



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Transportation Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Zoom

9 AM

[AGENDA Items Link](#)

Present: Chair - Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer, Skipper Manter
Transportation: Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward, Transportation Director - Troy Vanderhoop
MVRHS: Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi
Supt's Office: Superintendent - Richie Smith**, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman
Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

**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 9:03 am.

Vote Required

II. Approval of Minutes: April 6, 2026

Skipper Manter made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.

Motion Passes: 3-0-0

Vote Required

III. Operations Update

Chyenne Ward said they are moving forward with summer driver hiring, still needing to fill a few positions. Troy Vanderhoop said the new van has arrived and is in the process of being registered. There is still a driver shortage, but Troy has a potential hire in the pipeline, it just wouldn't be for this year. Troy has felt success with the new hourly rate, and managing the driver time. The largest issue right now is covering for when drivers take time off, sometimes it's for the day and sometimes it's for more like a week, and if there is a planned absence, but also a call-out, coverage can be tough, and does have some effect to the elementary schools but overall, it has been working. Skipper asked about how the drivers are fairing when they are asked to cover, to which Troy said they are responding well and is hopeful he may be able to consolidate some of the runs.

A. Implementation of New Agreement

There have been several questions about implementation but the group is meeting bi-weekly to discuss and answer questions.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Recommendations for Department Support

Richie Smith spoke to the payroll, internally, and having that transferred to Suzanne successfully, and making sure hours are submitted accurately, asking Chyenne and Suzanne to work together on that. Speaking to the number of runs, Richie reminded the committee that transportation has a shortage everywhere, across districts on the Cape and likely the State. Troy has been working to recruit through word of mouth, with minimal interest. At this time, Troy does not feel as though recruiting is going to be successful, as this shortage is across the Country, many potential hires expressing not wanting the responsibility for that many kids.

Richie suggested paying for CDL licensure and pay while training, thinking that may help to recruit. Having four new drivers would be ideal, but even if there were two more, Troy could be offering training support instead of doing pick ups and drop offs. In addition, the Charter School Transportation is being covered by the MVYPS district, and it may be time to re-evaluate that agreement. There is also the requirement through the state where anyone outside the 2 mile radius is required transportation, and any regionalized school needs to provide transportation. Daily driver training is 28 classroom hours, and driver training hours, taking approximately one month to complete. Kathryn expressed re-posting the exterior sign outside as word of mouth is not going to be enough to recruit. With the new contract, there may need to be more creative thinking to recruit. Kathryn wondered about a time clock, and if that would be helpful for the new system, and also wondered about the radius restrictions and the Charter School support as all these things do affect capacity. Some other thoughts from Kathryn, what if we got rid of the yellow buses, and used smaller transportation options, reducing the need for CDL drivers, and the use of diesel fuel. Busing school choice kids likely needs to be looked at, which was decided on by the Up Island Regional School District, given the time it adds, and driver need. Originally, this was intended to occur with students using existing stops and not adding more work, but Owen Park is now a designated stop for School Choice kids that need to get to West Tisbury, additionally having that afternoon stop as well. The afternoons are more full as students use the bus to get to town. Skipper asked for some clarification on the complexity of pay, given it being hour based, to which Chyenne responded that it was the time and a half for half days, with a split half day, is what caused complexities on the last payroll cycle, as elementary schools had a half day, but the high school did not. At this time, Jenn Shattuck has not been replaced, leaving additional work for Chyenne to get through with the complexities and hour verification. Kathryn wondered about Transportation providing a schedule to Suzanne, then having to just compare the hours on the time sheet to the schedule proposed. At this time, Suzanne has not been provided that schedule, but has been provided a master schedule. She needs the timesheets and has not been provided those, including the start and end times. There is no definitive start and end time on the master schedule. Some of the schedule will work, but some driver activities are not pensionable, and some are meaning having a time clock would be helpful, but Suzanne still needs to cull each time card. Skipper asked about hiring back the ASP for the transportation department, to which Richie responded he believes the issues as to why the last person left still remain. Adjusting this contract has brought a lot of issues and complexities to light, so it may feel as though it became more complicated and messy, but it is actually discovering issues that need to be addressed and worked through. The ASP position is complex, and with all the other changes and the dynamics in that department that need to be addressed before it can be posted for hire, Richie does not anticipate being the one to hire for this position, and will leave this for the new Superintendent. Mark has reached out to Rich LaBree to seek guidance on some of the needs to be addressed within the department, like processing payroll and time cards. Kathryn wondered if job descriptions would help better understand where the layers are, and what is the reality versus expectations. Suzanne believes there needs to be a more defined schedule for the drivers to help with processing the payroll. At this time, there is a driver that is helping a few days a week for a few hours at a time, and another staff person from Edgartown has been brought in for some assistance, so they have not been left fully without.

V. Electric Buses - Status Update

Troy Vanderhoop indicated there is still one electric bus up and running, and the other is being worked on by Anderson's in Rhode Island, but they have not been able to get it to charge as of now. The one that is up and running has to be charged at the VTA, the chargers at the High School do not work. Anderson sent a tech to the island about a month ago who worked on both buses. The current chargers do not work, but all the chargers at the VTA work, even the chargers the FedEx uses do not work for these buses. There has been no further work done to upgrade the buses to the second generation at this time, but Mark has reached out to the Boston Public School system who is using the Bluebird Buses and is trying to arrange a meeting to see what their process was and how they

got to their second generation buses. Mark and Troy will reach out to Anderson Motors together and get further information.

Vote Required

VI. Financial Report

A. Vehicles-purchasing & surplus

Not discussed at this meeting.

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

Marsha Shufrin mentioned that the negotiations have started with the off island drivers, there are only three to work with, but this should move more smoothly.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment for this meeting.

Vote Required

IX. Adjournment

Skipper Manter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.

Motion Passes: 3-0-0

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: June 5, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. 5.12.26 Transportation Sub-Committee Agenda**
- 2. DRAFT Transportation Subcommittee Minutes 040626**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

- 1. Troy and Cheyenne: Work with Suzanne to establish and provide defined, written driver schedules with start and end times to facilitate accurate payroll processing**
- 2. Mark and Troy: Conference call with Anderson Motors/Bluebird distributor within 24 hours to address electric bus charging issues as one unified voice and provide update to committee**
- 3. Mark: Research and bring forward recommendations for electronic timekeeping system options that can handle transportation department's complex needs**
- 4. Committee: Discuss at June meeting (or July with new administration) the possibility of including drivers' input on proposed changes**
- 5. Mark: Arrange meeting (virtual or in-person) with Boston Public School System's fleet electrification manager to learn from their electric bus implementation experience**
- 6. Committee: Schedule follow-up meeting with off-island bus drivers for ongoing contract negotiations**