MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2026 at 5:30 pm
Library or Zoom

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Present:	Chair - Skipper Manter, Jen Cutrer, Marsha Shufrin, Elliott Bennett, Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer, Amy Houghton, Sarah Murphy, Robert Lionette
Staff:	Principal - Bryan Lombardi, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveira, Former Principal - Sean Mulvey Zoom: Technology Director - Rick Mello**, Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward, Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell*, Administrator of Student Affairs - Jared Andrews*
Supt's Office:	Superintendent - Jaime Curley, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services - Hope MacLeod Zoom: Grants Coordinator - Bernadette Cormie*
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 5:31 pm.

A. Welcome Superintendent Jaime Curley

New Superintendent, Jaime Curley took a moment to introduce herself, and is excited to begin. Has met and learned as much as possible since she began last week, and was able to spend 5 days with Richie Smith before his departure.

B. Welcome Principal Bryan Lombardi

New Principal, Bryan Lombardi took a moment to introduce himself, and thanked the committee for his selection for the position. He thanked Sean, Justine and Sam for his on-boarding, and is excited to work collaboratively with everyone.

Votes Required

II. Routine Reports

A. School Building Project Update

Sam Hart gave a brief update on the building project, where work is being done on the design and the next deadline is the second week in December, when the Design Development plan (DD) to the MSBA. The architect is working on refining some of the general spaces, like the custodial area, bathrooms and locker rooms, and the PAC throughout the summer, and meet with departments in the fall, going department by department to define spaces, decide furniture and fixtures. The next School Building Committee meeting is July 21, 2026. Some of the contracts for OPM, the architect and construction management are being worked on to address necessary amendments based on the project scope and approved budget agreement approved in February, which is being reviewed by the attorney. Those will need to be voted on once complete. Every piece of information for the bond council to get the full state review of the

borrowing request has been submitted with the exception of one item being worked on with MSBA, which is the executed project funding agreement. As soon as that is done, the bond council will have their full package for review, as they have to go through every single piece of that process, and after that the schedule and amounts for short term borrowing can be done. Robert asked about the composition of the School Building Committee and if there need to be changes, to which Sam responded that it was discussed at the last School Building Committee meeting that now would be a good time to address the size requirements set forth by the School Committee, and West Tisbury Select Board has already agreed to lift the requirements which include two representatives from each town, and three from Oak Bluffs. The hope is that the other towns will see that benefit, which would allow for the School Building Committee to right size itself, and get people on the committee that are knowledgeable with municipal construction, building and design. This would allow for the project to move forward more quickly, and keep the project going. Robert then asked how much of the structure is still defined by the State to which Sam responded that it is the same structure, this would just allow for not having 13 extra people on the committee, so this would essentially just remove the extra requirements proposed about 2.5 - 3 years ago by the towns, and approved by the School Committee, and the school committee will have the final approval and vote. After continued discussion on the responsibilities of the composition of the School Building Committee, and the time it may take to move forward in the current way of reducing the membership size requirements. *Amy Houghton made a motion that the School Committee issue a letter to all of the representatives on the School Building Committee and to town leadership if they are not represented in that composition, indicating that with the change in the building project, that the committee will be reorganizing the School Building Committee, and the committee will now be comprised of those mandated by the MSBA, and the School Committee will identify other individuals to invite to the table so that the project can have the expertise needed to push the project forward, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 9-0-0

B. Principal

1. **General Update**
   Principal Bryan Lombardi gave a brief update, seeing staff energized in shutting down the last school year, and starting the new one, and today was the first day of summer school. Former Principal Sean Mulvey added only that it has been a smooth transition with Bryan taking over with Sean's confidence in him building by the hour.
2. **Mascot Update by Administration and Possible Vote**
   Justine started a screen share with some information for the committee to consider with regards to the mascot presentation and potential addition. This slideshow gives historical information dating back to 2019, showing how this new proposal came to be, and what has been used in the time since the new branding occurred. See MVRHS Branding Timeline document which shows the events from 2019 to today, where fonts, colors and images were approved for use to have the school feel more unified, in addition to work from the Leadership class with painting and improvements in the locker rooms and other seating options done throughout the building. A committee had been formed with various stakeholders by the School Committee to assist with these decisions. Once some of that had been determined it was brought to faculty and staff for comment. In January and February 2020, an email was shared with the staff indicating these are marks and not mascots. In 2021 a Race and Equity committee that had been formed within the school, and that committee presented their concerns about the Fisherperson, feeling as though it did not fully represent that school and could be interpreted as a white male, and not inclusive of the entire school community. In August of 2021 there was a communication put out to the athletics teams to stop using that logo until further notice. Since then, a mascot has been a topic the students have gone back to several times, craving one, looking to build school spirit and pride. That year there

was an open ended survey that had the Osprey and Mako Shark with the most suggestions, but competing school Monomoy uses a shark as their mascot and it stalled again. Then in 2022, there was a presentation to adopt an Osprey as the mascot, which had been put on the school committee agenda, but the agenda item got bumped, that student graduated and it stalled again. This year, the Spirit Club decided to try again, looking for an option that was most representative of the school community, and tying a non-human option in to reflect the values of the school. There were 9 original options, narrowed down to 3, and then two after the Tide option received the lowest amount of votes, and reached out to those voters to give them an opportunity to decide between the Osprey and Mako Shark, with the Mako winning the larger percentage. Bryan expressed his support of this process, the empowerment and work done by the students, and feels as though there will have to be an internal process to make sure this is used appropriately across the board with athletics and clubs, and any other entity representing MVRHS. Robert agreed there should be some oversight with the Mascot and making sure colorways and logs and fonts are all consistent. Kathryn lets it be known that she has never been against the Mako, but feels as though the committee has failed to account for how things are being used, and there needs to be accountability in the use of the mascot and branding to be unified, to which Elliott agreed but felt as though Bryan can find a way to do that with the leadership team by bringing them together to discuss this internally and develop policies and protocols to maintain that integrity. Bryan and his team will follow up in the fall with the committee regarding governing the use of the mascot. *Amy Houghton made a motion to adopt the Mako Shark as a mascot, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Nay, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 8-1-0

C. Superintendent

1. **General Update**
Superintendent Jaime Curley gave a brief update, she has been busy since she started, meeting with School Committee members and Administration, and visiting the buildings. Jaime is meeting with the union on Friday, worked with Mark on finances, and met with Sam about the building project, to name a few. She has been working on hiring, and contracts. And has felt extremely supported in this transition. Jaime is working on planning the Admin retreat, planning convocation, and getting acclimated to the island. Ashley Lopes accepted the proposed contract as the Assistant Superintendent, beginning on August 3, 2026.

Votes Required

III. Consents

A. Minutes: June 22, 2026

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Abstain, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 8-0-1

B. Personnel

1. **Trevor Grimes Intent to Use Family Medical Leave**
Sean indicated that Trevor still intends to move forward with this but is still working on the paperwork. Request to be tabled at the next meeting.
2. **Treasure's Retirement**
Marylee Schroeder intends to retire in November after 29 years, she works for the High School and the Up Island District. This will need to be posted as separate positions, and a job description has already been written. Robert did ask that, given the commands of the building project, will the MVRHS position require more than 50% of the time that Marylee had been given, to which Mark indicated that was a good question that would

need to be explored further. Currently the High School position is .5, and the Up Island position is .3.

C. Grants and Donations

1. Grants for Acceptance

Mark had one fiscal agency grant for this evening, from the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program in the amount of $234,565 which is a bit up from last year, which was the first year. This will be refined for this year as there will be a new coordinator, as it was previously overseen by Kim Garrison. It is a complicated program given the way the schools are structured, and is focused on the existing cohort from last year. *Rizwan Malik made a motion to accept the $234,565 grant, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 9-0-0

Per Mark, the state has also issued an additional amount of Rural School Aid, but it is not ready for acceptance at this time. This is an FY26 allocation, but due to the timeline of receiving so late in the year, the state has allowed for FY27 spending, in the amount of $114,160 as a supplemental amount, and is not part of the fall amount anticipated to be received, which generally happens around Thanksgiving.

D. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel

No out-of-state or overnight travel at this time.

E. 7th & 8th Grade Waiver for Girls Ice Hockey

Kathryn indicated that there has been a huge shift in the girls program, and numbers are dropping. Unexpectedly there has been a loss of coach and assistant coach. New Varsity coach, Jim Geary took a moment to address the committee, indicating his wish to have a waiver for 7th and 8th grade to build the team. At this time, there are only 10-11 players returning, 2 of which are rising freshmen that participated via waiver last year, and 2 of which are goalies, so 10-11 actual players. There is no option to co-op on the island, whereas other schools do have this opportunity. Many of the other schools MVRHS currently plays do have 7th and 8th grade players, and there are some wonderful returning seniors. Jim hopes to have this become a sistering mentor program, and to build the program, and to allow players an opportunity to rest during a game. Jim has also been working with youth hockey to build the programs back up, looking for about two 8th graders, and three to four 7th graders. Given Nantucket was previously in this situation, Robert asked if Kathryn or Jim had been aware of what steps they took to increase program participation, to which Jim responded that 2 years ago they did not have a team, last year they played a condensed season, and this was done via waiver for 7th and 8th grade participation. Amy Houghton did ask that overnight programs come to the committee for approval well before the trip occurs, given the age gap between the students and allow the committee to think those requests through. *Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the 7th and 8th grade waiver for girls ice hockey, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 9-0-0

F. Update Make Whole Payments for Drivers and Monitors, Possible Vote for New Adjustments

Marsha spoke to the recent discussion of the transition payments for the Bus Drivers and Monitors, of which most have been paid. But the subcommittee was recently made aware there are 6 Drivers and Monitors who were omitted from the schedule due to Project Headway runs and how they were paid out in the past. Headway runs have been submitted differently, and drivers have been instructed to submit hourly and run based for these runs, meaning the new agreement did not account for these transition payments for these drivers and monitors. Mark has done an analysis of the time sheets for the two months prior to the new agreement and the time afterwards, and of the 6 staff people reviewed, 2 may not be eligible as they have already received transition payments, but the remaining 4 based on hours, not payroll numbers are, with

a total amount is $3,341 for the four. Mark suggested the transition funds be encumbered at the request of the committee, until the completion of the audit. Amy expressed being dismayed that transition payments occurred after the subcommittee was made aware, and the timesheets as she has reviewed them are not timesheets that anyone would see in any business in the last 40 years and the way that time has been calculated is in question. The MOA is not specific to how paid, or how time is being looked at. There is nothing to give guidance for next year, and there is a need to pay fairly.Making transition payments on top of timesheets and payroll issues is problematic and is poor judgement of the committee. There are so many differences in the way pay is calculated, some by the minute, some by the quarter hour and some being rounded up. There is no consistency in terms of hours. There are questions about schedules and if those schedules are tracked and who makes those schedules. The committee has agreed to the audit and that should be followed through with before any additional transition payments are made. Amy made the recommendation to go back to the negotiating table to discuss these hours and transition payments. Marsha wanted to clarify that these drivers acted under the direction of management, the transportation director, the transportation assistant director and the superintendent and any other administrator that has been involved in the last number of years, which could include Matt D'Andrea, Jim Weiss and potentially further. Kathryn expressed being in favor of encumbering the money but not making the payments, given the way the MOA is written is so unclear and unspecific. Mark added the amounts of the 2 additional, that have received some portion of their transition payments, that did not include the Project Headway runs, bringing the amount to $4,439.32 because within the group, not all schedules are exactly the same. Skipper expressed concern that these drivers have done exactly as they were instructed by their supervisors for many, many years and was not done underhanded, and that some of the department has already received their transition payments leaving inequity. This encumbered amount is likely not enough to cover attorneys fees to help sort this out, rather than just give it to the employees and then start fresh on June 3. Amy expressed concern that these transition payments are due to occur again in FY27, meaning paying these amounts will set a president on already overpaid amounts. Marsha indicated that these payments are to retain the bus drivers, and that if they are not made, staff will leave. *Marsha Shufrin made a motion to encumber $5,000 to cover any transition payments due through June 30, 2026 that need to be made, once it is determined what needs to be paid, subject to review by council or auditors, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Abstain, Houghton - Nay, Bennett - Nay, Manter - Nay.*
Motion Passes: 5-3-1

Vote Required

IV. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

None for this meeting, but the final reports should be ready for the August 3, 2026 meeting.

B. Update on Signing of Pay Warrants

Rizwan signed last week while Amy was away, but Suzanne has not signed off on payroll or the transportation vouchers. Skipper took a moment to familiarize both Jaime and Bryan with the issues at hand, and at this time, under guidance from counsel, at least one school committee member has signed with a note that there is an audit in progress. Suzanne clarified this is from transportation only, and will not sign the payroll voucher as it includes the transportation department. Amy agreed to sign again for the coming month. *Rizwan Malik made a motion to designate Amy Houghton to sign this month's pay warrants, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Abstain, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 8-0-1

C. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Contribution

Suzanne said there is a 25% additional contribution to OPEB once the books close, which will be done in August. Mark wanted to mention that since the committee is in the final timing to make adjustments to the FY26 budget and should be indicated now. Rizwan asked where the

rest comes from, to which Mark said just over $1 million is budgeted up front annually to go into the Trust Fund, but for many years there has been such large liability given MVYPS is the largest public employee on Martha's Vineyard it has taken a lot of effort to get to the point of annual contributions where the liability stops growing, which the district is closer to. In the last couple of years, the contribution has been about $130,000 additional. Elliott flashbacked to about 13 years ago, and expressed how this is heartening to see it being addressed but also discouraging that it's still not caught up, wondering if anything other than the 25% was being put in, and that is a large amount, has it stayed at 25% or has that been adjusted up or down, to which Suzanne responded that it is on the last page of the certified budget, when there is a new employee there is an increase, but COVID did change things due to staffing and budget reductions, so it has not been increased, but it has not been reduced either. The 25% is the highest amount additional that has been put in that Trust. Mark added that an updated analysis can be done as there are a number of pieces to the open liability and how it's being addressed. For example, there has always been a line item in the budget to pay for the current year's liability. For this year that just started, that line item is funded at $920,000 In addition, there is now a separate line item at $1,066,000 that is going to address the future years. But that's also part of the livelihood when these audit reports from the actuaries. They don't look at how we're funding our liability, they don't look at the current year versus the future years, they just look at, this is your liability, this is how much you're putting towards it, this is how close you are to being fully funded. But in putting more towards the liability than just the $1,066,000, we're putting $2 million a year towards it, but that $120,000 line item has been addressing the current year's line. This open liability, when it came up 13 years ago or so, was to force districts and cities and towns to look at, not just what their current liability, but all this other big liability that's out there, and just remind everybody that steps have been taken to put an open line item in the shared services budget, and We're trying to address that liability which is very close to meeting what's called the aid the employer required annual contribution level, so that not only will the liability stop growing, but it actually starts to get paid down. So when they come out with the next actuarial study it's possible we may be there, or we may still be a little bit off, but we're very close now. *Robert Lionette made a motion to transfer up to 25% of the final remaining general fund unencumbered balance and put it into the Dukes County OPEB Trust, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 9-0-0

V. Subcommittee Updates

A. Transportation
No additional update at this time.

B. Facilities
Jason and his team have been working to make sure the building is ready for the YMCA summer use. There should be a meeting in the next couple of weeks to start working through budgets.

C. Athletics
No additional update at this time.

D. Budget
No update at this time.

E. Audit
Amy Houghton provided an update with the scope of services, which has been put out to 6 firms, two of which said they could not do it, and one has come back to say they can do this work, with an 8 week turnaround. Today was the deadline for submission. The audit group will be reviewing the proposal to make recommendations to the full committee. This firm has extensive experience, and does have a municipal finance background. Amy did ask about encumbering funds to pay for this work, which is likely going to be more than the $50,000 previously suggested amount. Suzanne recommended contingency, and look for FY27 monies to

cover that cost, this cannot be taken out of FY26 as the contract is not signed in FY26. The Audit subcommittee will plan to meet Friday, July 10, 2026 at 8:00 am to review the contract from the responding firm. Amy will speak to the attorneys about how quickly they can turn it back over.

VI. Discussion of Non-Union Salary Adjustments

There was a 5% recommendation that did not pass a majority vote, then a 3.5% motion that did not have a second. At this time, there are no adjustments for the non-union salaries. Sarah has been made aware that the current teacher salary negotiations top step and administrative salaries gap is shrinking and feels as though this will not encourage staff to apply for administrative positions. Some administrators will be making less than teachers are the top step, and Sarah is in favor of a larger increase. Kathryn proposed the 3.5% because she was frustrated that there was a proposal to give people a COLA that was larger than budgeted for. Oak Bluffs did have to also address these issues, and did the 3.5%, but also offered a bump in the structural amount that was budgeted of 1.5%, which felt better as it was monies that were budgeted appropriately for COLA and structural. Amy indicated the Tisbury School also adjusted up, but it was uncomfortable, but there was a discussion about the compression between the top step and the Assistant Principals. The hope is for Jaime to look at this for the upcoming budget, review the numbers and make appropriate recommendations. Amy hopes to have non-union salaries discussed in executive session. Robert mentioned that each school and All Island totaled about 5% between COLA and structural, and would be comfortable with that being what happens at the High School. This will be on the next agenda of a special meeting in the next couple of weeks.

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment for this meeting.

Vote Required

IX. Adjournment

Jen Cutrer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 9-0-0

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. **MVRHS SC Meeting Zoom Recording 7.6.26**
2. **MVRHS Branding Timeline**
3. **Mascot Presentation School Committee July 6 2026**
4. **FY26 School Committee Grants Memo 07062026**
5. **DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 06.22.26**
6. **Agenda MVRHS SC 7.6.26**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

1. **Suzanne: Send a letter on behalf of the school committee to all representatives on the school building committee and town leadership, indicating the reorganization of the committee to consist of those mandated by the MSBA and other individuals with needed expertise.**
2. **Sam: Work with the towns to lift the requirement for two representatives from each town on the school building committee, allowing for a more manageable composition.**
3. **Brian Lombardi: Develop and present to the school committee in the fall an implementation guideline for the governance, oversight, and process of the newly adopted Mako shark mascot.**
4. **Mark: Present the updated job description for the treasurer position to the school committee for adoption.**
5. **Mark: Explore the need for adjusting the treasurer position to full-time for the high school due to the building project, and bring recommendations back to the committee.**
6. **Mark: Refine the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program for year 2 with the new coordinator.**
7. **Brian Lombardi and Suzanne: Develop a proposal for the use of the newly allocated $114,160 in rural school aid funds.**
8. **Jim Geary: Ensure that any future requests for overnight programs involving 7th and 8th graders are submitted to the school committee for approval prior to the event.**
9. **Mark: Encumber up to $5,000 to cover any transition payments due to transportation staff, subject to review by auditors or legal counsel.**
10. **Mark: Sign off on pay warrants for the high school, excluding transportation, and continue to address the issue of transportation payroll sign-off.**
11. **Mark: Make an additional 25% contribution (up to $130,000) to the OPEB trust fund at the end of FY26.**
12. **Amy Houghton: Schedule a meeting of the Audit Subcommittee for Friday at 8:00 AM to review the proposal for the independent transportation audit.**
13. **Amy Houghton: Work with the Audit Subcommittee and attorneys to finalize the contract for the transportation audit, with the goal of a school committee vote on July 16th.**
14. **Personnel Subcommittee: Work with Jamie Curley to develop a process for non-union salary adjustments, including addressing compression issues.**
15. **Jamie Curley: Meet with the union on Friday at 1PM.**
16. **Jamie Curley: Send emails to town administrators, police chiefs, and fire chiefs to arrange meetings.**
17. **Jamie Curley: Work on the Admin Retreat for mid-July and plan for convocation.**
18. **Facilities Subcommittee: Schedule a meeting for the next week or the week after to discuss budget requests related to facilities.**