



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5:30 pm
Library or Zoom

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Present: Chair - Skipper Manter, Marsha Shufrin, Elliott Bennett, Kathryn Shertzer, Amy Houghton, Robert Lionette, Jen Cutrer, Sarah Murphy*
Zoom: Rizwan Malik

Staff: Principal - Bryan Lombardi, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Administrator of Special Education - Erinn Fauteux, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveira, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Technology Director - Rick Mello
Zoom: Director of Student Affairs - Jared Andrews, Assistant Transportation Director - Chyenne Ward*

Supt's Office: Superintendent - Jaime Curley, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, Assistant Superintendent - Ashley Lopes, Director of Student Support Services - Hope MacLeod

Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

*indicates late arrival

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 5:32 pm.
- II. Public Comment**
No public comment at this meeting.
- III. Routine Reports**
 - A. School Building Project**
 - 1. Update-**
 - a) Facility Use During Construction**

Sam Hart took a moment to update the committee on progress, which is that they are diligently working on the Design Development (DD) binder which is due to the MSBA on December 18, 2026, and is the last major deadline with them. Program meetings are happening with Teachers and Staff the week of September 21, 2026, going over rooms and layout to make this as detailed as possible. Updated costs estimates should be available in November which will help inform estimates. The group is working with Rich Shawmut to see what disruptions there will be and if there will be use of the facility, mainly the PAC during the summer of 2027, an answer should be provided at the September 29 School Building Committee meeting. By that meeting, Rich Shawmut anticipates they will have spoken with the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector to make sure their demolition activities won't negatively impact the PAC. The School Building Committee is planning to make recommendations

on use during that time to the full School Committee by the October meeting. Elliott asked about seeing the DD binder before it is submitted, to which Sam indicated yes, the committee will need to vote on it before it is submitted and will request a condensed version be available for the committee, while also having the full binder available on the website dedicated to the project. Elliott also asked for clarification on demolition beginning in the Spring, to which Sam indicated there will be some site preparation, or what is called “mobilization”, completing some work that will not be disruptive to student learning, but they are not currently planning demolition prior to the end of the school year. Skipper asked about the permitting process, to which Amy responded they have been in touch with Adam Turner from the MV Commission and will be meeting with Jaime and Bryan, but at this time it appears as though this is not a DRI (Development Regional Impact), therefore that process should not be needed.

b) Project Borrowing Update and Setting a Special Meeting to Approve the October 1, 2026 Borrowing

Mark took a moment to discuss the next steps, where it is now time to discuss borrowing money for the design phase and Lynne Welsh of Unibank attended to discuss borrowing updates for the project. Lynne discussed the original financing plan, which is pretty much on schedule with what was predicted as far as the first tranche of issuance at about \$22 million in short term notes. That number is derived from the cash flow statement that essentially covers all the soft costs and a little buffer to allow for MSBA getting reimbursements to the district. The expectation is to sell on September 24, 2026 for \$22 million, but in the meantime, to fulfill requirements for the Bond Council, to get a legal opinion in order for the district to issue the funds, the district ended up with some invoices that need to be paid. Prior to the anticipated October 1, 2026 anticipated settlement of the \$22 million, \$1,394,000 is needed as soon as possible to pay those. This has been done through a Department of Revenue serial loan note that was bid on by local banks, with those documents being signed by the Chair. The \$1,394,000 will be removed from the \$22 million request, and instead will be going to the market with a Standard & Poor’s note rating, requesting a \$20,606,000 short term note, given this is a formal process. The disclosure document for the market with the Bond Council’s legal opinion will be attached. This means there will need to be a formal meeting with the School Committee to vote to accept the winning bidder on the \$20.6 million and for those documents to be signed at a meeting planned for around September 29, 2026, which aligns with the schedule to get those signed documents back to Bond Council, and then back to the paying agent. On Wednesday there is an anticipated bump in the Fed rate at 25 points, but for these large short term notes Lynne is anticipating under 4%, which is less than what was initially budgeted for given the plan to sell on September 24, 2026. At this time the Committee formalized a Hybrid meeting to occur starting at 8 am on September 29, 2026 to vote on the needs of the project, and to also meet with NEASC as they will be visiting then and would like to meet with the committee. At that time the District Treasurer, Mary Lee Schroeder will be out of the Country and these documents will need a wet signature, so an acting Treasurer will need to be voted in to sign on behalf of the district. Rick Manley has suggested a School Committee member would be best suited, but cannot be the Chair or the Secretary as they will need to sign as well, nor can it be the Business of Finance Manager by State Statute. Robert Lionette suggested the Vice Chair, to which Jen agreed. This will be voted on prior to votes related to the project during the September 29, 2026 meeting.

B. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

Senior class President Griffin Buehler and Senior class Vice President Addison Blake joined this evening to report on recent and upcoming student activities. Griffin reported on school events, indicating the Edgartown Yacht Club and a DJ are secured for Senior prom, Atria will be hosting the Senior dinner, both the Yacht Club and Atria have agreed to donate, saving the Senior class funds for other events. Ninety three seniors are currently signed up to paint parking spots in the sports lot in the next couple weeks. The Club Fair, run by Student Government is set to occur on September 30, 2026 and the Powder Puff girls flag football game is scheduled for November 20, 2026. The first Student Government meeting is scheduled for next week during flex. A few of the Fall Nantucket games are scheduled for this weekend, and Football will head to Nantucket on Halloween this year. Addition reported on sports with Boys Soccer losing this past Saturday, leaving them at 1-1 so far. Girls soccer is currently 2-0 with a game today, hopefully ending the day 3-0. Field Hockey tied Nantucket for the first time in a long time, which they were pleased with. Cross Country is 1-0 with a meet next Wednesday. Football is currently 0-2. Boys Golf is 3-0 after winning their match today.

C. Principal

1. General Update

Bryan provided an update, with the excitement of the first school days of the new year. This week is the first full week, with an increase in class rigor and the start of clubs and activities. Back to School Night is September 23, 2026, with clubs and classes now able to do fundraising at the event, with bake sales during the evening. It has been a positive start to the school year and there seemed to be a lot of positive excitement with kids coming back to school.

2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation

Bryan turned to Justine to discuss the upcoming NEASC visit, which is the accreditation process and the 10 year cycle for the high school. Two years ago was the collaborative conference which led to a year long self reflection based on standards, which NEASC guides the school through, and went really well. Strengths and priority areas were discussed, and since then the school has been able to align the priority areas identified and work through what has occurred at the school from the School Improvement Plan, through professional practice and the student learning goals of teachers, focusing on the four pieces of that School Improvement Plan. Three of the four were based on that process and was focused on integrating the Portrait of a Learner, those values and skills that are beyond the curriculum that are desired to instill in the students, including collaborative structures to support students, and embedding that and making it a regular practice, and then the building project. The purpose of this visit is to see the progress made where they will visit every single classroom, meet with different priority area teams, meet with Administration, meet with the School Committee and help lay the groundwork for what comes next in the accreditation process. Robert asked about the expectations from the committee, to which Justine responded that it is an opportunity for them to ask about the committee's involvement in the school and see if there are different priorities, day to day operations and how the body is supporting the school in their decision making processes. A lot of this will also focus on the building project, and that committee will have their own meeting with NEASC. Elliott asked some clarifying questions switch regards to the 8 year visit versus the 10 year visit and how they differed, to which Justine responded that the 8 year gives a plan to address, and the 10 year evaluates how things have been addressed. In addition to meeting with teachers, administration and school committee, they will also be meeting with students, inclusive of all types of learners.

D. Superintendent

1. General Update

Jaime had her first Convocation on September 2, 2026 and it was great to see everyone in the PAC, and she thanked Amy Houghton who came to speak on behalf of the School Committee. Brad Lopes attended to speak on behalf of the Tribe, and the Union Leadership spoke as well. Jaime was able to visit every building during opening week and was pleased to meet and see everyone there, and was able to spend some time in a Kindergarten classroom as well, which she was very impressed by. The students were engaged and listening to direction well. Jamie then provided an update about the licensure progress where she read a statement (slightly paraphrased): “Over the past several weeks we’ve been conducting a district-wide review of the educator license. Through the process we identified that our systems for monitoring licensure have not been consistent across all of our schools. Since identifying the issue we’ve been working closely with DESE, our legal counsel, principals and the union to review these individual circumstances to ensure that we are meeting state requirements. I want to make it really clear that this has nothing to do with the individual people, it just has to do with the overall process that we need to make sure we’re following. There are multiple licensing issues that are kind of impacting everybody, so it’s not just one issue and so we’re trying to take the time to really go through each individual situation so that we’re working thoughtfully and accurately when we’re addressing each of the issues. Some educators require hardship waivers, and some require just updating their initial real provisional license to either an initial or a professional license. Because initial and provisional licenses are good for 5 years of employment, not 5 calendar years it’s a little tricky because you have to go in and you have to think, did this person start with us? Did they go on any type of maternity leave or any other type of leave, because then you have to subtract time out, so it’s a process we are trying to be very thoughtful about. For those who require hardship waivers, we’re following DESE’s process. We need to make sure that there was a posting within the last 6 months. We need to then make sure that we’re following hiring procedures, so there needs to be an interview process. And then we need to plead our case to DESE as to why we chose the candidate that we chose. So we are in the process of doing all of that now. I will say that originally this impacted 20 to 25 to 30 employees that needed hardship waivers. Of that, so far 7 employees have already been licensed, so we are working through this. We’re also reviewing educators who hold provisional or initial licenses, and again, those are good for 5 working years, not calendar years. So that’s where it gets a little bit tricky, we’re working through those licenses now. As part of this, we’re working on really trying to strengthen our system. We are using Vector, and so we’re inputting all of that information into Vector now so that we will be able to keep track of licensure much more easily. It’s a centralized process, so we’re excited about doing that. I appreciate the cooperation of all of the staff as we work through this process. I’ve had conversations with some educators, and principals have been working closely with educators. Other staff members have been working closely with educators to make sure that we’re supporting them and giving them the most accurate information so that they can go into that and update their information appropriately. I’ve been working closely with the union as well, and they have contacted the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and they will be doing a Professional Development on those teachers so that people can ask questions and make sure they’re all up to date on licensure.”

Votes Required

IV. Consents

A. Minutes: July 29, 2026 & August 3, 2026

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2026 and August 3, 2026, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Abstain, Houghton - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-1

B. Personnel

No Personnel updates at this meeting.

C. Administrator Certifying Availability of Funds on MSBA Construction Contracts

Jaime spoke to this where MGL Chapter 44, Section 31C requires all construction contracts in Massachusetts are required to have the signature of the official who can certify there is sufficient money appropriated for the contracts. The District's legal firm Murphy, Lanier and Murphy expressed that in regional districts this would most likely be the Business Administrator due to the complex nature of the budget for the project and the anticipated project amendments that will accompany this construction manager at this project. This will need a School Committee vote to empower School Business Administrator, Mark Friedman, to serve in the capacity of certifying the MSBA project construction contracts and amendments for available appropriations. The MVRHS accounts and finance manager will continue to serve in this capacity for everything else, with respect to all other aspects of the district's annual budget. Kathryn asked what the time commitment is given Mark's other responsibilities, to which Mark responded that the largest part of the commitments are things he already participates in, for example to School Building Committee meetings, the certifying of the funds is not a lot of additional time. *Amy Houghton made a motion to empower the School Business Administrator to serve in the capacity of certifying the MSBA project construction contracts and amendments for available appropriations, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 9-0-0

D. Grants and Donations

After the presentation and acceptance of the below grants and donations Robert asked about the possibility of hosting an event where these generous donors may be able to come and meet with the School Committee and Administration to introduce themselves, and be properly thanked by all, to which Skipper said that he would discuss with Administration about that occurring given the impact they have on the school.

1. Grants for Acceptance

Mark Friedman started a screen share to present 5 grants for the evening. The first of which is from the Sound Foundation to the Oak Bluffs School for the yoga program in the amount of \$56,275. The second grant of the evening is from Tower Peer Outreach for the High School to support current peer to peer programming in the amount of \$5,000. The remaining 3 grants for the evening are from the FY27 REAPS and were previously accepted in June of 2026, but the amounts have increased, and they are for Edgartown in the amount of \$40,064 from \$39,334, Oak Bluffs in the amount of \$44,514 from \$43,703 and Tisbury in the amount of \$33,435 from \$32,826. *Amy Houghton made a motion to accept these grants, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 9-0-0

2. Stand With Everyone Against Rape (SWEAR) Donation

Suzanne presented 2 donations which are part of the SWEAR Pickleball Tournament that occurred in August, one from the Piana family and one from the Ross family, totaling \$700. *Elliott Bennett made a motion to accept this generous donation to the SWEAR program, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 9-0-0

E. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel

Not on the agenda this evening is a trip for the Football team which is out of state during their bye week on October 3, 2026 where they will head to Providence to watch a URI game.

1. Girls Soccer

Girls Soccer is planning an out of state and overnight trip from September 19, 2026 to September 20, 2026 where they will head to Wheaton College to watch a game, then will play their own game against Archbishop Williams. On September 20 they will then head to Rhode Island to watch a Boston Legacy Game. There will be 22 girls traveling, and is funded through the boosters.

2. SWEAR

SWEAR has a trip planned for an in-state but overnight visit to Camp Burgis from October 25 to October 26 where they will participate in a ropes course and group building.

Jen Cutrer made a motion to approve the 3 out of state and overnight travel trips, seconded by Sarah Murphy. Roll Call: Malik - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 9-0-0

V. Finance

A. Revolving Funds

Moved to the October 2026 meeting.

B. Student Activities Audit

Moved to the October 2026 meeting.

C. Revenue and Expenditures

Full discussion moved to October but finances are in good shape.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

A. Re-Organizing Subcommittee Membership for FY27

Skipper took a moment to discuss the subcommittees, the additional meetings, and the additional postings related to them. He made the suggestion for the full committee to consider meeting twice per month to discuss the majority of these issues which are generally brought to the full committee each month. Bryan was able to meet with several of the subcommittee chairs to discuss their thoughts on keeping each up and running, with the Audit Subcommittee believing they should continue as an ad hoc given this should have an end as it's for a very specific purpose, land use felt that could be dissolved as their work feels complete, and Facilities felt the need to continue as an ad hoc given the new building project and there may be things that need to be discussed. Bryan was unable to get the Athletics or Transportation to gather their feedback. Robert asked about the Budget Subcommittee and having those as part of the full committee, to which Skipper said yes. There was a discussion about having a liaison or point person specific to each to gather information for each group to be discussed at these secondary meetings. Kathryn suggested essentially breaking down the main monthly meeting into two, and trying it temporarily. Sarah suggested being thoughtful about staff participation and when they are invited to join, given their work day. After continued discussion the group agreed to try two meetings per month, one to continue in the evenings and one to take place in the mornings for a few months to see if it is addressing the needs. The first meeting in this new rotation is slated to occur on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 8 am, with another preagenda meeting to also be scheduled.

B. Transportation

Marsha discussed the Transportation Handbook which seems to be around but has not been voted on by the committee, which is something that is being discussed to see it, dissect it and add or remove appropriate information. Jaime wanted to thank Ashley for the work she has put into Transportation so far, and putting some new practices in place already. Routes have been updated, conversations have been had with Cape Cod Collaborative and the VTA to assist in

procuring software to assist in payroll and tracking, after school runs are being evaluated to see where improvements can be made with timing, condensing especially related to the YMCA, The Boys and Girls Club and School Choice drop offs, creating a vehicle use policy, and a lot have been done with payroll. Ashley meets with both Chyenne each week to review payroll timesheets before it gets to Suzanne so that processing is much more smooth. Ashley is also working on procuring a time sheet program to help clarify and streamline payroll. Tracking devices have been placed in the off island vehicles which allows data to be shown for vehicle location, to see when a bus is stopped and fueling, if the battery is dead, among other things. The hope is to spread this to the on island buses as well. Hiring advertisements are out, word is out that they are in need of drivers, and the open position is being thoughtfully determined to really cover the needs of the office

C. Facilities

Amy mentioned that during a previous meeting Jason was looking at replacing some controllers related to HVAC but that has been tabled for the time being. The current goal is to just address any items that may become a safety concern.

D. Athletics

No update at this meeting.

E. Budget

Skipper indicated a draft budget should be done sooner than later, but it has not been started yet. Suzanne indicated that in past years it has started in October, which is the current plan. Skipper is requesting to start to bump this to an earlier date moving forward to allow for more time to get this information to the towns. Skipper requested the first draft be ready for the October meeting. Suzanne indicated that the High School budget is done in 3 sections, and she will guarantee she can have the general fund section ready, the other sections of the Superintendent's office and the Transportation sections may not be ready at that time.

F. Audit

Amy discussed where the auditors are at this point, which is that part one is reviewing the processes and moving forward, making sure the right things are being done, for example, complete timesheets, route configurations, payroll sign offs, use of vehicles, fuel options, after school runs that include the YMCA, The Boys and Girls Club and School Choice. Part two is about taking the information and putting it into a policy or handbook to guide the department. The third part of this is how best to address the warrants from October 2026 through May 2026. There is this handbook that has floated around but that has not been seen by many people, and it has not been confirmed that it has even been shown to drivers, nor is there a recollection of when it was developed and by who, it just seems to have been rolled over year by year but it seems to contain information that includes statutes, the Cape Cod Collaborative handbook and the VTA handbook. The next step for the auditors is to cull through a variety of payroll samples to identify irregularities and for them to make suggestions. Suzanne did sign off on the last payroll after work has been done by Ashley to have accurate timesheets which is a step in the right direction. The hope is to have a final presentation from the auditors by October, where they will present their findings to the committee.

G. Schedule First Subcommittee Meeting

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

Skipper took a moment to thank Mark Friedman for his work, recently there were documents that required signatures related to the building project. These documents were sent to Mark that contained errors, being missed by all others before heading to him. Mark's attention to detail and catching this error should be noted as it saved significant time and a potential delay in the project.

Vote Required

VIII. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Support letters Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival at the Performing Arts Center**
 - a. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Mail - Fwd_African American Film Festival Dates**
 - b. Support for the PAC 2027 MVAAFF (1)**
 - c. Support for the PAC 2027 MVAAFF**
 - d. Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival 2027 Use of PAC**
 - e. PAC/pl forward to school Committee member 9/9/202 RE.: 2027 Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival at the PAC**
 - f. Formal Proposal for Performing Arts Center (PAC) Access: 2027 Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival**
- 2. VI. A. MVRHS SC Members 26-27**
- 3. IV. D. MVRHS SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE 09142026**
- 4. IV. D. FY27 MVRHS School Committee Grants Memo 091426-sept**
- 5. Agenda MVRHS SC 9.14.26**
- 6. IV. D. Football Overnight Travel Form**
- 7. IV. D. 2. SWEAR Overnight Travel Form 10_2026**
- 8. IV. D. 1. Overnight Travel Form Girls Soccer**
- 9. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 080326**
- 10. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 072926**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

- 1. Suzanne: Schedule and organize the special school committee meeting for September 29th at 8:00 AM (hybrid) to vote on the \$20.6 million borrowing and appoint an acting treasurer.**
- 2. Suzanne: Work with staff to determine a suitable location at the high school for the September 29th morning meeting that does not disrupt student learning.**
- 3. Suzanne: Work on the language for the vote to appoint an acting treasurer for the borrowing documents, to be voted on at the September 29th meeting.**
- 4. Suzanne: Send out recurring calendar invites for the new school committee meeting schedule (first Monday at 5:30 PM, second Monday at 8:00 AM) starting in October.**
- 5. Suzanne: Share the table of contents or direct committee members to the website for the Design Development Binder before the November vote.**
- 6. Suzanne: Ensure the draft of the high school general fund budget section is available for the October 1st or 3rd meeting.**
- 7. Suzanne: Look into organizing a thank you presentation or acknowledgment for the generous donors (e.g., Sound Foundation, Tower Foundation) to show appreciation and impact.**
- 8. Suzanne: Appoint a point person or liaison for each topic (formerly subcommittee) to lead discussions and presentations at the new second monthly meeting.**
- 9. Suzanne: Set an agenda for the October 19th 8:00 AM meeting, including topics from the former subcommittees.**
- 10. Suzanne: Work with Jamie and Bryan to meet with the Commission (DRI) regarding the permitting process for the building project in the next week.**
- 11. Suzanne: Continue to work with DESE, legal counsel, principals, and the union to address the educator licensure issues, including hardship waivers and updating licenses.**
- 12. Suzanne: Input all educator licensure information into the Vector system for centralized tracking.**
- 13. Suzanne: Arrange for the Massachusetts Teachers Association to provide professional development for educators on licensure.**
- 14. Suzanne: Finalize and present the student activities audit report at the October meeting.**
- 15. Suzanne: Present the quarterly financial reports at the October 3rd meeting.**
- 16. Suzanne: Procure an online timesheet system for the Transportation Department after reviewing the final quote.**
- 17. Suzanne: Procure and install fleet management devices on the on-island vehicles.**
- 18. Suzanne: Continue to recruit more bus drivers for the Transportation Department.**

- 19. Suzanne: Work with Cheyenne and Troy to redefine the open administrative position in the Transportation Department.**
- 20. Suzanne: Develop a vehicle use policy for the district.**
- 21. Suzanne: Table any recommendations for HVAC controllers until the new building project progresses further.**
- 22. Suzanne: Have the audit report on the Transportation Department payroll warrants presented to the full committee, hopefully by the October meeting.**
- 23. Suzanne: Ensure the NEASC visiting team meets briefly with the school committee during their visit on September 29th.**