



**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**

**REVISED on DECEMBER 19, 2025**  
**SECOND REVISION DECEMBER 26, 2025**  
**THIRD REVISION DECEMBER 29, 2025**

**Present:** Chair - Skipper Manter, Amy Houghton, Kathryn Shertzer, Robert Lionette, Marsha Shufrin, Kelly Scott  
Zoom: Rizwan Malik, Jenn Cutrer, Sarah Murphy\*

**Staff:** Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveria, Director of Special Education - Erinn Fauteux, Director of Student Affairs - Jared Andrews, Director of Operations - Sam Hart

**Supt's Office:** School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, Director of Student Services - Hope MacLeod  
Zoom: 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)*

**Approximately the first 12 minutes of audio are missing. Notes from that time are due to the recorder's attendance.**

**I. Welcome - Chair**

Chair Skipper Manter called this meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**II. Routine Reports**

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

Nora Motahari spoke on behalf of the student body today, indicating that there is not much to report due to the break, but looking ahead to the SWEAR assembly which will occur on January 14, 2026. Mid-terms are close which is causing nerves, especially for seniors, as these grades will go out to colleges.

***Vote Required***

**B. School Building Project Update**

Sam Hart spoke to the Schematic design and that it has been submitted. The MSBA should have a funding plan in the next 3 weeks. The School Building Committee will go back to meeting once per month.

*At this time there was a motion which was seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Due to technical issues the motion language and motioner are not able to be provided. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**1. Update on District Wide Election Date**

Skipper gave an update with regards to where the process is but was not able to be transcribed due to technical difficulties.

**C. Principal**

**1. General Update**

Sean gave a brief update on the upcoming SWEAR assembly that was touched on by the Student representatives. Additionally, Sean spoke to the surge in requests to add a school mascot, which is now being worked on by the Spirit Club, who will plan to attend the February meeting with a presentation for the committee. Math Department Chair Carole Flanders and teacher Kelly Magnuson attended to speak on behalf of the Math Department and how they have worked to improve the MCAS scores. Last year changes were made in math to hopefully allow for more retention by putting students in C1 placements in a daily math class instead of every other day. Both Carole and Kelly believe this should show improvement in the students' understanding of the MCAS topics. Robert asked about students coming from varying math backgrounds and Kelly spoke to the data the department collects and how they are able to target students with additional need and utilizing flex to help those students gain better understanding of the topics. Amy asked about how this information is being used with the elementary teachers to which Kelly said they have met with some of the elementary teachers and would love to do more of that, especially on PD days. It is difficult to find time to meet with them just given the schedules. There has been work with Sara Dingley on how best to collaborate with those teachers and what are other ways those students can be supported. Additionally, there is now support available during flex with some of the National Honor Society students, as this can be used towards their community service hours. There are several new courses they are hoping to pilot, one being math in the trades and the other being math in business.

**D. Superintendent**

**1. General Update**

Richie moved right to the Principal Search Update below.

**2. High School Principal Search Update**

Richie spoke to the Principal search and indicated that it is underway. On December 5, 2025 the advertisement was posted, and will close on January 16, 2026. NESDEC is conducting the search in places beyond where a general posting reach would have been. There are nine applicants at this time, two of which are from Alaska, so the posting has national reach. Richie will reach out to the same 40 people that were previously on the Principal search committee, this past Spring, to see who may be interested in participating in the search again, with the hope of narrowing down to about 20 members. Richie is planning the first meeting with the group on January 15, 2026 to start reviewing the applications. Amy asked Richie if a new meeting date would be possible, given there is a Superintendent search community forum the evening of January 15 at 5 pm to which Richie responded that he will look for a new date.

*Votes Required*

**III. Consents**

**A. Minutes: December 1, 2025 & December 17, 2025**

*Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025, seconded by Kelly Scott. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**B. FY27 Budget Discussion & Possible Certification**

Marsha gave a brief update on the transportation negotiations, which have moved forward. The subcommittee met this morning. There is a nationwide shortage of bus drivers, and recruiting to the island is even harder, along with strong CDL competition on the island. The current run base system has multiple pay scales tied to different routes, the system is confusing for employees and is administratively burdensome, and often results in uneven pay for similar work. The proposed agreement addresses these challenges by transitioning to a clearer hour based compensation model. The revised structure is designed to be more transparent, more equitable for employees, easier to administer, and better aligned with the state requirements, including pension eligibility. The agreement is intended to ensure reliable transportation of the students by supporting and retaining the drivers and monitors who make the service possible. The goal of this ongoing negotiation is to offer a clear, attractive and competitive package for the current drivers and to attract new drivers. The package includes new wage scales, increased longevity payments, an expanded number of paid holidays, paid school vacations, and paid professional development days. The agreement also includes expanded sick leave benefits, sick leave buy back, and a sick bank for eligible employees, along with increased bereavement need benefits. There are clear seniority provisions that provide priority access to additional work, such as field trips and weekend runs. A “make whole” compensation is also being developed to ensure that no current driver or monitor will take home less pay during the transition to hourly compensation over the next several years. Brian Smith thanked the negotiations team for the ongoing work of the last 15 months, and he is hopeful this will help to recruit new staff, given that in the 8 years Brian has been employed within this department only one driver has been recruited. Skipper spoke to the financial impact for FY27 of these negotiations, requesting Suzanne to provide further information, to which Suzanne indicated that at the transportation subcommittee meeting this morning paid school vacations are a part of this negotiation. For FY26 April vacation will be compensated for, and in FY27 there will be two vacations that need to be covered, which has not been budgeted for. Suzanne has put in a temporary placeholder of \$70,000 to cover the cost of those paid vacations, additional math will be done for an exact number but the time between the meeting this morning and now, there was not enough to complete that work. At this time Skipper moved the committee onto the larger budget discussion, with Sean starting a screen share with the document titled *Changes and Reductions FY27 Budget*.

<b>Line Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
• 34	School Committee Secretary Minute Taker	\$21,077.00
• 37	Payroll Processing	\$(5,000.00)
• 97A	Secretaries Principal - SAO .5 ASP	\$(35,000.00)
• 111	NEASC	\$13,000.00
• 113	Office Computer Supplies- Principal	\$(1,500.00)
• 116	Office Computer HS Principal	\$(4,500.00)
• 120	Non-Contracted Stipends	\$(7,000.00)
• 182	Sal. Reg Assistants	\$(10,056.00)
• 192	Substitutes Professional Development	\$(4,000.00)
• 195	Inservice Training	\$(1,500.00)
• 196	Staff Development	\$(11,000.00)
• 200	Undistributed Supplies	\$(30,000.00)
• 206	CTE Machinery	\$(7,500.00)
• 223	Salary Savings	\$(22,000)
	■ Anticipated retirements	
• 229A	Salary Nurse - 2 days a week	\$23,000.00
• 236	Cafeteria Worker	\$(45,979.00)
• 244	Placeholder - Transportation Negotiations	\$70,000.00
• 316	Athletic Supplies	\$(7,500.00)
• 359	Athletic Fields Capital Projects	\$(40,000.00)

● 364	Building Capital	\$(25,000.00)
● 426	Bus Vehicle Leasing	\$(22,874.00)
● 432	Residential Care	\$(627,296.00)
● 193	Contracted Appendix A	\$14,939.00
● 313	Athletic Stipends - Appendix A1	\$11,607.00

These above adjustments bring the new increase to 5.17% for operating expenses, down from 7.5% at the Public Hearing. *Kelly Scott made a motion to certify the proposed budget at \$30,275,375.99 or 5.17% operating, and 25,341,140.99 or 7% assessed, seconded but due to an audio error, the recorder is unable to identify (the Chair indicated the motion was both moved and seconded before roll call vote). Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

*Robert Lionette made a motion to use the Statutory formula for assessment purposes, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

*At this time Richie informed the committee the first defense is tentatively scheduled with the Oak Bluffs FinCom on January 22, 2026.*

### **C. Spending of the Rural Aid Grant**

Sean Started a screen share with regards to the suggested expenses for the Rural Aid Grant.

- Scoreboard - \$29,000
- Risers - \$12,500
- Tennis Courts - \$40,000
- Transportation - \$140,000

The above would be removed from the FY27 General Fund Budget

- Substitute Nurse - \$15,000
  - There are new suggested staffing numbers presented by DESE, this would put the high school in compliance with the new recommendation.
- IT - \$20,000
- Athletic Field Plan Update - \$30,000
  - This would allow for Tappe who is currently in house, and who knows the site to review the Huntress Design and see what work will need to be done on that side of Sanderson Road.
- Superintendent - \$20,000
  - Professional development
- Johnson Controls Alarms (estimate pending) - \$35,980.34
  - The fire alarms have gone off four times unscheduled this year so there are likely wiring issues that need to be addressed as learning time is now being impacted.

Skipper spoke to the Athletic Field update portion of the spending given that so much money has been spent over there to date, and believes plenty of studies have already been done. Adding to that, there are no funds to do any work over there. Skipper would prefer to see that \$30,000 work towards bus fleet electrification. Kathryn disagreed with Skipper's statement, but does agree a lot of money has already been spent. But, there is no plan that is complete and able to be presented to gain funds, moving forward now would update and finalize a plan for those fields, therefore finishing what has already been started. Robert asked Sam Hart to provide clarification on the intended use of the \$30,000, to which Sam responded that this would take the Huntress Design and make adjustments given the plans for the school building project. Tappe Architects is already engaged for the building, and they have agreed to take a look at this project by engaging their landscape design team, this would include everything not already included on that side of Sanderson Road, including the bus lot and the potential to increase electrification over there for increased electric bus purchases in the future. Robert asked about

re-engaging Huntress to which Sam said that would mean a procurement process, and Tappe is already the in house architect, and have expressed they could take this on. Amy expressed that Chris Huntress did the original design and he should be considered, as he is already familiar with his design. Additionally, Amy expressed concern about putting that much money into a plan that will sit on a shelf, therefore she asked what other needs does the high school have that were jettisoned for the athletic fields? Amy agrees with Kathryn that the fields are a priority but there are already a large project ahead and she doesn't see an avenue for this to be done, meaning the newest version of the plans would likely also be obsolete by the time the project can be spearheaded again. Marsha wondered if the VTA should be engaged in conversation as they have all electric buses now, and a very large bus lot, to which Kathryn responded that a conversation has previously occurred and at this time the VTA is not interested in pursuing that relationship. Brian Smith from the Transportation department spoke on behalf of the department with regards to the electric buses, the majority of drivers do not like those vehicles. One major difference is that Electric School buses have a battery underneath, meaning they are not utilized in a lot of areas on the island due to salt water and potential flooding, in addition to the distinct possibility of an electric fire given the engine location, and how dangerous that can be from underneath a bus. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the Rural Aid expenditures as presented, seconded by Kelly Scott. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Nay, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Nay, Shufrin - Nay, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Nay.*  
*Motion Passes: 5-4-0*

**D. Discuss & Vote on Competency Determination Policy Update**

Sean discussed this agenda item, now that passing the MCAS is no longer a state requirement for graduation, schools have been asked to provide their own requirements. English, Math and Science have always been requirements, and the state is now requesting the addition of United States History. Sean met with certain staff and also discussed this with neighboring schools, coming up with some good ideas, and then the Massachusetts Association of School Committees released a preliminary recommendations template, which superseded the previous discussions. Sean shared the **III. D. MVRHS COMPETENCY DETERMINATION POLICY UPDATE** which reflects what this portion of the Student Handbook will look like and what the CD graduation requirements will be for MVRHS students starting next school year, though MVRHS has larger requirements, also outlined. The committee needs to approve by vote, so that it can be submitted to the state. Amy Houghton made a motion to adopt the MVRHS Competency Determination as presented today, for a first reading, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**E. OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits) Policy**

**F. Personnel**

**1. Jenn Shattuck**

Jenn Shattuck submitted a letter of resignation as an ASP in the transportation department, with her last day being January 3, 2026. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept Jenn Shattuck's resignation, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*  
*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**G. Grants and Donations**

**1. Grants for acceptance**

Suzanne spoke to the 2 donations for today, the first of which is \$295.00 from Cape Cod Five and a \$500 donation from the Ross Family Charitable Fund, both for the SWEAR Program. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept the donations from Cape*

*Cod Five and the Ross Family Charitable Fund in the amount of \$295 and \$500 for the SWEAR Program, with much appreciation, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*  
*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*  
*Lionette did not vote*

#### **H. Out of State and Overnight Travel**

##### **1. Varsity Boys Hockey**

This was a previous agenda item and not intended for this meeting.

##### **2. JV Girls Hockey**

JV Girls Hockey has two trips planned out of state, one to Middletown and one to Portsmouth, both in Rhode Island. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the out of state travel, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Abstain, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 8-0-1*

Not on the agenda is the Model UN Conference for about 10-12 students, and 2 chaperones, Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild-Coppoletti, occurring February 6-8, staying overnight in Boston. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the overnight travel for the Model UN Conference, seconded by Kelly Scott. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

#### **IV. Finance**

##### **A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne did not have a report to provide for this evening.

#### **V. Bus Fleet Electrification Efforts**

Chair Skipper Manter felt comfortable moving to the next agenda item given this topic was addressed during the Rural Aid discussion.

#### **VI. Subcommittee Updates**

##### **A. Transportation**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

##### **B. Facilities**

No update at this time.

##### **C. Athletics**

Kathryn Shertzer wanted to let the committee know that the boys Wrestling team will have their first home meet January 7, 2026.

##### **D. Budget**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

#### **VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements**

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

#### **VIII. Public Comment**

No Public Comment at this meeting.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

*Vote Required*

*Kelly Scott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

***Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen***

***Date of Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2026***

#### **Appendix A: Documents on File**

- 1. Agenda MVRHS SC 1.5.26**
- 2. DRAFT MVRHSSC 120125**
- 3. FY27 Draft. Budget #4 01.05.2026**
- 4. III. B. Changes and Reductions FY27 Budget**
- 5. III. C. 2025-2026 Rural Aid**
- 6. III. D. MVRHS COMPETENCY DETERMINATION POLICY UPDATE**
- 7. III. D. MVRHS Competency Determination Policy Update Discussion - 1/5/2026**
- 8. III. F. 1. Jenn Shattuck Letter 12.12.25**
- 9. III. H. 0 Out of State & Overnight Travel Form**
- 10. III. H. 1. Varsity Boys Hockey (1)**
- 11. III. H. 2. JV girls hockey 1**
- 12. III. H. 2. JV girls hockey 2**

#### **Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps**

- 1. Richie: Organize first meeting of the new high school principal search committee on January 15th to start reviewing applications.**
- 2. Richie: Update the committee on the number of applicants for the high school principal position as the process continues.**
- 3. Carol Flanders: Meet with Sarah Dinglely at the super's office on Friday to discuss assessment and support for 8th grade students transitioning to 9th grade, including possible collaboration with elementary teachers.**
- 4. Math Department (Carol Flanders/Kelly Magnuson): Continue tracking and comparing MCAS data and algebra unit data for current sophomores, and report on trends after MCAS results are received in the fall.**
- 5. Math Department: Continue implementing and evaluating the peer support program with National Honor Society students assisting 9th/10th graders during Thursday flex time.**
- 6. Math Department: Continue development of new math course options (Math in the Trades, Business Math) and determine if they will be semester or year-long courses.**
- 7. Mark/Suzanne: Present finalized transportation labor agreement to the committee for final approval once complete.**
- 8. Mark/Suzanne: Detail out the \$70,000 transportation budget placeholder for school vacation pay in the FY27 budget walkthrough.**
- 9. Mark/Suzanne: Confirm and finalize the transportation budget, including the \$70,000 placeholder, for FY27.**
- 10. Suzanne/Mark: Schedule and hold a special (possibly Zoom) meeting to finalize the preservation contract and provide an update on Appendix A.**
- 11. Principal/Competency Determination Committee: Submit the updated Competency Determination policy to the state after required readings and approval.**
- 12. Principal/Competency Determination Committee: Implement the new U.S. History requirement as part of the Competency Determination for the 2026-2027 school year.**
- 13. Principal/Competency Determination Committee: Review and act on appeals from students who have not met competency requirements, following the new policy process.**
- 14. Principal/Competency Determination Committee: Reach out to and review transcripts for students who previously did not receive diplomas due to MCAS, to determine eligibility under new competency requirements.**
- 15. Mark: Manage study of possible new location for bus lot across the street, including coordination with TAPE and Warner Larson for site planning update.**
- 16. Mark/Suzanne: Remove/adjust the Director of Student Affairs position and related salary savings as discussed in the budget**