MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2026
Zoom Only
9 AM
[AGENDA Items Link]

Present:	Chair - Marsha Shufrin, Kathryn Shertzer, Skipper Manter
Transportation:	Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward
MVRHS:	Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Director of Operations - Sam Hart**
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 9:04 am.

Vote Required

II. Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2026 & June 5.2026
May 12, 2026 Minutes were approved at the previous meeting. *Skipper Manter made a motion to approve the minutes of June 5, 2026, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Manter - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 3-0-0

III. Transportation Transition Payments - Review and Possible Revisions
Richie and team have been meeting with the transportation staff to make sure these payments are accurate, and discovered six of the 7D drives and monitors that are not receiving near what they previously were, so these numbers should be addressed. Mark has worked through these numbers and found what the shortcomings are. The hope is to address these today, given the nearness of the end of FY26. Marsha is under the understanding that these 6 have requested adjustments and asked what facts were omitted, so that they did not receive these transition payments. Richie expressed these negotiations started two years ago, and started with limited information. At that time, there was a feeling that only two of those drivers should receive those payments. The last round of paychecks is how this was discovered, following the new agreement, and those staff started reaching out once they saw the lower amounts. Marsha asked how this could have taken over a month to discover this, and also asked about the 7D drivers, and hadn't they previously been paid by the hour, to which the response was, yes, they had. Brian Smith helped to answer this question and indicated this went as far back as Dr. Weiss in the Superintendent position, as it actually became a hybrid system due to how they did runs, as drivers sometimes and monitors sometimes, and factoring in Headway transportation in addition to their 2 hour minimums and were still using the old timesheets, also referred to as "stacking". Suzanne Cioffi stated for the record that she felt indicating the reference to this hybrid payment system dating as far back as Dr. Weiss is a bold statement, and doesn't feel comfortable with that being said without the impending audit complete, and not having the data to support that at this time. Suzanne has felt there has been discrepancies at least as far back as 2024, when she brought it to attention. Mark shared a spreadsheet that shows timesheet data collection for the 7D Drivers and Monitors as far back as February 2026 to

view the data and patterns, focusing on 4 7D Drivers and 2 Monitors for the High School, Elementary and Headway runs. At this time, not all weeks are populated on the spreadsheet but Mark feels as though there is at least enough data to make some observations broken down into hours and categories of high school, elementary, SPED considered "regular runs", then Project Headway runs or hours. When viewing the data available it is shown the number of hours there does not appear to be much variation from the old agreement to the new agreement as they are getting those 2 hour minimums. The next grouping of Project Headway is where Mark started to notice differences, after the new agreement started in the weeks of May 28 and June 4, there is a noticeable reduction in Project Headway hours on timesheets, and after some math, Mark has shown the variances. Marsha asked if CDL and 7D Drivers were compensating for the loss by adding in extra hours, to which Chyenne responded that drivers will still put in their Project Headway extra hour, accepting it as she misunderstood the contract. There are a handful of Project Headway runs that take place at noon, but most of them take place within the drivers 2 hour minimums. Suzanne feels as though the May 28 decline in hours timesheets accurately reflect the hours and the contracts, the timesheets prior are consistent with the old way of payroll processing for those runs that has occurred for at least the 9 years that Brian Smith has been involved with the transportation department. The new MOU essence was that staff would not go backwards, in terms of pay, meaning this needs further review. Marsha's concern is that an audit is upcoming, and this discrepancy in pay and within the contract is the agreement to make transition payments but there is also an inaccuracy of what is owed due to the lack of timesheets provided for more extensive review by Mark. This concern extends to the promised transition payments and if those will also be paid inaccurately without the needed timesheets, and what if there is a need to recoup, how would that happen, thus leaving the possibility of a large legal mess. Amy Houghton is speaking with legal counsel today, and Marsha has several questions she is looking to have answered. Suzanne indicated that with the CDL Drivers, some of them have been taking a legitimate noticeable decrease in pay with the new contract, and the SPED and 7D were always hourly employees, so it feels as though the two issues are being merged as though they are the same issues. There was one 7D driver who was assigned a late run, when Mark is looking at hours, that was assigned, with a shift differential. Suzanne said that there is a decrease in hours but those are accurate. Brian wanted to remind the committee that the new contract does clean up the previously messy system. Any new hires for the 7D position, they will know exactly what they are doing and will be paid appropriately. Richie agreed there are some folks struggling to understand, and seeing a reduction in their pay. Marsha took a moment to read aloud the questions she compiled for legal counsel, which are:

- Should the disputed transition payments be suspended pending audit findings?
- Can the district legally reserve or encumber the estimated liability at the fiscal year end?
    - Mark said he could check into this as there are some requirements about salary and payroll.
- Does making a payment now prejudice the District's ability to recover funds later?
- What notifications should be provided to the affected parties?

Marsha suggested that this should go to the school committee tonight, to allow for the whole committee to weigh in on these questions. Ethically, Marsha understands the obligation of the contract and there are employees living off a wage, which has been reduced this month, but is not sure the most accurate information is available to make a transition payment. Kathryn expressed confusion over Mark not being provided all of the weeks of timesheets that are needed. If there is a legal obligation to make the transition payments, does the staff understand that after the audit there may be a recall on those payments and is there complete transparency to the staff with this matter? Skipper indicated that these employees were told they would be made whole, which is why they supported the contract so the employees need to be supported, and he feels as though the audit should not suspend any of these payments, they should not have to pay any money back if there was a mistake along the way, as that is not their responsibility. Skipper also expressed concern about Mark not being able to ascertain the timesheet information. Marsha expressed that when she signed this contract she did not expect there to be issues that would warrant an audit, and if these facts had been made clear she is not sure she would have agreed to this. She is upset that warrants hadn't been signed since September, nor had she been aware of why they weren't being signed. Skipper indicated that he felt those are issues in administration and management and not the employees responsibility. Mark wanted to mention that he hasn't received feedback from the majority of the CDL drivers, but he has heard from one CDL driver that their paycheck has gone down, but Mark has not yet had a chance to dig through the data. Under the new contract there are some specialized rates, for example the Adult Learning Program evening rates were previously $62.60/hour and are now decreased to (+/-) $45.40 depending on where the employee falls in the matrix. Skipper wanted to make mention that going through the contract the employees also need to acknowledge they have received lots of other benefits that have a cash value, though it may not be reflected in their direct pay but more sick time, vacation time, holiday pay were included that are included in the expenses of this contract, with cash value. Marsha asked for clarification on the make whole amounts and if they were for one year only, or multiple years to which Skipper said that it is for the remaining life of the contract, which is two years. Marsha asked Chyenne to provide Mark with all the weeks of timesheets he is looking for, requesting 9 missing weeks, to which Chyenne will do. After a brief discussion the committee agreed to give an update at the full school committee meeting this evening, under the Transportation agenda item, given there may be the need for a potential addendum once Mark has reviewed the full data requested. Brian asked what his response should be to staff should they approach him about decreased paychecks that will be received this week, to which Marsha responded that the employees agreed to the original contract which did not have their make whole amounts in it. The committee agreed to have a meeting next week to continue this discussion with the hopes of having resolution to present at the July 6, 2026 full School Committee meeting. Kathryn requested Troy Vanderhoop be present at the next subcommittee meeting on June 29, 2026 at 9 am.

IV. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

Vote Required

V. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: June 29, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. **6.22.26 Transportation Sub-Committee Agenda**
2. **MVRHS Transportation Sub-Committee Zoom Recording 6**
3. **SPED Driver Analysis - 6.17.2026 B (No Names)**

Appendix B: Zoom A.I. Next Steps

1. **Cheyenne: Provide Mark with all missing timesheets for the 7D drivers, specifically the 9 weeks identified by Mark, to allow for accurate analysis of transition payment calculations.**
2. **Mark: Analyze the complete set of timesheets once received from Cheyenne to determine accurate transition payment amounts for the affected 7D drivers and, if possible, review the CDL driver's reported pay reduction.**
3. **Marsha: Schedule a follow-up Transportation Subcommittee meeting for next Monday at 9am, and request that Troy (department head) attend.**
4. **Marsha: Give an update at tonight's school committee meeting under the transportation report regarding the status of transition payments and the need for further review.**
5. **Marsha: Schedule a subcommittee meeting (targeting a week from today) to review Mark's analysis and determine next steps, aiming to resolve the issue before the July 6th school committee meeting.**
6. **Brian: Communicate with affected 7D drivers regarding the status of their transition payments and expected timeline for resolution.**
7. **Mark: Investigate and report back on whether the district can legally reserve or encumber the estimated liability at fiscal year end, and clarify payroll/compensation timing rules.**
8. **Amy Houghton: Consult with legal counsel regarding whether disputed transition payments should be suspended pending audit findings, the district's ability to recover funds if overpayment occurs, and required notifications to affected employees.**
9. **Cheyenne: Provide Suzanne with week two of payroll data as soon as possible.**