



**MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm**  
**Library or Zoom**  
**REVISED ON 2/27/2026**

For More Information and Meeting Resources: [Click for Agenda Items](#)

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

**Staff:** Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveria, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Technology Director - Rick Mello  
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell, Administrator of Special Education - Erinn Fauteux, Athletic Director - Mark McCarthy\*

**Supt's Office:** Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, All-Island Behavioral Health Coordinator - Kim Garrison, Director of Student Support Services - Hope MacLeod

**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. Welcome - Chair**

Chair Skipper Manter called this meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**II. Routine Reports**

**A. Student Report**

**1. Student Report of Activities**

Student body President, Milo Brush attended to report on recent student activities. Students Leah Thomson and Zoe Treitman are launching the island's first ever Swim Across America event with a community swim to raise funds for cancer research. The event will take place on Saturday, July 18, 2026 in Menemsha and all monies raised will be donated to Mass General Brigham Martha's Vineyard Hospital. During February's Black History month there were cultural cuisine tastings in the cafeteria. The recent Science Fair had its annual Wind Turbine showing. The Winter Sports pep rally occurred just before break. Model UN attended Boston University for some debating. NHS hosted their annual food drive, which collected over \$1,500 worth of food. Spring sports registration is open, and meet the coaches is March 10, 2026 at the PAC. Boys Basketball is league champions, as they won their game about 15 minutes ago, taking them to the Elite Eight. The Swim Team placed 12th overall at states, the highest recorded in school history. The Wrestling team had a great season, sending several to sectionals. And recognition to the Hadestown Play for great performances. And lastly, the Principal search candidates will be visiting the school on March 4 and March 5, 2026.

**B. School Building Project Update**

Sam Hart spoke to the resignation of Dion Alley as the Chair of the MVRHS School Building Committee so that he can focus on his duties as select-person for the town of Oak Bluffs. At the next meeting on March 17, 2026 the School Building Committee will elect new officers. The MVRHS School Committee has a meeting on March 9, 2026 to vote on several items related to the project with regards to funding sources and borrowing options. Lynn Welsh from Unibank, Rick Manley from the Bond Council, and the town's Finance Advisory Committees have also been invited to attend. Community forums continue to move forward, with the next one scheduled for March 14, 2026. Amy Houghton asked how the attendance was for these meetings, to which Sam responded that it is pretty low, but the committee is looking for more locations and to meet the communities where they're at. Skipper suggested making these meetings to allow participation on zoom, to possibly encourage more attendance. Kathryn looked to the screen and indicated that many of the current zoom participants for today's meeting are actually also in the room, and preparing for presentations.

## **C. Principal**

### **1. General Update**

Sean Mulvey gave a brief update with regards to March 11, 2026 and the half day. This day is going to be a combination of student choice and enrichment opportunities which include a presentation with "Culture Reframed", which was discussed several months ago with Amy Lilavois and Jenn Russell which piggybacks with the SWEAR program and there will be an assembly with students talking about Sexual Harassment, Awareness and Toxic Masculinity which is student lead. This will be followed by a presentation from Richard Gary with iRock2, where discussions will be led with regards to the appropriate use of technology, with a discussion around porography. Additionally, there will also be a community event around these discussions.

### **2. Date for School Committee to meet with Members from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) during the Decennial Visit on September 27-30**

Sean discussed the NEASC decennial visit in September 2026 and wanted to gain a time that would be best for the committee to meet with the NEASC Committee. The general consensus was that meeting on that Monday NEASC is here, in the evening would be best.

### **3. History Department Presentation**

Ena Thulin, History Department Chair presented on behalf of the department. The History Department has been working to align with the new state requirements, where there are going to be changes for 10th and 12th graders. 10th grade is shifting American Studies to begin post-civil war, during the Reconstruction era and allowing them to finish on more contemporary history. The department highly supports the AP African American History course and are in alignment with Administration in supporting that course as a part of the US History curriculum. The 12th grade level is moving on from some of the traditional US Government courses as these topics are covered in the 8th grade in preparation for MCAS, meaning students are more prepared in these courses when they get to high school now. Instead, the department is now shifting to expansion on the Civics capstone projects, which will now be a full year, required course for 12th graders, and all students will complete a civic action project which is called a CAP, this course is being piloted right now. Students will complete at least two project proposals, a short version and a long version, which will be subject to a peer review feasibility assessment where the class will vote on which projects to take on. They will learn how to build teams, and complete a group-designed project on paper, and during the second semester will put paper into action. There are also discussions around Community Service as a graduation requirement, being explored with the History Department and Jared Andrews. The AP African American studies course has engaged community members in presenting unique parts of the culture from Afro-Indigenous peoples, to

quilting traditions and art, and other courses have also gone on local field trips or had community members in to share their knowledge and experiences. The AP History scores continue to improve year over year, with 88% of students receiving a 3 or higher on their exams, and 1/3 of all AP tests are History related, adding AP Government for next year.

**4. Views of Climate and Learning (VOCAL) Survey**

Sheryl Taylor, PE Department Chair and Kim Garrison, All Island Behavioral Health Coordinator presented a breakdown of the VOCAL Survey conducted during the last school year with the Sophomore class. The DESE model for students is captured by DESE, the district then uses the same survey to collect data from stakeholders, such as caregivers and staff. This particular feedback was captured in a survey that was taken after MCAS exams, looking at the perceptions of the school experience, and an overall school score, and then three additional areas, engagement, safety and environment. There are trends visible across all school climate surveys, and it is common to see school climate ratings higher in the lower grade levels. Additionally, with higher student achievers it is normal to see more favorable results, meaning schools that are performing better academically generally have a higher climate rating. Some of the higher ratings include 92% of students are open to having friends that come from different backgrounds, and the second top rated is teachers promoting respect between students and teachers and treating all students respectfully regardless of race, culture or family. See Presentation for full reported data.

**D. Superintendent**

**1. General Update**

Superintendent Richie Smith moved on to the next agenda item, providing an update on the Principal search.

**2. High School Principal Search Update**

On March 4 and March 5, 2026 each of the Principal finalists will spend the day at MVRHS. Richie thanked Justine for organizing these two days so that many have an opportunity to meet the candidates. The finalists are Dennis Mahoney and Brian Lombardi, both have served in the role of Principal in other districts. Each morning, there is time set aside for the community and the School Committee to come and meet the candidates and to ask questions, and the School Committee is also invited to join for lunch with the candidates and with the search committee. The final meeting of the afternoon is for stakeholders, and another opportunity for School Committee members to attend. In the past, one of the pieces of this process is to visit the district that candidate is currently in, but given that one is not currently serving in that role, each candidate will instead gather a small group that the search committee will meet with over zoom. Richie is hoping to have a decision no later than the third week of March 2026.

*Votes Required*

**III. Consents**

**A. Minutes: February 2, 2026**

*Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

*Shufrin did not vote*

**B. Personnel**

**1. Dion Alley Resignation from School Building Committee Vote**

*Amy Houghton made a motion to accept the resignation of Dion Alley from the MVRHS School Building Committee, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Scott*

*- Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

### **C. Grants and Donations**

#### **1. Grants for acceptance**

Suzanne had a grant for a total of \$1,500 to SWEAR from the Youth Task Force. Additionally, Suzanne had 6 donations for the Science Fair totaling \$2,600, the first of which is from Sheriffs Meadow for \$1,000, the second from Friends of Sengekontacket for \$500, Lagoon Pond Association for \$250, Fred Hotchkiss for \$100, Tisbury Waterways for \$500, and MV Surfcasters for \$250. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept these grants and donations with gratitude, seconded by Jenn Cutrer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

Mark Friedman had some grants as well, the first being \$537 for the Edgartown School from the American Heart Association for the Heart Challenge. The next grant is from Cape Cod Community 5 Bank as part of their mini-grant program, an annual program, with a whole list of sub-grantees throughout the district, totaling \$9,388. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept these grants with gratitude, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

### **D. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel**

Sailing came to the table late, traveling to Newport Rhode Island, but not overnight.

#### **1. Boys Swim Team**

Retroactive for States and already occurred.

#### **2. Track**

Several students will head to Nationals in New York next weekend.

#### **3. Wrestling**

Retroactive for States and already occurred.

*Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve all athletic travel, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

#### **4. American Sign Language**

*Wednesday, April 15, 2026 all students enrolled in the ASL courses will travel to West Hartford, Connecticut to visit the American School for the Deaf. Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the out of state travel, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

### **E. Waiver Requests**

Kathryn expressed a desire to look further into spring sports, and why there are so many waiver requests at a later date. Amy Houghton agreed, and expressed looking at all sports, given the number of waiver requests made each season this year.

#### **1. 8th Grade Varsity Softball**

This is a waiver that has occurred over the last couple of years, and wish to continue.

#### **2. 8th Grade Junior Varsity Baseball**

This is a new request, and a little shocking, but there is a need to build the team up with some younger players. At this time there are only 13 signed up.

#### **3. 8th Grade Junior Varsity Girls Lacrosse**

There were 9 graduates from last year, meaning the team needs to be rebuilt.

#### **4. 8th Grade Track**

This is for girls track, with a low number signed up this year, it will be hard to compete without building the team up.

*Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the athletics waivers with the understanding that they need to be revisited in the future for more long term solutions, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**F. Third Reading of Competency Determination Policy**

Robert asked about the timeframe of this policy, to which Sean Mulvey said this had to be in place by January 2026. The need would be to vote in this policy, and continue to seek further guidance with regards to the addition of some other courses, for example AP African American studies. Kathryn agreed the language set forth by DESE leaves some room for interpretation. The committee agreed that further research is needed on which courses can be approved to meet DESE requirements. This needs to be fully in effect for the graduating class of 2027. *Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the Third Reading of the Competency Determination Policy, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**G. Transportation Agreement and Possible Ratification for Bus Drivers and Monitors**

Marsha Shufrin spoke to this being the chair of the transportation subcommittee. Marsha thanks everyone that worked to bring this to fruition. Mark Friedman briefly reviewed the Transportation Agreement - DRAFT - 3.02.2026 (1). Amy Houghton asked if this would fit in the budget for next year, to which Mark responded yes, it will. This would go into effect for the April 10, 2026 cycle. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to ratify the contract in advance of the transportation department to be in effect April 10, 2026, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Manter - Aye*  
*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

**IV. Finance**

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne passed around an updated MVRHS Expenditures 3.2.2026 and MVRHS Revenue 3.2.2026 and noted that for Athletics, Spring coaches have not been hired just yet therefore there are temporary placeholders at this time. Payroll processing has switched to emails, meaning that line should decline shortly. The Fuel line is being watched, but the tanks are good at this time. Amy Houghton asked about the Contractual - Speech salary, under the Superintendent, looking for clarification on this line as it appears to not be in use. Hope MacLeod spoke to this item, there has been a non salary replacement of a salaried staff who has resigned. The Salaried monies are being used in the non-salaried replacement.

**V. Subcommittee Updates**

**A. Transportation**

Kathryn spoke to the new sick bank for this department, a subcommittee will need to be created from within the high school, and addressed at a later meeting.

**B. Facilities**

No update at this meeting.

**C. Athletics**

No update at this meeting.

**D. Budget**

No update at this meeting.

**VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements**

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

**VII. Public Comment**

No public comment for this meeting.

***Vote Required***

**VIII. Adjournment**

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

*Motion Passes: 9-0-0*

***Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen***

***Date of Approval of Minutes: April 6, 2026***

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

- 1. 0302206 grants**
- 2. Agenda MVRHS SC 3.2.26**
- 3. II. C. 4. Views of Climate and Learning (VOCAL) Survey MVRHS SY 25/26**
- 4. III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC 020226**
- 5. III. B. 1. MVHSBC Resignation Feb 28 2026**
- 6. III. D. 1. Swim Team Out of State and Overnight Travel**
- 7. III. D. 2. Track Nationals Out of State and Overnight Travel March 2026**
- 8. III. D. 3. Wrestling 1 Out of State and Overnight Travel**
- 9. III. D. 3. Wrestling 2 Out of State and Overnight Travel**
- 10. III. D. 4. ASL Out of State & Overnight Travel**
- 11. III. D. April 4, 2026 - SAIL NEWPORT, NEWPORT, RI - TRAVEL FORM**
- 12. III. F. MVRHS COMPETENCY DETERMINATION POLICY UPDATE**
- 13. III. G. Transportation Agreement - DRAFT - 3.02.2026 (1)**
- 14. IV. A. MVRHS Expenditures 3.2.2026**
- 15. IV. A. MVRHS Revenue 3.2.2026**

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

- 1. School Building Committee: Elect new officers (chair, vice chair) at the March 17th meeting.**
- 2. School Building Committee: Hold meeting with town finance advisory committees and select boards on March 9th, including presentations from Lynn Welsh (Unibank) and Rick Manley (Bond Council).**
- 3. School Building Committee: Continue organizing community forums about the school building project, including considering new venues (e.g., Carnegie building, Chillmark Select Board), and trial use of Zoom for broader attendance.**
- 4. Walker: Reach out to the town of Oak Bluffs to request a replacement representative for the School Building Committee following Dion's resignation.**
- 5. Justine: Propose and schedule a separate in-person meeting between the School Committee and NEASC visiting committee during their site visit (targeting Monday night), and confirm logistics.**
- 6. Athletic Subcommittee: Collect and present historical data on sports team participation numbers and waiver trends to the full School Committee for further discussion on long-term solutions for low participation.**
- 7. School Committee: Designate an administrator to oversee the new sick bank for the Transportation Department, and establish a subcommittee for its administration.**
- 8. Suzanne: Reach out to Jason O'Donnell to schedule a Facilities Subcommittee meeting.**
- 9. All School Committee Members: Help spread the word about the upcoming principal candidate visit days (March 4th and 5th) to encourage broader community attendance and feedback.**
- 10. School Committee: Review and potentially amend the Competency Determination policy in the fall regarding acceptance of AP African American Studies as U.S. History, pending further DESE guidance and examples from other schools.**
- 11. Mark McCarthy: Coordinate and ensure approval for the American Sign Language class day trip to the American School for the Deaf on April 15th.**
- 12. Mark McCarthy: Coordinate and ensure approval for the track team's out-of-state trip to Nationals in New York.**
- 13. School Committee: Approve the four athletic waivers (8th grade softball, JV baseball, JV girls lacrosse, 8th grade girls track) and revisit the topic for long-term solutions in a future session.**
- 14. School Committee: Ratify the new transportation agreement, effective April 10th payroll, and monitor implementation.**