

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
5:00PM, Monday, April 8, 2109  
West Tisbury School**

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Present: Chair – Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Kate DeVane, Robert Lionette, Alex Salop,  
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Amy Tierney, Nancy Dugan,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,  
Chilmark SAC: Judie Flanders,  
WTS SAC – Graham Houghton, Sam Hall, Jill Napier  
Chilmark FinCom & Energy – Rob Hanneman,  
Press –Lynn Fraker – MVTV,  
Recorder: Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals or early departures

**Call to Order** (Agenda item #II)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) reconvened the meeting.

**Minutes Read and Approved** (Agenda item #II)

**A. March 18, 2019**

*ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2019 MINUTES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Principals' Report** (Agenda Item #III)

**A. West Tisbury School (WTS) – School Improvement Plan (SIP) Progress Report by School Advisory Council (SAC)**

Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt introduced the WTS SAC team.

**B. West Tisbury School Co-Teaching Survey**

The SAC conducted three surveys of co-teaching classes (teachers, students, parents) and analyzed discipline and student achievement data.

- Six teachers responded to the survey with thoughtful positive answers showing a sense of invigoration and enthusiasm, better classroom environment, and requests for more Professional Development (PD).
- 42 parents (15-20% of all involved households) noted that it was still too early to tell as they had scant opportunity to interface on the model, hence most experienced the change through their children's comments. 77% agreed it was beneficial both academically and socially, 90% felt comfortable reaching out to either co-teacher.
- 151 Students were fairly uniformly positive, noticing they were getting more support, and that the classroom was more efficient. Despite some ambivalence in the commentary over 90% were equally comfortable with both teachers, and with support and teaching.
- Special Education (SpEd) student disciplinary incidents had dropped significantly, partially due to clear behavior expectations. SpEd students also showed significant academic gains achieving goals at a quicker rate. Other students had also benefited as well as sharing time and tasks.
- Although MCAS results were not available, fifth through eighth grade students were 80-90% on or above track for the State English/Language Arts (E/LA) standards—including those in the Bridge Shared Services class.

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- Teachers recently attended a conference and more in-place support/PD was planned. Despite the difficulties and hard work of being part of a pilot program staff was eager to continue.
- The UIRSC thanked Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt for the in depth data. Mr. Lionette requested a break out of SpEd student survey responses. Kate DeVane and Student Support Co-Director Nancy Dugan praised the program.

**C. Chilmark – Susan Stevens** (See documents on file & below: Meetings/Events.)

- The everyone was invited to the traditional May Day celebration including a maypole dance.
- Students went on a field trip to the New Bedford Whaling Museum and were scheduled to go on a Whale Watch this week. They also constructed a model whaling village.

**Financial Report** (Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Expenditure and Revenue Report** (See documents on file.)

- A revenue analysis was tabled due to internet problems.

**B. Warrant Signing** (See 3/18/19 Minutes p.2.)

**Superintendent's Report** (Agenda Item #V)

**A. School Choice Vote**

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea recommended continuing School Choice as beneficial to all children and families on the Island. Protocol was explained to Alex Salop as a new member.

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE AS A SCHOOL CHOICE DISTRICT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY—SKIP MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**B. Excess and Deficiency (E & D)**

Skipper Manter proposed a discussion on changing from E & D to a reserve fund line item in the next financial cycle, giving all residual funds back to the Towns at the end of each fiscal year. He considered this would increase budget accountability, as well as availability of funds (E & D could not be spent until certified). Business Administrator Amy Tierney advised discussing the matter with the auditors.

- The new E & D protocol was reviewed (see 3/18/19 Minutes p.4 #E).

- Best practice / auditor recommendation was a 5% reserve—5% was the mandated E & D cap.

- The UIRSC had agreed to examine E & D at the very end of each fiscal year and contribute funds to Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) if and as deemed reasonable. It had voted to put the entire E & D residual into OPEB in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) and FY18.

- FY18 E & D was expended on the English Language Learners staff, a small prior year bill, and OPEB (see 6/25/18 Minutes p.1-2 # IV C).

- The remaining \$41,000 was due to unbudgeted FY18 revenues. This historical E & D low would mean all revenue had to be collected by June 30th and there could be no overspending.

**C. All-Island School Committee (AISC) Meeting**

The AISC met last week. Skipper Manter suggested returning to quarterly meetings to relieve pressure on school committee members.

**D. Annual Town Meetings (ATM)** (See documents on file.)

Amy Tierney provided the assessment and budget highlight sheet along with a summary of school warrant articles for UIRSC members for Town Meetings.

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**E. Superintendent's District Goals**

Personnel Committee representative Robert Lionette suggested a discussion on UIRSD specific goals and that the Personnel Subcommittee be a regular agenda item.

**Personnel** (Agenda Item #VIII)

**A. Resignations** (See documents on file.)

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF CAFETERIA WORKER LAURA MARTIN AS OF MAY 3, 2019; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Two WTS teachers were admitted to the prestigious Lucy Calkins course.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR DYAN DEMERS AND LAUREN SERPA TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS INSTITUTE OF WRITING IN NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK AUGUST 5-9, 2019; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair** – None (Agenda Item #VII)

Meetings/Events

**UIRSC Meeting – TBD 5:00PM, Monday, May 20, 2019**

IPAC Parents Rights Workshop - 6:00PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – MVRHS Library

May Day – 9:00AM, Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at the Chilmark School

Annual Town Meetings

Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury – Tuesday, April 9, 2018

Chilmark – Monday, April 22, 2018

Aquinnah – Tuesday, May 14, 2018

**Adjournment**

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:00PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 4/8/19
- Sign In Sheet 4/8/19
- Chilmark School Principal's Report April 8, 2019
- Meet Us in Monohansett (3 p.) 4/4/19
- Up Island Regional School District General Fund Expenditure July 1, 2018 to April 5, 2019
- UIRSD – FY20 Capital Projects (Updated 1.3.19) (6 p.)
- UIRSD FY2020 Assessment – Re-Certified February 11, 2019 (2 p.)
- Stone/Martin email re: Resignation 4/1/19

**Minutes approved as amended 5/20/19.**