



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
Transportation Subcommittee
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 8:30 am
Zoom
DATE REVISED on 4/1/26

Present: Chair - Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer, Skipper Manter
Transportation: Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward, Transportation Director - Troy Vanderhoop*
MVRHS: Principal - Sean Mulvey**, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi
Supt's Office: Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman
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 Marsha Shufrin called this meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Vote Required

II. Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2026

*Skipper Manter made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.
Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

Vote Required

III. Transportation Agreement

A. Transition Payments for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drivers

Mark Friedman provided an update. The agreement has been reviewed and there is one specific driver that needs to be brought to the attention of the committee, with regards to the transition payments for the newly updated contract. This one person, after meeting with Mark, is a CDL driver that has been covering for 2.5 drivers for this past year. Runs have been condensed and they are doing a lot more work, leaving their transition payments to be a lot higher. There was a question about retirement as they are in that system but have been working, but have since reversed their retirement and are not collecting those benefits. This is a combined run that includes the Charter School and Up-Island. Both Marsha and Skipper expressed support in making this driver whole with the new agreement. Mark Friedman was hoping Troy was available as he may not necessarily agree with this person covering the positions total 2.5 drivers. Additionally, Suzanne wants to make sure there is compliance with the retirement revocation. Chyenne spoke to the runs and also disagreed with the 2.5 person comparison, but Skipper and Marsha both agreed that the numbers for salary show what they show, so regardless of how many runs this driver is covering, the make whole number speaks for itself. These runs have been budgeted for, and the budget is prepared to cover this amount for FY27 as well. The vacation payments are what is not in this budget so Mark does expect some overages but the math is not yet complete with those anticipated payments. *Skipper Manter made a motion to make up the transition shortage as shown and presented today, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Manter - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.
Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

IV. Operations Update

Chyenne gave an Operations update, stating that one electric bus is on the road but needs to be charged at the VTA daily, as the third round of new chargers is not working. Travel buses are coming back from Rhode Island totally fixed, three will be on the road tomorrow morning, the fourth by the end of the week. There are two meetings this week with drivers and monitors to discuss the new pay structure and time sheets. Planning has begun for the summer transportation needs. Skipper wondered about replacing the two “lemon” electric buses so that there can be forward motion with electrifying the fleet by 2040 as committed to the towns. Richie mentioned that this has been discussed by transportation as well and are looking into options. Kathryn asked Chyenne for clarification on the charging replacements, to which she responded that the originals stopped working, so they were replaced, the second round did not charge, and last Tuesday replacements were installed and those also do not work. It is unclear if it is the buses or the chargers themselves. Anderson Motors agreed to replace the second chargers at no cost, of which those did not work, but for some reason it does work at the VTA, who has a slightly different charger. There is a hope to have an engineer diagnose the problem, meaning the bus will need to be sent by barge to Rhode Island. Kathryn asked if the buses were still under warranty with Anderson Motors, to which Mark responded that he would check. Troy said that the school does have to pay for the tow and barge which is \$3,500. A Boston school that Troy has been in contact with turned in their first generation electric buses and have had success with their second generation electric buses. The bus that is not working, Troy is having it towed up to the VTA to see if it will work with their charger, as each of these buses only have about 8000 miles on them and have new batteries. Skipper indicated that he thinks this needs to go to the full school committee to address as there are so many issues and some decisions should be made about what to do with these buses.

V. Electric Buses Update

Discussed in the previous agenda item.

Vote Required

VI. Surplussing Vehicles

Mark Friedman showed 4 vehicles: 2 vans, 1 sedan and 1 suv that need to be surplussed. What needs to be replaced has been replaced, and they are of no use to the transportation department. *Skipper Manter made a motion for the school committee to surplus these four vehicles, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye. Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

VII. New Meeting Time

To accommodate new schedules and requests, the committee discussed a few options, finally landing on a 9 am start time, instead of 8:30 am, to allow for more complete attendance from the transportation department.

VIII. Off Island Driver’s Negotiations

Mark Friedman mentioned there are three off island drivers, and their agreement needs to be updated now that the on-island agreement is complete. Some work has already been done, but Mark is looking for some of the committee to attend those meetings. Mark does not believe this should take nearly as long as the on-island negotiation. Marsha will work with Mark to schedule this meeting. Kathryn did make a request to have this new agreement for off-island be in alignment with the on-island agreement as much as it can be.

IX. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

X. Public Comment

No public comment for this meeting.

XI. Adjournment

*Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Skipper Manter. Roll Call: Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.
Motion Passes: 3-0-0*

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. 4.6.26 Transportation Sub-committee Agenda**
- 2. CDL Driver Analysis - Transition Compensation - 1-29-26 C**
- 3. DRAFT Transportation Subcommittee 030226**
- 4. FY27 MVRHS Budget LINE-ITEMS - 4-06-26**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Mark and Troy: Contact the Boston Public Schools to learn from their experience with first-generation electric buses and their process for returning/trading in problematic buses with Anderson/Bluebird.**
- 2. Mark: Check the warranty status of the electric buses and follow up with Anderson/Bluebird regarding warranty coverage and potential for replacement or trade-in for second-generation buses.**
- 3. Mark: Email the list of vehicles proposed for surplusing to the subcommittee after the meeting.**
- 4. Mark (and interested subcommittee members): Arrange and schedule Zoom negotiations with off-island drivers regarding their agreement, using the current on-island agreement as a template.**
- 5. Suzanne: Follow up to ensure compliance with re-enrollment of the driver who reversed retirement into the retirement system.**
- 6. Cheyenne/Troy/Mark: Continue coordination with Anderson Motors and InCharge to resolve ongoing electric bus charging and operational issues, including arranging for further diagnosis and possible return of buses to Rhode Island as needed.**
- 7. Subcommittee: Place an update/discussion on electric bus issues on the agenda for the May meeting for a full report to the subcommittee and, as appropriate, to the full school committee.**
- 8. Marsha: Schedule the next subcommittee meeting for 9:00 a.m. to accommodate key participants.**