MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm
Library or Zoom
REVISED on 5/1/26

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Present:	Chair - Skipper Manter, Robert Lionette, Jen Cutrer, Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer, Amy, Houghton**, Sarah Murphy*
Staff:	Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Director of Student Affairs - Jared Andrews, Administrator 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 5:30 pm.

II. Routine Reports
A. Student Report
1. Student Report of Activities
For the final time, Student body President and Vice President, Seniors Milo Sullivan and Nora Motahari attended to give an update on recent and upcoming student activities. This week is Teacher Appreciation week and there are small things around the school for staff this week. MCAS are coming up for Sophomores, and STING (Smooth Transition Into Ninth Grade) will be happening soon, where the upcoming Freshman are welcomed to the building and spend a few hours doing activities with some staff and upperclassmen. NHS has elections coming for next year and the Seniors are almost done with senior assassins, with about 5 students remaining. Senior Prom is in two weeks at the Edgartown Yacht Club, seniors have a free dinner at Atria, and Farm Neck Brunch on June 1, 2026. The next school committee meeting will be attended by Griffin Buelher and Addison Blake, Junior class President and Vice President, to present on behalf of the student body. Milo took a moment to highlight student activities, where Baseball is currently 5-6, Softball is 1-8, Boys Tennis is 6-2, Girls Tennis is 9-0 putting them first in division 3 right now, Boys Lacrosse is 3-4, Girls Lacrosse is 7-4, Track and Field has their State relay races last weekend and a meet on May 5, 2026, Sailing has their Cape & Islands Regatta on May 20, 2026. Additionally, AP exams are currently underway. Milo plans on attending UMASS Amherst Business, majoring in Finance and Nora is attending University of New Hampshire, majoring in School Science.

B. **Department Spotlight**

CTE Director and Culinary Teacher Jack O'Malley attended to present on behalf of the CTE department. Starting with Automotive, taught by Ken Ward. Mr. Ward is able to use staff vehicles in need of repairs as an opportunity for the students to gain hands-on experience. Last year, with the Perkins Grant and the Vogue Machinery Budget, the automotive department was able to purchase a new alignment machine with ADS capability allowing for moe work on newer cars, aligning mirrors, and cameras, with this possibly being the only one of these on the island. This was decided on by the advisory committee that assists the CTE department and oversees curriculum, made up of professionals in that field. Carpentry is next, which is referred to as Building Trades. This program is used not just for carpentry, but also an electrical and plumbing feeder program. Freshman start with building stools, Sophomore year they start out on the sheds, then Junior and Senior year that expands, including work study or co-op work with local companies. Juniors and Seniors are also working on the timber frame project for the Town of Tisbury. A $75,000 grant is going towards the purchase of a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine, which will live in Carpentry but will also support the work of the Technology students and the Design and Architecture students. This machine is a router laser cutter, managed through a computer, meaning this increases our students' use of advanced tools in their fields, in building trades it is used primarily for cabinet making. Culinary is next, taught by both Jack O'Malley and Kevin Crowell, on alternating days. The department hosts functions where the students get hands-on experience working on everything from dishes, clean up, menu writing and of course preparing entrees and deserts and everything in between. Early Childhood has students out at Community Services and working with Project Headway, located in the High School, in addition to some students helping in grades K-4 at the Oak Bluffs School. Early Childhood has also launched a reading time at the West Tisbury Library, where students will read and play with the kids that attend, with more requests for these types of programs coming in across the island. Community Services just credited the High School with supplying new staff, as students are licensed when they graduate and can go right to work in the programs if they so choose, and use that time to gain hours for early education teaching certifications. Health Assisting is next, which is probably the most popular program, giving students a broad range of career options. As Juniors, they study for their CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) exam, and have been going to JML Care Center, a Nursing home in Falmouth, where they are able to be assessed on their skills and competencies when caring for patients. The hope is to continue that work with Windemere when the new facility is up and running, as that was where these skills had been learned in the past. There is some unique structuring of this program due to number caps, with only 9 students for Junior year, but increasing to 12 Senior year because of placement opportunities. Lastly, there is the Horticulture program, who will have their big sale this coming weekend. Students have been propagating and plating all year for this community event. In addition, there is some landscape design and stone work taught, for example, making a peastone driveway with a gravel edge. Student enrollment was stable this year for all programs, and all students in the CTE program will get the OSHA Certification, which is a 10 hour course, and a lifetime of certification, which is required in most of these industries. Co-op and Workstudy are essentially the same thing, getting Juniors and Seniors out in the workforce and earning credits through that work, but co-op still get articulation agreements, as well as scholarship support, and with a Chapter 74 student, there are more funding options available. These programs also offer field trip opportunities, for example, some students visited CCRI, Cape Cod Community College to visit their Aviation Mechanic program, and a visit to the Heritage Gardens in Sandwich soon. Approximately 160 students sign up Freshman year, and complete a full semester of rotating through each program, and at the end of the semester have an opportunity to decide which shop they would like to be in for the remainder of the year, or can choose a new elective. Approximately 30 kids choose a new elective or a study hall, about 40 kids do not get their first choice on shop but all requests are accommodated as best as possible. Sophomore year, there are other electives, including Driver's Ed that open, meaning Sophomores sometimes have less time in their schedules, so a student wanting to remain in the program has the option for a one block class, and then Junior and Senior year, these become double block classes.

C. School Building Project Update

Sam Hart gave an update with regards to the building project and where it stands today, discussing the website dedicated to the project. Since the launch of the website, traffic has been monitored and has increased, with the addition of the tax calculator. There are 29 days until the vote on June 2, 2026. There are still community forums planned, one of which is occurring at the same time as this meeting. The website also has a calendar, showing when each of these forums and walk-throughs will occur, with about 2-3 events per week leading up to the vote, and happening both in person and over zoom, providing as much opportunity for attendance as possible. Mark Friedman gave an update on advertising in the papers, which will occur for 2 consecutive weeks leading up to the vote. Kathryn encouraged anyone that still has questions or feels uninformed to please come forward and ask questions so as not to negatively impact all of this work that has occurred to get to this point.

D. Principal

1. **General Update**
   Sean Mulvey gave a brief update about what is happening in this building, and this week is Teacher Appreciation week so there is quite a bit going on, with the help of the PTO. AP Exams are happening for the next 2 weeks, and MCAS in the next couple of weeks. ELL ACCESS scores have come back and there are 19 students graduating out of the program this year.
2. **MVRHS Title I School Family Engagement Procedure**
   Sean Mulvey started a screen share, presenting the MVRHS School Family Engagement document that is still a work in progress, and is part of the Title I audit. This came up across the district as this was an older policy. Each school is now making one for themselves, to be school-based, but the Principals are discussing best practices across the district. More to come on this, but presented as a work in progress.
3. **Student Handbook Discussion**
   Sean Mulvey started a screen share, presenting the MVRHS Student Handbook Draft for FY27. There were a lot of changes last year, so this year has much less. At this time, there are only a few suggested portions needing work, for example the NHS bylaws were updated and will need to be reflected in the new book for FY27. This is about 85-90% complete at this time, and anticipate 99% completion within the week. For the next meeting this will be presented in the same way it was last year, indicating areas of change within the table of contents.

Votes Required

4. **Staffing Changes**
   Sean Mulvey discussed proposals for staffing adjustments to accommodate new needs within the budget for FY27. Some of this is driven by student requests and some driven by departmental changes. As of now, there are two unhired positions, one in World Language as a Portuguese Teacher and .7 Title I position. There is no need to hire an additional Portuguese Teacher based on enrollment numbers, and the Title I is being vacated so that this person can take on another role. A SAC (School Adjustment Counselor) is vacating .4 of their 1.0 position, and there is currently a part-time (.5) SAC that is interested in a full-time position, Sean is suggesting taking that .5, the vacated .4, and taking .1 from the Title I to make a 1.0 position, and the person expected to apply already has benefits, so there would not be further need. The title I position generally supports work within the SAO, so the remaining .5 of the Title I position, Sean is recommending filling that position with an ASP that can help the offices manage traffic from student drop-ins as that office is busy and there is only .4 support at this time. This .6 position would likely need benefits as there is not someone employed

currently to take on that role. The final adjustment needed is due to the addition of some new courses in the history department, creating a need for a .6 position, including AP Government, Intro to Wampanoag Studies, and Early College Global History. The suggestion would be to pull that .6 from the vacant 1.0 World Language position. Kathryn expressed concern over these positions being funded this way for several reasons, the first being these positions will need to be budgeted for the following school year so they are new positions, additionally Kathryn is concerned about the potential need for the current positions being pulled from, and having to rebudget for those. After a brief discussion, Robert suggested a one year only for these positions at this time.
Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Principal in creating a 1.0 Adjustment Counselor position, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 7-0-0
Robert Lionette made a motion to create a one year only Student Affairs office ASP .6 to be funded as displayed by the Principal, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Nay.
Motion Passes: 6-1-0
Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Principal and create a .6 position in the History Department for one year only for the classes as indicated, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Nay, Manter - Nay.
Motion Passes: 5-2-0

E. Superintendent

1. General Update

Richie Smith took a moment to read a letter sent by Principal elect Bryan Lombardi, who expressed gratitude and looks forward to working at MVRHS in the coming years. Given the start date of July 1, 2026 and Sean Mulvey's end date of June 30, 2026, Richie informed the committee that while reviewing the end of year budget and reconciling lines, he will be coming with a proposal for Sean to work during the summer alongside Bryan. Additionally, Edgartown has elected Elliott Bennett to the School Committee, as Kelly Scott has stepped down. As new appointments to the school committee occur after May 31, 2026, a new representative will have to be appointed for Edgartown. There are two final school committee meetings this year, and during those meetings Richie intends to speak to the revolving lunch fund deficit, which has been worked on, but, structurally something will need to be put in place. At the elementary level, those positions are included in the operation budget, but that is not the case for the High School and instead are funded through the revolving budget. There used to be a $90,000 contingency but that evaporated during COVID when there was 100% reimbursements, but more to come in the next meetings.

Votes Required

III. Consents

A. Minutes: April 6, 2026 & April 9, 2026

Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026 and April 9, 2026, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

B. Mascot Discussion and Possible Vote

This agenda item has been moved to the June meeting, though Richie Smith did reach out to the district attorney and has been told this is something the School Committee should oversee. Peter Sumners did review the minutes and found on March 25, 2020 that Kimberly Kirk, a former school committee member, said that adopting a logo or mascot was part of school committee policy. Peter was not able to locate anything in Policy at this time with regards to the Mascot, but a policy will be drafted for the committee to review and vote.

C. School Improvement Plan

Sean Mulvey started a screen share for the School Improvement Plan Draft, and asked if the committee had any questions since it was reviewed last month, of which Robert asked about having a cycle to check in on progress throughout the school year. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the document, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

D. Personnel

1. Jeffrey Duarte

Sean Mulvey read a letter from Jeffrey Duarte, giving his resignation. *Robert Lionette made a motion to acknowledge the resignation with gratitude, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

E. Grants and Donations

1. Grants for Acceptance

Mark Friedman discussed the recent announcement by the Governor that 28 schools will receive a portion of a $70 Mil grant to expand Career and Technical programs and MVRHS has been awarded $2 Mil of that grant which will go toward equipment related to the upcoming project. This was a competitive grant program and thanks should go to those that worked hard on this, specifically Sam Hart, Suzanne Cioffi and Jack O'Malley. The restrictions on use include 70% of the grant has to go towards covering design, OPM and construction expenses, and then 30% goes toward equipment related in the programs, like auto repair, carpentry and healthcare and the grant allows for spending through FY28. There are other competitive grants that will also be applied for. This grant will help to reduce the borrowing costs for the building project related to the CTE programs above. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept the $2 million grant from the state for the CTE Department with gratitude, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

2. Donations

Suzanne Cioffi presented a $250 donation from the Vineyard Conservation Society for the Science Fair that took place in February. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to accept the donation from the Vineyard Conservation Society for the Science Fair, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

F. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel

1. Early College

Sean Mulvey indicated there are 14 students and 4 staff that will be attending Middlesex College, MVRHS partner in secondary education, they spend the night, allowing extra time to spend on a college campus. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the overnight trip to Middlesex College, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 7-0-0

G. Surplus Vehicles

Mark Friedman did a screen share with regards to surplus vehicles. There were four presented, all over ten years old, that the Transportation Department recommended they be surplus, two of which are being replaced. *Robert Lionette made a motion to declare these four vehicles surplus and dispose of in the best interest of the district, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*

H. Transportation Agreement Amendment - Transition Payments

Mark Friedman spoke to this topic, where there was one CDL driver identified as having a larger transition payment, given the way their routes have been consolidated as this driver is essentially covering what totals about 3 runs. The calculated amount went from $1,700 to $6,500 and needs approval of the committee. *Marsha Shufrin made a motion to approve to increase, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Abstain, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 5-0-1
Robert Lionette did not vote

IV. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Suzanne Cioffi passed around the revenue and expenditure reports for this month, bringing two items in particular to the committee's attention. These items are both under Facilities, the first of which is the Heating Fuel, which is currently in a deficit but that is because the Purchase Order has not been closed out yet, so that number will be adjusted. The second time is under Utilities where the Oak Bluffs Wastewater is coming in at $62,000 but an appeal has already been filed. The Wastewater Superintendent said there was a change in billing this year so he expects it is likely a billing error on their part. Suzanne hopes to have these taken care of by the June 22, 2026 meeting at the latest. Skipper suggested possibly receiving the wastewater reports printed quarterly for next year.

V. Subcommittee Updates

A. Transportation

Marsha Shufrin spoke to this topic, starting with Monday, May 11, 2026 which will be the start of the off island transportation negotiations, and a transportation subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Suzanne Cioffi spoke briefly to the new pay system for transportation which included one true week, and one school vacation week where the drivers received some pay, and went as smoothly as it could, given it being new, and will meet with drivers every couple of weeks for now, to answer any questions.

B. Facilities

Suzanne Cioffi took a minute to mention that Charlie has not yet purchased the projector for the Film Festival as discussed earlier in the year. AT this time Charlie is waiting for the vote on the building before making a large purchase to allow for compatibility with the new building.

Vote Required

1. Facility Usage Fees

Amy Houghton spoke to this, which was brought to the full committee as the facilities subcommittee was not able to have a quorum at their last planned meeting. The Usage Fee has been looked at of the years, and had found it would be best to recommend an increase in the custodial fee which has been $40 per hour, per custodian but having events that are nights and weekends, their pay becomes overtime pay and Amy suggested $60 per hour per custodian as the new fee, which would cover those costs. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to increase the Custodial Facilities Usage Fee from $40 per hour to $60 per hour, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 6-0-0

2. HVAC Controls

Amy Houghton discussed this topic, as there are a number of units, HVAC controls and dampers that are not working properly or non-existent. Jason O'Donnell has done some research and made suggestions given the potential new building. A temporary solution is to replace the unit controllers at $5,000 each, 16 needing to be replaced in total, but the PAC and Library have none, so firming these numbers needs to be discussed and this is a large amount needing to be funded and is not budgeted for. Skipper suggests waiting until after the vote on June 2, 2026 to decide how to move forward. At this time there is no estimate on the installation but that will also need to be factored in. It is possible some of this can come from the PAC Revolving budget but needs further discussion.

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

Jen Cutrer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 6-0-0

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: June 1, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. **Agenda MVRHS SC 5.4.26**
2. **II. D. 2. MVRHS School Family Engagement**
3. **II. D. 3. SC - MVRHS Student Handbook 26_27 DRAFT**
4. **II. D. 4. MVRHS Staffing Changes for 26-27**
5. **III. A. Minutes 2026 4.9 School Committee CERTIFIED**
6. **III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 040626**
7. **III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 040926**
8. **III. C. DRAFT SIP MVRHS 2026-2027**
9. **III. D. 1. Duarte Lttr**
10. **III. E. MVRHS School Committee Grants Memo 05042026 x**
11. **III. E. THE_RAFAEL_J_FUSCO_SCHOLARSHIP_FUNDdocx**
12. **III. F. Early College Out of State and Overnight Travel Form**
13. **III. G. CDL Driver Analysis - Transportation Compensation 1-29-2026 C (1)**
14. **III. G. Surplus Vehicles - MVRHS - 4-06-2026**
15. **V. B. 1. Facilities Usage Fees**
16. **Zfc 40ct equipment Budget Detail**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

1. **School Building Committee Outreach Working Group: Continue organizing and promoting community forums and information sessions about the school building project up to the June 2nd vote.**
2. **Sam (and relevant staff): Publish the district-wide election warrant in both local newspapers (The Times and the Gazette) on specified dates (May 14th/21st for The Times, May 14th/22nd for the Gazette) prior to the June 2nd vote.**
3. **School Committee Members/Community: Spread information about the school building project and encourage voter turnout, especially targeting those who support the project.**
4. **Jack O'Malley: Email the CTE department slideshow to Suzanne (or relevant staff) for screen sharing during the meeting (already in progress but noted as an action during the meeting).**
5. **Principal/Noelle: Continue development of the Title I family engagement procedure/policy and present a more polished version at the next meeting.**
6. **Principal/Team: Finalize updates to the student handbook and provide a table of contents highlighting changes for review at the next meeting; send final draft to incoming superintendent for review.**
7. **Principal/Team: Bring forward a proposal at the June 1st and June 22nd meetings regarding funding and role for Sean (interim principal) to support the new principal's transition through the summer.**
8. **Administration/Kevin Kroll: Work administratively to address the current deficit in the revolving lunch fund and develop a structural plan for future years; present findings and proposal at the June 1st meeting.**
9. **Students/Student Government: Tabulate final mascot vote tallies and present results at the next school committee meeting.**
10. **Robert: Draft a policy regarding school committee oversight of mascot/logo adoption process for review.**
11. **Principal/Team: Set up a regular schedule (e.g., every 6 months) for updates and presentations on the school improvement plan to the committee.**
12. **Facilities Committee/Jason/Suzanne: Schedule a facilities meeting to determine the urgency, number, and phasing of HVAC controller replacements needed, and provide recommendations on timing and funding sources at the June 1st meeting.**
13. **Facilities Committee: Discuss and decide on the purchase of a projector for the Performing Arts Center after the June 2nd building project vote.**
14. **Suzanne/Jason: Provide detailed cost estimates for HVAC controller installation (including labor) for review at the next facilities meeting.**

15. **Transportation Subcommittee: Meet with drivers again next week to address questions and suggestions regarding the new hourly timesheet system.**
16. **Principal/Team: Post and fill the full-time adjustment counselor position as approved.**
17. **Principal/Team: Post and fill the .6 Student Affairs Office (SAO) ESP position as a one-year-only appointment.**
18. **Principal/Team: Post and fill the .6 History Department position (for AP Government, Intro to Wampanoag Studies, Early College Global History) as a one-year-only appointment.**
19. **Principal/Team: Surplus the four identified vehicles and dispose of them in the best interest of the district.**
20. **Transportation Subcommittee: Begin negotiations with off-island bus starters on their agreement.**
21. **School Committee: Approve the amendment to the transportation agreement to update the transition payment calculation for the specified CDL driver.**
22. **School Committee: Approve increase of custodial fee for facility usage from $40 to $60 per hour.**