MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2026 at 8:00 am
Library or Zoom
REVISED on 10/16/26

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Present:	Chair - Skipper Manter, Kathryn Shertzer, Robert Lionette Zoom: Jen Cutrer, Marsha Shufrin, Amy Houghton**, Rizwan Malik, Elliott Bennett, Sarah Murphy
Staff:	Principal - Bryan Lombardi, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveira Zoom: Athletic Director - Mark MCCarthy
Supt's Office:	Superintendent - Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent - Ashley Lopes, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman Zoom: Director of Student Support Services - Hope MacLeod
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. Welcome - Chair
Chair Skipper Manter called this meeting to order at 8:03 am.

II. Public Comment
No public comment at this meeting.

III. Meeting Schedule and Location
After a brief discussion around the scheduling of the second meeting per month, the committee agreed to the third Monday of each month, at 8:00 am in a hybrid fashion. The committee has requested additional microphones to allow for better sound quality on zoom. This is the plan moving forward but can be adjusted at any time.

IV. Updates

A. Transportation
Ashley provided the update for Transportation where on October 13 a van was started for the up island and High School runs with the hope that this will ease times on the longer routes, especially bringing students down from Aquinnah. As of now, there have been riders on that van. They are still looking at where routes across the island can be consolidated, and this is not about reducing staffing, this is about having the routes where the kids are. The team is finalizing the purchase of route software, online timekeeping and GPS and fleet maintenance which should wrap up this week to get vendor contracts in place. They have also enrolled in the Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation. This is a yearly membership, through a transportation organization. They provide four half days of PDs throughout the year and a listserv, currently Ashley member of that, so she is able to connect with other transportation

departments across the state. There's a board of transportation directors and business managers who run that program. Lastly, Ashley had a great conversation with the VTA about a potential partnership of working with their staff to get their school bus endorsement. All of those drivers are CDL certified at this time, but they would just need the 40 additional hours to get school bus driver certification, and hopefully they can work with the district to figure out a plan to do that next year. Robert asked about the 40 hours of training, and whether that would be something provided by the district and can it be done on island, to which Ashley responded that logistics are still being worked through though the district does pay for CDl and School and School Bus endorsements and Troy is certified to train, though he would need to be pulled off routes to be able to do that during the school year, but can also be done during the summer months. Marsha asked Ashley where the negotiations were with the off-island bus drivers at this time, to which Ashley responded that it was last worked on last school year with the Transportation Subcommittee but has not been picked back up yet this year. Marsha then asked about the Professional Development day for Transportation, which did not occur in August, but did it occur on the most recent PD day, to which Ashley responded that it is actually a half day set to occur today, between 9 am - 1 pm.

B. Facilities

Amy reported that there is nothing to report for facilities at this time, but there are some thoughts to be discussed at the budget meeting.

C. Athletics

Kathryn and Mark have been speaking about the use of the Track, which will be available for the Spring of 2027, but a plan is needed for construction. After a discussion with Coach Joe Schroder, Mark had proposed at least keeping the 120 meter straight away available for use in that time to allow for practice of sprinting and hurtles which is on the side closest to Deer Run. Could a fence be placed around that location to keep it from being used for construction staging, or if that is not a possibility, could something be put into the east side of Sanderson Road as it will be hard to keep the program going without the ability to train for those events. Amy will take this request to the School Building Committee to see if they can find a way to accommodate the request. The final point for Athletics today to discuss was in regards to the Appendix Stipend positions where negotiation increases have been ongoing with the All Island School Committee, for Schedule A and A1. This fiscal year there was a 5% increase offered for this year, and they are strategizing for next year's MOU and the following year having something ready for the new round of negotiations on the teachers contract, given there are many items that need to be addressed for the appendix positions and should be taken into consideration for the upcoming budget discussions.

1. **Volleyball**

   Mark McCarthy discussed the Volleyball club and the requests over the years to add this as a High School sport. This has been run by Carlos Trindade, and has been brought up several times in the Athletics Subcommittee to make the transition. Volleyball is not a co-ed sport, the girls season is in the fall and the boys season is in the spring, and the league currently offers only the girls season, there is no boys season at this time. Most participants at the High School are boys, so if it were added as a sport it would be boys in the spring, and recruiting more girls for the fall. The Athletics Subcommittee previously had concerns about adding another sport, and having to create waivers for this or other existing sports depending on interest. Given there is no league, this would have to be scheduled individually, so there was also a thought of starting it as a JV sport and growing it into a Varsity sport over time. The subcommittee also had concerns about depleting participation from other existing sports to start this new one. There is also the Title IX concern about adding more boys sports than girls sports. Kathryn wondered what has occurred so far with the club, and have there been any competitions off island at this time, what that feels like and how organized has this been, but indicated she has not gotten that impression so far. Robert asked if there were non-league sports that MVRSH currently participates in, to which Mark responded that

Sailing is similar, where there is a program but it is not recognized by the MIAA, otherwise all current sports do have a league, with Football being the only sport not currently participating in the league as they are currently rebuilding. Robert asked Mark if there were any boys club teams within the league, to which Mark responded he didn't believe so but that he would investigate further. This is the first year that Volleyball is recognized under Appendix A, placed on letter J-K. The minimum before moving to an Appendix A position is 2 years, but can go as far as 4 to 5 years. In Mark's tenure the 2 clubs that have reached Varsity status are both Swimming and Wrestling, which became Varsity programs after 2 years. Sarah expressed that there are motivated parents that have been meeting about Volleyball and making this a Varsity team, Carlos Trindade has been a volunteer coach for 3 years, and it feels as though some of them are getting antsy about moving forward for games and scheduling, so it may be best to speak with him about what is needed to move forward. Elliott circled back to the equity issue where this is a proposal for an all boys team at this time and wondered what information Mark and Carlos could provide about co-ed teams, Elliott also wondered about pulling from existing athletics in a season, and Amy brought up the issue of waivers needed and speaking with elementary level PE teachers about the lack of participation in general in athletics which would help address the need for more waivers. Mark indicated that Boys can play on the girls team per the MIAA, but it is limited to certain positions and only a certain number can be on the court at one time, there are no co-ed Volleyball programs, there is only a boys team or a girls team, but Mark can find out if there are limitations if a boys team was started, and if girls can play on that team and in what capacity. Mark also indicated that there has been a significant drop in overall enrollment in the high school, by an average of about 100 students which does affect athletic participation. There are also limitations for middle school athletics which can affect what sports are most participated in at the high school level, for example dropping the softball program at the middle school level absolutely affected the participation at the high school level. After a continued discussion, the committee agreed that more information was needed, and that Carlos should attend the next meeting to help address some questions. Mark did confirm that Carlos has about 80% boys participation, which is why he is seeking a boys team at this time.

D. Budget

Skipper indicated that this is about a month behind where the committee had hoped to be. Suzanne presented the personnel and fixed costs sections in rough draft form. Part of the level service budget there are some reductions and increases, but specifically wanted to discuss that IT Department and IT maintenance and support section where a contract was started in FY20. This is related to PowerSchool support and the transition to Rick Mello taking over that department. There is a suggestion to end that contract and bring PowerSchool support in house, given that right now the contract is for only about 20 hours per week and more could be used. A job description was created with Rick, Spencer, Bryan and Suzanne for 35 hours/week of support. There are aspects of PowerSchool that could be more fully utilized if there was someone who had that as their dedicated role and many districts have an in-house dedicated data management person with regards to software, data entry and data reporting to the state. From the front end this would be switching from IT maintenance and reducing that line by $100,000 and putting it into the salary line instead. The school would get more benefits, more hours and more access to service. Skipper asked about benefits by adding a staff person, to which Suzanne indicated there are some point positions that had benefits that aren't there, so there is no increase that way. The Title I partial grant position on line 191 is historically where the Title I grant award did not cover all the salary of the person that was hired. Since Sam came along the way of submitting data to the state, the Title I funding has increased. When the Title I plan for this year was worked out, and the positions such as beyond the bell, and what needs to be supported, there's no more need for a general fund to offset a person in the position, so that's why Title I which has received approximately $136,000 for this year. So, there was a position, with the

benefits covered under that Title I. Additionally, due to the aging out in Residential that will occur this year, and then the adjustment to who will be high school aged, the Circuit Breaker funds will cover that, Suzanne is projecting at this time a decrease in the general fund needs, but discussions are still ongoing with Hope about what's to come. Healthcare is still unknown at this time, in addition there are about 6 or 7 retirements coming up, which will decrease some of the longevity payments, but there are going to be some new people that will start receiving longevity payments as well, and there may also be lane changes that need to be anticipated. Robert asked for a placeholder of about 5%, which is in line with the All Island budget that Mark is currently working on and will be discussed at this week's All Island School Committee meeting. Suzanne expects to have more information from Cape Cod Municipal Healthcare by the first or second Wednesday in November. Robert supported the idea of moving the subcontracted IT work to an in-house position but asked for a breakdown of all anticipated costs, not just salary but benefits. Referring to the screen share from Suzanne, Elliott asked about the reclassification of the ELL ESP and Library Assistant differences, to which Suzanne indicated this was just reclassifying this position that has already been in place given it was classified incorrectly, both positions are ESP positions and this is not a loss to the ELL positions and this Library Assistant position has already been in existence. There has been a decrease in the ELL need in the last couple of years, and the department is properly covered. This is a continuation of work that started last year where the Administration has a goal of making sure each position is classified accurately.

E. Audit

Jaime indicated that there was a meeting with the Auditors last week where a draft report was presented. There has been a request for a more detailed report which Jamie is hopeful this detailed report will be ready by the All Island School Committee meeting this coming Thursday, if not by then, the hope is to have it complete by the next MVRHS School Committee meeting.

Vote Required

V. Out-of-State and Overnight Travel

A. Golf

The Golf Team has qualified for the MIAA Tournament, so they are requesting an overnight trip to allow for some experience on the course prior to the match. The team is also requesting a waiver of a male and female chaperone as there are no females on the team. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve this trip as an overnight, with the waiver of a female chaperone but the addition of a second male chaperone, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.*
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

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 Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Bennett - Aye, Malik - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2026

Appendix A: Documents on File

1. **IV. D. FY28 Reclassifications School Committee 0.19.2026**
2. **IV. D. Draft School Committee Personnel & Fixed Costs 10.19.2026**
3. **MVRHSSC Zoom Recording 10.19.26**
4. **IV. D. UPDATED PowerSchool_Administrator_Registrar_JD**
5. **Golf State 2026 (1)**
6. **Agenda MVRHS SC 10.19.26**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

1. **Suzanne: Meet in person/hybrid for the next third Monday meeting and attempt to set up more microphones to improve sound for Zoom participants.**
2. **Mark: Research MIAA rules regarding girls playing on a boys' volleyball team and investigate if there are any boys' club volleyball programs within the league.**
3. **Mark: Arrange for Carlos to attend the next meeting to provide more information on the volleyball club and potential team.**
4. **Amy: Bring the request and question regarding the track straightaway access/alternative to the school building committee meeting next week.**
5. **Suzanne: Make a phone call to someone at the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group to get a placeholder number for healthcare increases.**
6. **Suzanne: Provide the committee with the data on the ELL population percentage.**
7. **Suzanne: Get back to the golf team regarding the overnight trip approval with the requirement of two chaperones.**