



## MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

### School Committee Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Library or Zoom

**REVISED ON 4/2/26**

**SECOND REVISION ON 4/2/26**

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

**Present:** Chair - Skipper Manter, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Jen 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, Director of Student Affairs - Jared Andrews, Director of Special Education - Erinn Fauteux  
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell, Athletic Director - Mark McCarthy\*

**Supt's Office:** Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services - Hope MacLeod

**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 5:33 pm.

### II. Routine Reports

#### A. Student Report

##### 1. Student Report of Activities

Milo Sullivan and Nora Motahari attended to present on behalf of the student body. This evening they reported that Quarter 3 closes this Friday, April 10. The Waylon Sauer Memorial Basketball tournament was held this past weekend with a great turnout and lots of support. There is a car wash this Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm to benefit the Spain trip. There have been ongoing discussions regarding the mascot vote, presented as either a Mako Shark, an Osprey or Tide. The Principal search concluded, selecting Bryan Lombardi. Last week was the Spring pep rally giving those teams a shoutout. Swim Across America is in full swing, a donation of \$75 to participate. The Senior class has been very busy, with Senior Assassin in full swing, there is a Senior Dinner at Atria, a gift from the community, and Prom planning is underway, to be held at the Yacht Club, Brunch at Farm Neck, Class Night and Graduation. Thriftology Club is having their last clothing drive of the year this Sunday, Yearbook club has been working hard with deadline reminders, and NHS juniors are creating a shaping their tutoring program. The Sailing team won their Regatta against Nantucket, The Baseball team won 8-4 against Nantucket, and the Softball team had a tough loss to Nantucket. Junior

Mila Fairstein won a Gold Medal in Scholastic Art Wards, and will be attending the ceremony in New York City.

**a) Mascot Discussion and Possible Vote**

The Spirit Club co-founders Charlotte Cramer and Madison Curelli attended to present a follow up with regards to the Mascot discussions and surveys. Since the last meeting the original 5 potential mascots were narrowed down to 3, all of which can be connected to at least one of the Portrait of a Learner values at the High School. Votes were collected by students, staff, alumni in the form of in person or an online survey, receiving 471 votes in total. Mako Sharks took first with 43.1%, Ospreys in second with 38.2%, and Tide coming in third at 18.7%. The majority vote for students was the Mako Sharks, and for Staff and Alumni it was the Ospreys. There was only a 24 vote difference between the two, so the Spirit Club wondered if the Tide voters should receive a follow up email to select from the two frontrunners, if a vote should occur with only the top two, or if the voting audience should be expanded, for example to the elementary schools as they will be students at the High School someday. Kathryn Shertzer did express concern over this process as there is already a mascot and that last time this work was done, it took over two years, with meetings and surveys and conversations with community members, the athletic teams and this massive process, but what is going to stop someone coming back to the table in 3 years time with a new idea about a mascot, when there is already a struggle to implement what is already there, which you can tell just by walking in the door. Kathryn does not feel as though the adults have the follow through to do this project, though she agrees there should be a mascot and pep band and all of it. The athletic teams don't even have uniforms that match each other. Richie spoke to the process about 5 or more years ago, and going through potential branding, and MV Varsity working on this task. There was a mascot selected at that time but it was not an animated mascot, which is something the students need to embrace, with this one, they did not. MV Varsity did work very hard, and put their own money into things working with BSN. Once the rights were given to the MV Varsity, they gifted the right of use to the School Committee. Richie has had the attorney Nancy Company look through the minutes to make sure there were no policies written that could inadvertently be undone, and she was not able to find a vote, meaning an additional mascot could be added, which is consistent with larger schools and having more than one mascot. The voting at the time accepted the gift and the rights of use, and BSN being able to use the logos they created for other types of merchandise, but that was the only restriction. Rizwan asked what it would look like adding a mascot to current branding, and bringing it to the forefront with imagery and design, and not just a costume. The intention of MV Varsity was to bring uniformity to the teams and to the school, with a matching purple and the matching "MV" logo, but the teams are sponsored by boosters, and uniforms are often ordered through boosters and not the school, meaning there is not always that uniformity. Rizwan wondered if the Policy Committee would be a helpful place to start the work to create uniformity, and in making sure previous policies with regards to mascots are already in place, in addition to working with the boosters for each sport and club. If there is no policy, setting one now would assist in the years to come.

**B. Department Spotlight**

Sean introduced Erin Slossberg, World Language Department Chair and Jane McGroarty Sampaio, English Language Learner Department Chair to speak on behalf of each of their departments, and the work they have been doing. Erin started with World Language, where courses are based on proficiency levels, and in order to earn Seal of Biliteracy on a student's

diploma, they must meet a certain score on the ELA MCAS, and depending on the student, their ACCESS scores. In 2025 there were 200 graduating seniors, of which 40 earned their Seal of Biliteracy. Fifteen of those students earned their Seal in Portuguese and English, where they were all Heritage speakers with the exception of the first English speaking American born student who also earned his Seal, which was very exciting in the department. Eighteen students earned their Seal in Spanish and English, and one student received their Seal for Portuguese, French and English. Last year it was offered in Latin and ASL as well, where one student arrived as multilingual and was able to receive their Seal in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. Five received their Seal with Distinction meaning they received at least 501 on their ELA MCAS, and have at least 7's on their reading, writing, speaking and listening. For this school year there are at least 12 Spanish, 2 ASL, 3 Latin and 20 Portuguese, possibly 5 more after the ACCESS test results are available. World Language also offers international travel experiences, and last year Amy Crawford combined with Culinary took 24 students and 5 chaperones to Italy where they immersed themselves in ancient history and cuisine. Amy is planning a similar trip for next year with the Latin students. Erin and Justine are headed to Spain next week with 18 students, where they will visit several cities, and the students will spend 5 days at a homestay immersion in Cuelba, which is southern, closer to Portugal. The ASL students have a potential trip to Hartford, Connecticut to visit the American School for the Deaf. Robert asked about collaboration with the elementary schools, to which Erin responded that yes, a strong middle school program is important to get students started at the level 1 level which is generally about 2 years. Having students properly placed out of elementary school helps to grow the Seal of Biliteracy graduating numbers. Additionally, Erin started at the Tisbury school and only spent 33 minutes with the students twice per week, but the elementary programs are growing, with some schools now having full time middle school programs. Erin plans to work with the Charter School to find ways to assist with their Portuguese program and how best to support those transition students. There are occasional conversations and meetings with elementary teachers but having more alignment in time would help. There is certainly the struggle to staff the languages after the loss of Pierre Bonneau, the French Program was unable to continue, but ASL and Latin were able to be created, using zoom for ASL, and shifting a current staff person who was trained in the classics to create that Latin program. In addition, some of the staff came from International locations and getting them here by the start of school was difficult, waiting on Visas, meaning some of those classes started on zoom for the first few weeks. Erin then turned the presentation over to Jane McGroarty Sampaio, to discuss the ELL Department. Jane works between both departments this year, so there is collaboration. ACCESS testing for ELLs occurs in January but as of now, Jane is still waiting for those scores to be released, meaning there isn't great data to share for this year just yet. Last year the program was able to exit 16 students, which was a record number for the High School. Co-teaching has expanded this year into English 9, 10 & 11, in addition to Math and Biology also having co-taught classes. The majority of students are levels 3 through 6, with the 6's just about ready for mainstream classes. Additionally, Each of the ELL teachers now has a "caseload" of ELL students, and work more closely with the guidance counselors to add additional support. The students are working very hard to exit the program and it is gratifying for Jane to see. Robert asked about co-teaching and how that works, to which Jane responded that seeing the integrated English classes that are not currently offering an Honors track has been very successful, in addition to having teachers that actually want to co-teach and be paired together, that is what makes it successful. Co-taught classes offer more flexibility and expertise, and there is more of an opportunity to address so much more in the moment. Additionally, there is a lot of co-taught work in the junior high grades, so the students are used to that style, and are comfortable asking questions to either adult that is in the room. There are also complications, for example if a student should be in an Honors course, how is the best way to place them? Using the data, and working with the students, the department does their best to make it work.

### **C. School Building Project Update**

Sam Hart gave a brief update: At this time deadlines have been met, and all is submitted. Up next is the School Building Committee meeting on April 16, 2026 and the Island-wide Election on June 2, 2026. The committee is exploring 13 Community Forums in May, which will include tours of the school. Additionally, the committee is still working with the town clerks for the election to make sure all is taken care of, including mail in ballots and absentee ballots. There will also be committee members stationed at each town meeting location in the coming weeks. There will also be a tax calculator released so that residents can see what the anticipated tax burden will be for them.

**1. Building Project Community Forum**

This agenda item was discussed above by Sam Hart.

**D. Principal**

**1. General Update**

Sean informed the committee that the Student Handbook will be moved to the May meeting, and this evening the focus will be on the School Improvement plan, which will be presented this evening, and can be further discussed next month, after it has had time to be digested by the committee. The plan will be to do the same thing for the student handbook, and present next month, and take potential votes during the June meeting.

**2. School Improvement Plan Discussion For Future Vote**

Both Sean and Justine presented, this has been worked on by quite a few staff, students, parents and community members. In the past this has been after school work, but this year the team decided to use Super Flex on Wednesdays, and had a very robust group. The group started with last year's improvement plan, and built from there, making Engagement the main focus, and expiring two goals from last year. The building plan was a large part of discussions, including how best to communicate information to students, which has been done through the televisions in the hallways. Students were really the voices of these discussions, they were engaged and brought creative, and thoughtful suggestions to the group. See **II. D. II SAC SIP Presentation** for full presentation, where items #1, and #3 will be expiring, while items #2, and #4 will continue. This initially started as part of a self reflection, and as items have been addressed thoroughly, new items have been added. It was also really important to hear from students, and having them help inform these improvements. Engagement came up a lot, making it a goal for next school year, in several different parts, which include students, staff, Student Government and the more robust PTO.

**E. Superintendent**

**1. General Update**

Richie moved to item 3.

**2. High School Principal Introduction**

Richie took a moment to introduce the incoming Principal, Bryan Lombardi. Bryan expressed his pleasure in accepting the position, and looks forward to working with the community and at the High School. Bryan is so excited to get started, regardless of the current lack of housing, and wondered if he could just set up a pop up camper out back, but in reality is excited to come to the island and has already started the process to find housing.

**3. Annual Town Meeting Dates Update**

Richie gave the town meeting dates and times, April 14 at 6 pm for West Tisbury, 7 pm for Edgartown, 7 pm for Oak Bluffs. On Monday, April 27, Chilmark at 7 pm, and April 28 is Tisbury at 7 pm and May 12, is Aquinnah.

*Votes Required*

**III. Consents**

**A. Minutes: March 2, 2026 & March 9, 2026**

*Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026 and March 9, 2026, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**B. Budget Transfer for District-Wide Election Expenses - Vote**

Mark and Suzanne both spoke to this item, but under a district-wide election, the school is responsible for the funding. Each town clerk has given a cost associated with this election, bringing the total to about \$31,000 in expenses, including the legal notices in the newspapers which will run for 2 consecutive weeks. The clerks have not gone through this process before so these numbers are best estimates at this time. Mark made the recommendation to authorize up to \$35,000 to capture anything that may have been missed. Suzanne suggested this come from the contingency line that has \$375,000 in it for now, and then in June under-budget allocations can be moved to that line. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to authorize the use of up to \$35,000 from the Contingency Fund, as needed, for the island-wide election, as stated, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Nay.*

*Motion Passes: 7-1-0*

**C. Personnel**

**1. Rachel Schubert**

Rachel Schubert submitted a letter of resignation, effective at the end of this school year.

**2. Amy Lilavois**

Amy Lilavois submitted a partial resignation from her full-time position, to become a .6 position. Amy is taking on the .4 position of Behavioral Health Coordinator.

**3. Carol Thatcher**

*Carol Thatcher submitted an extended medical leave request of approximately 12 weeks and will continue to stay in contact with regard to progress and return.*

*Robert Lionette made a motion to acknowledge the resignations, and approve the medical leave, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**D. Grants and Donations**

**1. Grants for acceptance**

Suzanne had 4 donations this evening. One for the Library, from the Henderson Family, annually the last few years in the amount of \$150. Then there are 3 donations from the Science Fair, one from the Jacobs family in the amount of \$200, The Munn family in the amount of \$100, and Island Grown Initiative in the amount of \$200. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept these with much appreciation, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

*Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**E. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel**

Sean had a late addition, the Breakers Mansion, day trip, out of state, for the Architecture club with Elsbeth Todd.

**1. Boys Varsity Lacrosse**

Day trip, out of state

**2. High School View Newspaper Awards**

Overnight

**3. Varsity Baseball**

Overnight

**4. RISD Art Museum**

Day trip, out of state

**5. Sailing**

3 events, all over night.

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

**F. School Credit Card**

Mark Friedman spoke to this, as the High School has operated with an emergency debit card, which has restrictions. A School credit card would be needed for emergencies only, or purchases that can only take place with a credit card. More specifically, housing field trips or athletic trips that get stuck off island and need a hotel. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve applying for a school credit card, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**G. Fee Schedule Addendum to Municipal Advisory Agreement**

Mark added the latest fee schedule proposal from UniBank and Lynn Foster to the folder for this meeting. This is for borrowing money for the building project. Mark brought it to the committee because there will be significant borrowing on this project, and this will make the committee aware of the fees. It does not have to go out for procurement per MGL and the agreement is consistent with what the towns have for their agreements. *Amy Houghton made a motion to agree to this fee schedule for a three year agreement with UniBank, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**H. School Choice Vote**

Richie spoke to the committee about school choice, which is an automatic enrollment unless you vote yourself out. This committee has always voted in favor of it, and DESE does occasionally look to see when schools had these discussions. This year the High School did have a student attend that lives in Falmouth. *Rizwan Malik made a motion for the High School to continue with School Choice, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**IV. Finance**

**A. Revenue and Expenditures**

Suzanne and Sean have started working towards end of year needs, and passed around Revenue and Expenditures documents. PO's will get closed out, like fuel as those are full and heat will be going off soon.

**V. Subcommittee Updates**

**A. Transportation**

Marsha presented for transportation, who had a meeting this morning. There have been a number of issues with the electric buses and the subcommittee thought it important to inform the whole committee as batteries and charges have been replaced multiple times. The one bus that is back on the road is being charged daily at the VTA. A complete diagnostic would mean taking the bus via barge to Rhode Island at the expense of the high school, and it is unclear if it is the chargers, the bus or the batteries that are not working properly. In communication with Boston Public Schools, they traded in their first general electric buses for the second generation electric bus, and they have been much better, in addition to seeking information with regards to lemon laws. Skipper asked for the transportation subcommittee to be allowed to access legal counsel if necessary. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the subcommittee access to legal counsel if necessary, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

**B. Facilities**

Meeting to be scheduled soon.

**C. Athletics**

Meeting Thursday morning at 8:30 am. Will receive updates on participation number, improvement plan for baseball and softball fields, and the Tennis court and scoreboard updates.

**D. Budget**

No update at this time.

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

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

**VII. Public Comment**

No public comment for this meeting. At this time Rizwan did express kudos to the High School team that won the lip sync contest this past weekend, benefiting Mv Swell, Martha's Vineyard Sexual Wellness Advocates. Amy Houghton also took a moment to mention that this coming weekend there is a Health and Wellness fair at the hospital, open to the public, with about 50 different vendors.

*Vote Required*

**VIII. Adjournment**

*Amy Houghton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Scott - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.  
Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen*

*Date of Approval of Minutes: May 4, 2026*

## Appendix A: Documents on File

1. 4.6.26 MVRHS SC Meeting Zoom Recording
2. Agenda MVRHS SC 4.6.26
3. FY27 MVRHS Budget LINE-ITEMS - 4-06-2026
4. II. D. II SAC SIP Presentation
5. III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 030226
6. III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 030926
7. III. C. 1. Schubert - Letter of Resignation
8. III. C. 2. Amy Lilavois
9. III. C. 3. Carol Thatcher Ltr.
10. III. E. Field Trip Itinerary\_The Breakers and Rosecliff Mansions, Newport, RI
11. III. E. 1. Out of State and Overnight Travel Form (1)
12. III. E. 2. NESPA School Committee Request
13. III. E. 3. Baseball April trip
14. III. E. 4. RISD Art Museum Out of State & Overnight Travel Form
15. III. E. 5. OOSTD - NE FLEET RACING CHAMPS - MAY 2-3, 2026 - SAIL NEWPORT, NEWPORT, RI
16. III. E. 5. OOSTD -GIRLS NE FLEET CHAMPS - MAY 16-17, 2026 - @ MIT, BOSTON
17. III. E. 5. OOSTD -NE FLEET CHAMPS - MAY 9-10, 2026 - @ Hyannis, MA
18. III. F. Dedham Savings Bank Credit Card Application - 3-12-2026
19. III. G. Unibank Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District Addendum 2026
20. IV. A. MVRHS Expenditures 4.6.2026
21. IV. A. MVRHS Revenue 4.6.2026
22. MVRHS FY27 Assessment STATUTORY METHOD - 4-06-2026
23. Nantucket
24. SCHEDULE A\_B - 25-28-1
25. School Committee Mascot Slides April 6, 2026
26. Weston ea-23-26

## Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

1. Cheryl Kramer and Madison Briley: Email "Tide" voters to re-vote between Osprey and Mako Shark for the mascot selection. **(Charlotte Cramer and Madison Curelli)**
2. Cheryl Kramer and Madison Briley: Report back to the committee with the final vote results between Osprey and Mako Shark, and seek guidance on whether to conduct a wider vote including more community members and junior high students. **(Charlotte Cramer and Madison Curelli)**
3. Policy Subcommittee: Bring forward a draft policy regarding mascot selection, use, and booster club coordination to provide guidance for current and future mascot-related processes.
4. School Building Committee: Schedule and conduct 13 community forums in May, including school tours, ahead of the June 2nd election.
5. School Building Committee: Work with town clerks to ensure all logistics for the June 2nd island-wide election are in place, including mail-in and absentee ballot processes.
6. Sean (Principal) and Suzanne: Present the updated school handbook at the next main meeting, allow a month for review, and bring to a vote the following month.
7. Sean (Principal)/Administration: Encourage greater participation from freshmen in future school improvement plan meetings and processes.
8. School Committee/Subcommittee: Authorize the transportation subcommittee to access legal counsel as necessary to resolve ongoing issues with electric school buses.
9. Sean (Principal)/Suzanne: At the end of the fiscal year (June 22nd), finalize recommendations for covering the cost of the district-wide election from savings within various budget lines, as needed.
10. Sean (Principal)/Suzanne: Consider combining part-time staff positions in guidance to create a more efficient full-time position and bring recommendations to the committee as appropriate.

- 11. Athletics Subcommittee: Meet on Thursday morning to review spring participation numbers, discuss facilities (scoreboard, tennis court repairs, field improvement plans), and address club sports status.**
- 12. Athletics Subcommittee: Investigate and report on equity and accessibility for all students regarding team travel and participation, especially for out-of-state/overnight trips.**
- 13. Athletics Subcommittee: Continue to pursue repairs for tennis courts and scoreboard, including seeking contractors and reporting on status.**