

**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

**All Island School Committee
Thursday, November 10, 2025 at 5:30 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Edgartown: Kelly Scott
Oak Bluffs: Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer
Zoom: Laurel Schneider
Tisbury: Amy Houghton (Chair), Alicia Lesnikowski
Zoom: Jen Cutrer*
Up-Island: Alex Salop (Vice Chair), Robert Lionette, Marsha Shufrin
Supt.'s Office: School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Services - Hope MacLeod, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent - Kristen Lepine, Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D.
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 Amy Houghton called this meeting to order before the recording started.

II. FY27 Shared Services Budget

Hope MacLeod started a screen share showing FY27 for the Shared Programs showing the Headway, Bridge and Compass Programs. Headway is an inclusive preschool where a total of 7 students with disabilities are permitted to be enrolled per location, and there are 31 total same age peers across all of the programs at this time. The peer students pay a sliding fee based on their ability to pay. For this year, the cap has not been met but if capacity issues were to happen, then a waiver would be applied for by the district to the state to help manage the cap at 7 for students with disabilities (IEP's). At this time the programs are not at capacity but by the middle of the year the expectation is to be there, given the students expected to enter into the program. The eligibility requirement is age 3, and students may need to be added throughout the year, given concerns from day care providers, parents or doctors, expressed to the district, and evaluations are done throughout the year for those potential students. The Bridge program is next, which is the largest of the three programs. Last year, at this time, there was a proposal to add another location for the Bridge Program, but after conversations and careful consideration, the Compass Program was expanded into the Tisbury building, allowing to break up that larger group from one building. Robert asked about projections for the Bridge program for next year, of which Hope said that given the research done it looks as though this number is slowing and there is a goal to try and even out the numbers in West Tisbury and Edgartown. There are not a lot of students moving to the High School next year. Amy asked about location placement, to which Hope said that there is a thought process for this, and all the students needs are considered, with the possibility of applying for a waiver if a particular building is appropriate and at capacity, or the district provides transportation to another town's school, if there is a classroom that is a better fit for that particular student in another town, outside the one they reside in. Alicia asked for clarification on what age it is required to start educating, to which Hope responded that the age is 3 dependent on the significance of need for the child. Richie

moved on to Administration and roles within the Superintendent's office, with a total projected increase of 8.98%, proposing \$11,424,129 versus \$10,482,370 for FY26. The amount of **\$573,156 (Contractual)** is part of the contractual increase for salaries, longevity and healthcare coverage. There is anticipated increase for Special Education transportation given the ongoing negotiations, with an anticipated number of **\$51,253 (#170)**. There is a proposal to move two of the ASP's in the Superintendent's office from 1645 to 1715 to assist with hiring intake, compliance and records given there is not a Human Resources department at this time increasing by **\$6497 (#8)**. There is an anticipated increase to health care prices, due to rising costs, proposed increase of **\$32,067 (#21)**. Alex said that if the increase is expected to be around 15-20% on healthcare then that is the amount that should be budgeted for so that there is not a scramble to locate funds for that, to which Richie said that Mark is working with the towns to see where they are to help inform and will make necessary adjustments to be at at least 15% proposed increase but Mark is hopeful there will be additional information to help make that number more accurate. There is a request to refund the line that administrative salary increases are pulled from as it was depleted, proposing for COLA **\$57,896 (#12) & \$36,893 (#13)** to refund. Indirect costs from Grants is an **\$18,000 (#25)** reduction due to Title I Grants reallocation across the district, so that needs to be built in. There is a request for **\$22,996 (#57)** for Island Wide Staff Development accessed by the Central Office. There is a Curriculum & Instruction Coord PD/Contract Service of **\$20,000 (#87)** for Curriculum Professional Development. The Steamship Authority cost is expected to decrease by **(\$2000) (#181)**. The position of Assistant Superintendent is funded at **\$125,000 (#6)** bringing the total for Administration and Other Expenses increase to be at **\$317,350** with a total increase of **\$941,760 or 8.98%**. Richie expressed the importance of the Assistant Superintendent position and not using other staff in other roles to do this work. There is a need to have this position filled given the time it can take for reactionary work versus work that needs to be done to move a project forward. Alex requested clarification on the Assistant Superintendent position as that is currently a part time position, and filled by someone. Richie would like this to become a full time position and would fill with the person currently in the position, if interested, or would hire for a full time position, and this role would assist with reactionary work. Robert expressed the addition of a full time Assistant Superintendent would mean that the committee should look at job descriptions and should be visited during the Personnel Subcommittee. Alex mentioned that depending on when the position is hired for, it may be that this amount does not need to be entirely funded. Alex also mentioned that it is possible the new Superintendent would like to be a part of the hiring process. Amy reminded the committee over what felt like overlap when there was both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in the past, and reminded that it is possible these positions would both be filled with people that are new to the island, which would have its pros and cons. Amy agreed that a job description would be beneficial to the Assistant Superintendent position. Richie discussed how he feels strongly about the growth that has happened in the last few years with the creative positions created and believes there is a need for both positions given the work that needs to be done. Proposing the ASP's positions, the staff development and the Assistant Superintendent positions is where Richie believes the district will see growth. Kelly asked Riche to elaborate on the Professional Development (PD) requests to which Richie indicated that this is for ELL support, Special Education support and using the TeachPoint program to assist with evaluations and Professional Development tracker is going to be taken on centrally. In addition it is also anticipated to be used for induction and mentoring. Competitive grants are more challenging to get so this would move some of that into the operational budget. Amy said that it would be helpful to see the budget lines for PD at the elementary level to see what also supports that curriculum. Additionally, Amy saw that DESE approved a new program to support ELL's for preschools and thought that may help with some of the funding requests, for example the summer programs. There was also a question about why there is a separate line item for the coordinator role, to which Mark rescinded that is how it is classified by DESE. Alex did ask about the Human Resources role and why that has not yet been added, given it may be a position to fill that would be of benefit at this time. As this is a draft, the committee will meet again after adjustments are made.

Votes Required

III. Adjournment

*Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex Salop. Roll Call: Schneider - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Lesnikowski - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Salop - Aye, Houghton - Aye.
Motion Passes: 9-0-0
Cutrer did not vote*

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. AISC 11.10.25 DRAFT FY27 Budget

Zoom A.I. Next Steps:

- 1. Mark Friedman: Call town administrators to confirm health insurance premium increase projections and report back to the committee**
- 2. Mark Friedman: Update budget to reflect 15% health insurance premium increase**
- 3. Mark Friedman: Provide information on professional development budget lines at the elementary level to support curriculum and instruction**
- 4. Richard : Look into DESE-approved English language learner enrichment program for preschool with application deadline of November 27th**
- 5. Personnel Subcommittee: Meet on Friday to work on job descriptions for assistant superintendent and curriculum positions**
- 6. School Committee: Review next iteration of budget at November 20th meeting**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2026