



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Committee Meeting

Monday, December 1, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Library or Zoom

Revised on 11/25/25

Present: Chair - Skipper Manter, Amy Houghton, Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer, Robert Lionette
Zoom: Marsha Shufrin, Kelly Scott, 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**
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell, 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

**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. Welcome - Chair

Chair Skipper Manter called this meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

II. Routine Reports

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

Nora Motahari attended on behalf of the student body. Looking forward to the winter concert this Thursday night in the PAC. There is a newspaper article on the recent student lead play. Seniors have the MV Youth Scholarship and other scholarship stuff to attend to. There was a Thanksgiving meal opportunity in partnership with Project Vine and Stop & Shop. Student Government will be hosting fun Fridays for the month, starting with pjs, twin day next week. Boys and Girls soccer both did great, boys cross country made it to states.

B. School Building Project Update

Sam Hart spoke to the building update as Deon Alley could not attend. The next big deadline is the schematic design report due on December 18, the new cost estimates should be in by December 8.

1. Update on District-wide Election and Meeting with Town Clerks - Mark Friedman

Mark, Richie, and Mr. Manly held a meeting with the Town Clerks. There was a good discussion, the clerks are interested in this new process. Mr. Manly gave some overview to the town clerks and answered their questions. One of the major deliverables for this process is the date for the election. There was a question about vote by mail and if that

is permitted during this process, but the state elections office said that is not supported in a district wide format. There will be additional communication next week.

C. Principal

1. General Update

Sean Mulvey spoke to the recent parent teacher conferences, 459 students, 1900 meetings over 4 days, 65% of the student population was represented. More requests for interpreters, meaning it is likely there was more participation from ELL families. Parents were impressed with the level of knowledge by teachers in regards to their students. Sean promised the school climate survey this month but was able to increase the amount of data which is still being sorted. Robert asked about the 65%, and if there is comparable data, to which Justine responded that there were about 75 additional students with families participating. Skipper asked if there is trouble finding interpreters, to which Justine expressed that using zoom seems to be working well and there didn't appear to be any problems. English Department Chair Christine Ferrone and English teacher Kate Hennigan attended the meeting to present on behalf of the English Department. The English Department has worked to create more opportunities for students to engage in reading, writing and thinking. There was a lot more time spent with the elementary teachers and other teachers in the state, identifying ways the program could improve. With regards to this year's Freshman class students have been given the opportunity to have access to all kinds of curriculum, and create levels where students are now able to accelerate at their own pace, and choose more rigorous programming within their classes, if they choose. Robert asked about the number of sections, of which there are 10, allowing the class sizes to be smaller as the data showed was effective. Robert then asked about the number of co-taught classes within those 10, to which Christine said there were 6 co-taught and how many of which type, Special Education or ELL, to which Christine responded there are 3 ELL and 2 Special Education/ELL. Amy asked how long Kate had been with her co-teacher, to which Kate said this is her first year but it is a very good fit. Robert also asked about the reference from the 8th grade teachers, to which Christine indicated that there was a lot of information presented to them and they were very helpful with making recommendations and content adjustments. There are about 4 kids in each class who are aiming for honors credit and that will be factored into their GPAs and class rank. The ultimate goal is about mastery of skills and not the honors credit. There is much more collaboration now than Christine has ever seen within the department, which helps to drive the curriculum instruction. The next grade to see some adjustments is going to be grade 12, where they will see more semester courses that are similar to elective classes, and teachers can have an opportunity to teach something they are passionate about while allowing the students to still gain these skills and participate in classes they have an interest in.

D. Superintendent

1. General Update

Richie moved to item D. 2.

2. High School Principal Search Update

Richie attended via zoom and announced that Sean will only remain Principal for this school year. Richie has a contract waiting with New England School Development Council (NESDEC) who has assisted in the past, to start the search. Richie thanked Sean for his amazing work in a short time. Richie will keep the committee updated at each meeting. Robert expressed concern over so many searches being conducted at once, and what if there is no ideal candidate found. Skipped echoed the same sentiments about having a new High School Principal and a new Superintendent in the same year. Robert also wondered if there is a scenario that can be envisioned where there's a temporary, maybe even collaborative multi heading position, to which Richie responded

that he shares their concerns as these open positions are challenging but he believes there is a lot of potential that already exists on the island and given the timeframe, there is time to make a good choice. The timing is in alignment with the last couple of Principal searches in the elementary schools. Amy suggested revisiting a plan B in the January meeting as there should be a candidate pool for the Superintendent and some traction with NESDEC for a Principal, and that can help shape plan B should it be needed.

Votes Required

III. Consents

A. Minutes: November 3, 2025

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2025, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Abstain, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.

Motion Passes: 7-0-1

B. 8th Grade Waiver for Girls Varsity Hockey

Head coach Mallory attended to discuss her numbers at this time and why she is requesting a waiver. The numbers are too low for more than two strings which is concerning in a contact sport, in addition several are the skaters are not strong skaters or have never played before. Mallory is very clear with the players about their skill and potential play time, but a waiver is requested to add any potential 8th graders that are stronger skaters and have likely played more growing up. At this time, Mallory is hoping to add one or two 8th graders only, without them there is concern about having to forfeit, as it would not feel safe to play. Robert expressed concern over waivers for several reasons, one of them being moving JV programs into club programs and then hopscotching middle schoolers right into Varsity. Kathryn has had three girls play for MVRHS Hockey, hockey is all about safety and if you don't have the numbers you are not playing safely, and 12 skaters is not enough, even if they are really strong skaters. Girls Hockey is very fast and super serious, and chances are an 8th graders that is wanting to try out is more than likely that they have been playing for years. Mark McCarthy took a moment to express support for Mallory and for the waiver, he agreed with Mallory that two additional players would make a difference. Malloy spoke to the waiver last year and how effective the two 8th graders were at that time, and are playing now as Freshman. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the 8th grade waiver for the girls Varsity Hockey for the 25-26 season, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Nay, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 7-1-0

C. Personnel

1. Rachel Cook

Submitted a letter of resignation effective December 5, 2025.

2. Keith Laslovich

Submitted a leave request for 8-12 weeks, December 17, 2025 - February 20, 2026.

Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept Rachel Cook's resignation and Keith Laslovich's extended leave requests, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.

3. Additional ESP Request FY26

Sean spoke to this topic briefly before turning it over to Erinn Fauteux. There are three higher needs freshmen this year, and they were able to participate through inclusion but their needs are higher than anticipated and there isn't the staffing currently to meet their IEP needs. Additionally, there is a student returning and given the changes in the last several months their needs are much more significant than they previously were. Erinn took a moment to add to Sean's description of needs, where two of the three Freshman that came to the Navigator program and are fully included in General Education classes which does require a paraprofessional to be there to support them. One of these students

was moved to the Navigator program and is requiring more significant support. In order to put some safety parameters in place for that student, some extra help is needed within that classroom, and in order to not pull support from some of the students in the class, another staff person would be needed to ensure everyone has the support they need and with some safety measures in place without having to pull back on classroom supports. Skipper asked about a salary budget for a new person, to which Suzanne replied that with the resignation of Rachel Cook, the World Language teacher last month and Sean not currently being in Guidance, there is some salary savings and when Suzanne reviewed the numbers she felt confident this position could be funded, with a start date of January 5, 2026. There is also a request to replace Rachel Cook, which is underway, and will also have a January 5, 2026 start, and Suzanne feels that between the three lines there is enough for these positions to be filled. Skipper asked if this has been accounted for in the FY27 budget to which Sean responded that there is still the unfilled position of Title I Reading Coordinator, which is still in the budget and will need to be hired for next year. It is possible this position could be hired under that line but discussions are ongoing. Kathryn asked for clarification on grades for the students to which Erinn said yes, the three are Freshman, and the fourth Erinn believes is a Senior. Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the hiring of an additional ESP for the remainder of this year, and for inclusion in next year's budget, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: *Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

D. Grants and Donations

Vote Required

1. Grants for Acceptance

Mark Friedman has six grants for requested acceptance today, he began a screen share to show them. There are six grants to accept totaling about \$490,000. The first is a State Grant for the adult learning program, MVALP totaling \$15,092 which are additional monies to supplement the previous grant that was presented back in June 2025 for about \$360,000. There is a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Cape Cod Savings Bank which is for the Credit for Life program at the High School. There is a grant from MV Savings bank as part of their min grant program for all schools with the exception of Chilmark. These are applied for by Teachers and the breakdown is each school's awarded amount. The next grant is larger, and it's the Rural School Aid Grant awarded by DESE with a total amount of \$342,480.48, which is down from last year's \$441,969 but is still significant and very helpful. The next grant is from the Sound Foundation to help support the yoga program at the High School, in the amount of \$42,183. The final grant this evening for acceptance is in the amount of \$75,000 which is a State Grant from the Executive Office of Education, and it's the Skills Capital Grant Program which is for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the High School, the purpose of this grant is to fund some technology, a CNC router laser cutter which is a significant piece of equipment that will help with the carpentry program in addition to the Adult Learning Program. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept the grants as presented by Mark, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

2. Rural Aid

Suzanne started a screen share to indicate the suggested use for the Rural Aid Grant for this school year. The suggested uses are as follows:

- Scoreboard for the gym \$29,000
 - Moveable to the new building.
- Risers for Performing Arts \$12,500

- Student Affairs Office (SAO) \$44,000
 - The intention is to fund a .5 position in the SAO for coverage of the main lobby area, and for triage. In addition to work related to attendance data, graduation rates, setting up family and student meetings.
- Sanderson \$30,000
 - The intention is to use this toward the creation of a comprehensive plan for the fields and the bus lot to the east of Sanderson Road which is a portion of the campus not covered in the building project.
- Tennis \$40,000
 - This would cover more in depth repairs needed, and remove this item from the Capital Projects budget.
- Superintendent's office \$20,000
 - Intended to be used for District Wide Training.
- IT \$20,000
 - Intended to be used for IT security training for the district.
- Transportation \$140,000
 - This would be used to offset the cost of a bus replacement for this fiscal year, as opposed to next year's budget.
- Supplies SAO \$6,980
 - Hall passes, lanyards and other supplies.

Robert asked about the \$44,000 for the Student Affairs position, to which Sean said there is a need for a person to manage that space part time. Robert asked to see an organizational chart with regards to roles and responsibilities and related this to existing positions. There is a need for a constant person to be in that space for coverage as that is a revolving door. Kathryn asked for clarification on the \$30,000 towards Sanderson Road, and \$40,000 on the Tennis Courts when the track has failed regardless of it being included in the Building Project, which is still years off. Sam indicated that the track has one more year left, and then that location will be used for building project staging. The School Building Committee made a decision to reduce the overall cost by tens of millions of dollars, by not requesting extra work on the east side of Sanderson Road. The \$30,000 would allow the Huntress design to be brought to Tappe who could carry it to the finish line, design wise, and having this complete before spring would allow a comprehensive plan ready as the building project moves to the voters. Amy asked what the number one priority is and what are the most urgent asks, to which Sean responded that this is twofold, one is to reduce to overall budget, which is one of the driving factors and creating a workable budget, Sean was not able to pick any one item that was priority given all the requests are needed. Amy asked for an explanation on the \$20,000 request for the Superintendent's office, which Sean explained that this was asked for by Richie and Sara Dingley, the intention would be to use this for curriculum and regionalization efforts across the curriculums, Suzanne mentioned that last year \$35,000 of the Rural Aid grant went to the regional programs as well. Everything presented, with the exception of the Sanderson Road request, are items that can now be backed out of the FY27 budget requests. Skipper asked for clarification on, to which Richie responded that this would provide Professional Support development for technology supervisors, in addition to doing something similar with math content that occurred with the K-5 Literacy program. The central office has operated without Professional Development money for a few years, and it would make sense to try and capture some of that. Mark clarified that this presentation with regards to the use of Rural Aid was just the beginning thought process, but would appreciate any concerns or areas to be addressed as there is a timeline for the use of these funds, and possibly procurement issues that may affect the timeline. Both Facilities subcommittee and Transportation subcommittee meet this week and will discuss their requests further.

3. Best Buddies

Remaining item from the last committee meeting.

E. Out of State and Overnight Travel

Votes Required

1. Varsity Boys Hockey

Mark McCarthy indicated that this is an annual request for the Boys Hockey team to travel to the University of New Hampshire for a tournament over Christmas break, it is a 3 day tournament out of state and overnight.

2. Varsity Girls Hockey

Mark McCarthy indicated that this is an annual request for the Girls Hockey team to travel to Boston to watch a Bruins game and to play one of the Boston area schools the next day, this trip is overnight only, and not out of state.

Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the two out of state and overnight trips, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Vote Required

3. Erin Slossberg & Justine DeOliveira

Erin and Justine will be traveling to Spain with a group of students again this year. They will be working with the Experitas travel program again, but instead of having someone lead their tours in Spain, Justine and Erin need to travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota to work with the program director from Experitas to train for leading the experience, as they do not provide a guide after the first experience, which occurred two years ago.

Additionally, they will work with Experitas to finalize the details of the trip. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the Professional Development travel request, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

Vote Required

4. Career and Technical Education Professional Development

Annual Conference for all of the CTE teachers, which is entirely funded by the Perkins Grant but it is out of state and overnight. Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the CTE trip, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0

IV. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

This topic was not addressed but MVRHS General Fund Revenues was made available for review and Suzanne expressed there are no red flags at this time.

B. Date of FY27 Budget Public Hearing

Currently looking at Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Vote Required

V. Bus Fleet Electrification Efforts

Skipper addressed this item, as there was an agreement made to the towns that the full fleet would be electrified by 2040. At this time there is not sufficient power at the bus lot to expand beyond the current fleet of two electric buses. There is concern that if the upgraded electrical support is not done within this project, then it is likely going to push that even further out. Skipper suggests asking the building committee to make this part of the building project, which he then opened for discussion. Robert asked to see some numbers and what this may look like for an overall engineering plan for this type of project. Kathryn agreed, but wanted expansion to also include the athletic fields. Both of these projects were backed off of when the building project was proposed, and these items were supposed to be included in the original project. Robert asked if this would be valid under the MSBA guidelines, to which Mark

Freidman replied that his understanding is that the bus lots serves all the schools so it would not fall under reimbursable by the MSBA as their commitment is only to the high school, so it could happen but it would have to be done with the schools own money. After a brief discussion about solar, solar ready and increased electrification efforts, *Amy Houghton made a motion to explore the option of including electrification on the buses as part of the building project, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*

VI. Subcommittee Updates

A. Transportation

Marsha indicated that negotiations with the drivers are ongoing. Subcommittee meeting this Thursday at 8:30 am. The budget is not yet complete. Robert asked if growth is anticipated in the transportation budget, given the ongoing negotiations, to which Skipper said he did not believe any more than a step increase or cost of living increase. Mark said the current proposed transportation budget is up about 8.4% right now, but solid numbers are still complex, given ongoing negotiations. Marsha expressed the supplementing with Rural Aid money would bring that down, to which Mark said the 8.4% is for the operating budget and does not include the vehicle procurement lines.

B. Facilities

Jason has heard back from STS and they are putting a proposal together, the hope is that it will be delivered this week.

C. Athletics

Kathryn indicated that Appendix A and A1 are still being held up, therefore holding up the budget numbers.

D. Budget

No update from this committee at this meeting.

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

Kathryn asked for clarification on NEASC accreditation, to which Justine responded that this is the 10 year cycle and the high school has been through this very rigorous, very structured self reflection process which ensures the school is providing a high quality, standards aligned education that is research based, it is almost like a peer review process. This helps to ensure strategic identifiers in areas of growth and shows strengths, in addition this is an indication to colleges that the school provides a high quality education.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment for this meeting.

Vote Required

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made but the audio cut out on the recording, therefore the recorder is unable to identify, the motion was seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Scott - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: January 5, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Agenda MVRHS SC 12.1.25**
- 2. III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC 110325**
- 3. III. C. 1. 11.18.25 Rachel Cook Lttr Intent**
- 4. III. C. 3. Additional ESP Request FY 26**
- 5. III. D. 1. MVRHS School Committee Grants Memo 12012025**
- 6. III. E. 1. Varsity Boys Hockey**
- 7. III. E. 2. Girls Hockey**
- 8. III. E. 4. ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2025**
- 9. IV. A MVRHS General Fund Expenditures**
- 10. IV. A. MVRHS Revenues**
- 11. Rural Aid FY26 11.6.2025**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

- 1. Town Clerks: Consult with select boards regarding June 2nd as the date for the district-wide election and report back in about a week.**
- 2. Mark (and relevant team): Reach back out to town clerks in about a week to confirm June 2nd as the election date and report back to the committee.**
- 3. Principal/Sean (or designee): Post the high school principal position and begin the search process, including forming a search committee of 15-20 people from the original 40.**
- 4. Principal/Sean (or designee): Continue the process to hire a replacement for Rachel Cook (special education teacher) and the Title I reading coordinator position as referenced.**
- 5. Principal/Sean (or designee): Post and hire an additional ESP (paraprofessional) position, effective as soon as possible (targeting January 3/4), and ensure funding is allocated from identified salary savings.**
- 6. Principal/Sean (or designee): Include the new ESP position in next year's budget planning.**
- 7. Mark McCarthy: After school committee approval, bring the 8th grade waiver request for girls varsity hockey to the league and then to the district for final approval.**
- 8. Mark (Business Manager) and Facilities Subcommittee: At Thursday's meeting, discuss and decide on the use of \$30,000 in rural aid (potentially moving from Sanderson Road to transportation) and make a recommendation for vehicle purchases.**
- 9. Facilities Subcommittee: At Thursday's meeting, review and make recommendations on the proposed capital projects (scoreboard, risers, tennis courts) for funding from rural aid.**
- 10. Jason O'Donnell: Provide STS report/recommendations on GMAX testing for athletic fields at Thursday's facilities meeting.**
- 11. Justine: Add NEASC accreditation discussion as an agenda item for the next meeting and research whether NEASC accreditation is required for the dual enrollment program.**
- 12. School Committee/Budget Subcommittee: Post a draft of the proposed budget online and send to chairs of FINCOMs and town administrators prior to the public hearing.**
- 13. School Committee: Schedule and post notice for the public hearing on the budget for Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM.**
- 14. School Committee: Request that the School Building Committee explore the possibility of including electrical upgrades for electric bus charging infrastructure as part of the current building project.**
- 15. School Building Committee: Review the feasibility and timing of including electrical upgrades for electric bus charging in the current building project and report back.**