY27 budget to committee members in advance of the November 6th meeting
3. Skipper: Attend the transportation negotiations meeting on Tuesday, October 28th at 11:30 AM at the high school in Suzanne's office
4. Suzanne: Provide Mark with concrete, solidified information about Nantucket games transportation costs for the budget
5. Mark : Investigate with transportation staff whether the two 2019 off-island buses need replacement for FY27 budget
6. Mark : Work with principals to determine summer program transportation needs and budget requirements for FY27

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen*

*Date of Approval of Minutes: November 6, 2025*