



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 8:00 am

Library or Zoom

REVISED on 9/24/26

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Present: Chair - Skipper Manter, Elliott Bennett, Kathryn Shertzer
Zoom: Rizwan Malik, Marsha Shufrin, Jen Cutrer, Amy Houghton,
Staff: Principal - Bryan Lombardi, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Assistant Principal
Justine DeOliveira
Zoom: Director of Operations - Sam Hart
Supt's Office: Zoom: Superintendent - Jaime Curley, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman
Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

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 8:04 am.

II. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Decennial Visit

Bryan took a moment to explain NEASC and why they have attended this meeting where MVRHS is going through the accreditation process and members have joined today to pose some questions to the School Committee to gain an understanding of their perspective and opinions. The NEASC team at the meeting took a moment to introduce themselves beginning with Georgeann Lewis, Adjustment Counselor from Stoughton High School, Spencer Christie, Principal of Ayer Shirley Regional High School, Nate Diffin, Athletic Director from Ayer Shirley Regional High School, Joshua Wyman, Social Studies Teacher from Westfield Technical Academy and Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Barnstable Public School. Justine spoke to the three priority areas identified two years ago with NEASC through the Collaborative Conference were the Portrait of a Learner and looking at values and skills in the day to day life of the school. Another priority area is the Collaborative Structures to support students, and the final priority area is the building project. Sara Ahern started by asking the committee what their involvement has been in the past 2 years with helping the school work on the priority areas to where they are today, to which Skipper rescinded that they follow the guidance of the Administration and support where needed, whether it is the Superintendent or the Principal or however a project is delegated for example, if something requires monetary funding, then supporting that in the budget process. Elliott added the supporting the needs of collaboration professional development, with the key collaboration areas being Special Education and General Education Teachers, and the ELL programs, allowing teachers to not just operate in the silo of their classroom. Sara asked next about the budget and the financial forecast given many budgets are very tight in Massachusetts, to which Skipper responded that after the approval of the building project, the committee plans to look carefully at increases and anything out of the ordinary given the support from the island towns and wanting to be respectful of the impact of that project. Sara followed up by asking what percentage increase the High School is seeing each year, to which Suzanne responded there are two parts to the budget, the first being the operational increase and then the assessed increase. The FY27 budget saw less than a 4% increase, and the district is

currently in year 2 of the 3 year contracts for staff, with this year being the largest increase for teaching staff, Administrative support staff, Educational support staff, Custodial staff and Food Service staff. There was an approximate reduction in the overall budget of about \$1 million to help offset those increases. Looking at the FY28 budget, there are discussions occurring to see what potential additional decreases there can be. Georgeann Lewis followed up by asking the committee what the strengths of the school are, to which Amy Houghton responded that she believes the teaching staff is exemplary, the collaboration between the teachers and within each department is strong. The commitment to the students is amazing, and living in this small community, there are a lot of outside the building connections with students that promotes relationships that may be different from a district where the students don't see staff outside the building. There is a strong Administrative team and tremendous community pride and interest in the school which was demonstrated by the overwhelming vote for the new building. The towns are quite supportive of the school, and when asked about budget increases, the towns have opened their checkbooks when budgets have been presented and voted on. There is a strong scholarship program in this community, giving students upwards of \$2 million every year from many different areas and people in the community, showing their strong belief in what the students can achieve. The CTE programs are also an asset to the school and they continue to grow programming for the students. The partnership with ACE MV bringing programming to adults in the community makes for a thriving center point of the community. Nate Diffin asked the committee what they are most proud of with the school, to which Skipper responded that the overwhelming support for the building project from the community after 2 years of really hard work was tremendous, and something to be really proud of. Having all of this occur, after one principal left, the school had an interim principal for a year before bringing in Bryan and having that support and dedication to the students stay continuous throughout the time is something to be proud of. Sara then asked about some of the challenges that are unique to Martha's Vineyard, to which Amy responded that geography and the unique demographics of the island. There is a challenge for Special Education students that stay in the school until they are 22, and giving them employment opportunities when they leave the school means having to build strong relationships with business leaders for them to head to the workforce. Additionally, the amount of ELL's and balancing classroom and family engagement, given the large population of students that speak Brazilian Portuguese at home, in some of the districts the schools are seeing close to 50% of their population ELL students. Skipper also expressed that gaining excellent staff can be a challenge given the hardship of living on the island due to the housing crisis. The isolation on the island can create many challenges but also creates resilience. Towns are also trying to address the Work Force Housing but it can be challenging, in Edgartown the town owned properties are in desired locations so trying to balance that is an obstacle. The affordable housing also has income brackets that are a challenge for school staff as they make too much to qualify, but not enough to purchase their own homes in the current market. Joshua asked if there are any things the committee is looking to now that the building project has passed and is moving forward, to which Kathryn said they are looking for efficiencies in systems, for example regionalization and what that may improve for the schools and how that may save money across the district and to taxpayers, for example program purchases that have one cost, instead of each school having their own cost. Updating the curriculum to be more in alignment within the elementary schools is another efficiency in progress, meaning that when all students get to the high school there should be less discrepancies in their learning, so those efficiencies will benefit the high school.

Vote Required

III. Appointment of an Acting Treasurer - vote

The current Treasurer is out of town at this time so there needs to be a vote to appoint an acting treasurer to sign the documents that will be voted on for agenda item IV. *Amy Houghton made a motion to appoint Jen Cutrer as the acting treasurer, effective today, for the purposes of signing the loan documents of the building project that we are voting today, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*

Vote Required

IV. **Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) Borrowing - votes**

Lynne Foster joined from Unibank, and informed the committee that the \$22 million for the building project has successfully been issued for cash flow to get through the soft cost of the bid process and is on target for the projected amount. The budgeted interest to be assessed to the member towns is \$737,709.28. The district received two bids, from TD Financial and, from Oppenheimer, and TD Financial was the low bidder, which was awarded the notes with an NIC of 3.58% and also engaged in a discussion with Standard & Poor's, for a note rating. That kicks off the interaction with the rating agencies, which will continue to be the case, as long as this is out in the market. Conversations will continue with rating agencies throughout to discuss the district's financials.

- *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion that states We hereby determine, in accordance with G.L. c. 70B, that the cost of designing, constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new District high school, including the rehabilitation of the running track and grass fields authorized by vote of the Committee passed on March 9, 2026 being financed with proceeds of a portion of the Notes defined below, together with all other bonds and notes of the District to pay costs of this project, does not exceed the portion of the total cost of the project that is not being paid by the school facilities grant and we hereby approve the issuance of notes and bonds to finance this project under G.L. c. 70B., seconded by Elliott Bennett. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*
- *Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the sale of \$20,606,000 5.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the District dated October 1, 2026, and payable September 1, 2027 to TD Financial Products LLC, at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$268,084.06, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*
- *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated September 17, 2026 and a final Official Statement dated September 24, 2026, each in such form as may be approved by the Acting Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*
- *Elliott Bennett made a motion that the Acting Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-0*
- *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the "Documents"), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a ".pdf" file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures., seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Abstain, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 6-0-1

- *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Acting Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes, seconded by Elliott Bennett.*

Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Abstain, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.

Motion Passes: 6-0-1

Vote Required

V. High School Building Project Invoices - vote

Tabled for this meeting.

VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

No unanticipated topics for this meeting.

Vote Required

VII. Adjournment

Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Houghton - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Bennett - Abstain, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.

Motion Passes: 6-0-1

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Screenshot 2026-10-02 at 11:00.55 AM**
- 2. MVRHS Zoom Recording 9.29.26**
- 3. SIP MVRHS 2026-2027**
- 4. RichShawmutPartners MVRHS Precon Invoice 03 - September 2026**
- 5. Tappe #260901 Sept 2026 - MV Regional High School**
- 6. CHA 83543-33 Marthas Vineyard Regional HS Core Project- September 2026**
- 7. Significant Events Disclosure Certificate - District - Martha's Vineyard RSD BANs 10-1-2026**
- 8. Form 8038-G - Martha's Vineyard RSD BANs 10-1-26**
- 9. Tax Certificate - Martha's Vineyard RSD BANs 10-1-26**
- 10. SNL Certificate - Martha's Vineyard RSD BANs 10-1-26**
- 11. Vote of the District School Committee Martha's Vineyard RSD BANs 10-1-26**
- 12. Note Form and Opinion - Martha's Vineyard RSD Bans 10-1-26**
- 13. Signature Page Packet - Martha's Vineyard Notes 10-1-26**
- 14. UFASI Invoice #10597 \$850.00 - 9-01-2026**
- 15. RichShawmutPartners MVRHS Precon Invoice 02 - August 2026**
- 16. Tappe #260801 Aug 2026 -Martha's Vineyard Regional High School**
- 17. CHA 83543-32 Marthas Vineyard Regional HS Core Project - Aug 2026**
- 18. Agenda MVRHS SC 9.29.26**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

- 1. Suzanne: Appoint Jen Cutrer as the acting treasurer to sign loan documents for the building project.**
- 2. Mark: Reach out to rmanley about picking up the bond documents after the meeting.**
- 3. Suzanne: Meet Mark at his office shortly after the meeting to finalize bond document signatures.**
- 4. Mark: Address the high school building project invoices during the week and at the next school committee meeting.**