

**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
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 4:00 pm
MVRHS Library or Zoom**

Present: Edgartown:
Zoom: Kelly Scott*
Oak Bluffs: Kathryn Shertzer, Laurel Schneider**
Tisbury: Amy Houghton (Chair), Jen Cutrer
Zoom: Alicia Lesnikowska*
Up-Island: Robert Lionette, Jessica Mason, Skipper Manter
Zoom: Marsha Shufrin*
Supt.'s Office: School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Services - Hope MacLeod, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent - Kristen Lepine, Assistant Superintendent - Megan Farrell
Zoom: Superintendent – Richard M. Smith, Ed.D., Curriculum Instruction and Operations Coordinator - Sara Dingley
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

Chair Amy Houghton called this meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

II. Chair General Remarks

No general remarks today.

III. FY27 Budget Discussion and Possible Vote

Mark Friedman took a moment to discuss the reductions asked from the last meeting which are listed below:

- Benefits/Health Insurance has been updated to reflect current staffing with current benefits - increased by 15% for Health Insurance and 3% for Dental Insurance for FY27. This lowers expenses by approx. \$50K from Version #2.
 - This line has been reduced to reflect actual health care participants, and does not leave a budget should a new employee come on and request a family plan.
- Salary Superintendent line increased by \$20K
 - Discussed at the last meeting, with a salary budget of up to \$240,000
- Superintendent Longevity line - zeroed out the \$4K line
 - Eliminated as Richie is retiring
- H.R. - zeroed out the \$10K line
- Salary Increments COLA - revised downward to remove Supt Sal from calculation. Reduced by \$8K
 - Reduced due to the Superintendent position cap

- Salary Increments Structural - zeroed out the line - which reduced the budget by \$36K
 - This has been zeroed out after the last meetings discussions
- Island wide staff Development - zeroed out which reduced the budget by \$30K
- Curriculum & Instruction Contract Services line - zeroed out the line which reduced budget by \$20K from Version #2
- Behavioral Health Sal - reduced position from 0.6 FTE to 0.4 FTE - saving \$19.K
- Behavioral Health Longevity - zeroed it out saving \$1.8K
 - Reduced as current person will resign at the end of FY26
- Behavioral Health Benefits - reducing position to 0.4 FTE eliminates the benefits for this position - saving \$29K

This totals approximately \$187,000 in savings from Version #2. Both Mark and Richie have asked the High School to assist with the Island Wide PD initiatives with the use of some of the Rural School aid grants. Robert asked about the elimination of the HR funding at \$10,000, which Richie responded, funding line #8 to increase two ASP's from 1645 to 1715 that will assist with the HR work, with \$6497.00 going to fund line #8 and \$3500 in savings. Robert expressed concern in memorializing this increase, to which Richie responded that he does not expect their work to lessen. Robert asked about the HR work being done within a stipend instead or having a permanent obligation in those increases. Mark said he could consult with the labor attorney but stipends are for very different work than your primary function, and that the current expectation has the work very intertwined with their current roles. Amy asked how the Title IV money will be used in FY27 if it can no longer support salaries, to which Richie responded that it will be used for Mental Health work and PD in that area, but not for salaries. Amy then asked why it wasn't in the budget, to which Richie responded that it is not certain if we will receive it and how much we will receive every year. After a brief discussion the committee requested to input the Title IV dollar amount into the budget by footnote at the bottom. Robert asked about a job description for the Behavioral Health Coordinator at a .4, to which Richie responded that he is hopeful someone in the school system with a more clinical background would be interested in this work, but that the work would be the same as it has been. Skipper suggested cutting the Assistant Superintendent position by a quarter and possibly allow the new Superintendent to be able to participate in hiring the assistant. Amy Houghton suggested hiring as a one year only Assistant Superintendent to allow some flexibility in the hiring of that position. Amy wondered how much would need to be cut to bring this budget under 8%, to which Mark replied the number is about \$25,000. Amy took a moment to ask the committee and the Superintendent to please consider where cuts can be made as all of the budgets are up in all of the towns and everyone needs to be thoughtful on spending. Kathryn asked about having the salary of the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator paid for through the Rural Aid Grant, that position is looking at the district through a regional lens, therefore it would fall under the Rural Aid microscope, Mark responded that there are a few problems with that, some being that we don't know the amount given, nor is it received until sometime in November generally, and additionally one can never be confident a grant will be received at all. Alicia Lesnikowska made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Laurel Schneider. After a brief discussion with regards to cutting back a bit further, aiming for at least 7.9%, Alicia withdrew her motion. The committee scheduled a meeting for the following week.

IV. Policy

A. Review Section C - 3rd Reading - Discussion and Vote

Did not address this agenda item at this meeting.

Executive Session - To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges, brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

Did not enter into executive session at this meeting.

Vote Required

V. Adjournment

*Skipper Manter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Lesnikowska - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Mason - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Houghton - Aye.
Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. **FY27 SuptBudget #3 HIGHLIGHTS -12-2-2025 DA**
2. **FY27 SuptBudget #3 LINE-ITEMS -12-02-2025 DA Copy**
3. **Version 2 11:20 SuptBudget #2 HIGHLIGHTS -11-20-2025 B**
4. **C section - draft**

Appendix B: Next Steps

1. **Mark: Add footnote to budget showing Title IV funds will supplement professional development programs that were cut from the general fund**
2. **Mark and Richie: Bring back revised budget under 8% increase by finding \$25,000 in reductions for Monday meeting**
3. **School Committee: Schedule follow-up meeting Monday December 9th at 5:00 PM to vote on revised budget**
4. **Mark: Consult with labor attorney about whether ASP salary increases can be structured as stipends instead of permanent increases**
5. **Richie: Provide superintendent's recommendations for 3-4 areas where Title IV monies would be applied in FY27 budget**

ZOOM

https://mvyps.zoom.us/rec/share/sgYP5OTBMu-vmhpbqbxF_DswN6MjrZUK_Ed1um32X3Op089tXR7-rLJPeLGUcZ8s.HAKUwrjGu_Uyu1rn?startTime=1764709560000

Passcode: 9xv5gH9*