

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, May 20, 2019
Chilmark School**

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Present: Chair – Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Kate DeVane, Robert Lionette,
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith,
Amy Tierney,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
Chilmark SAC – Judie Flanders, Chilmark teacher - Gretchen Snyder
MVC – Dan Doyle,
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) meeting was called to order.

Minutes Read and Approved (Agenda item #II)

A. April 8, 2019

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED AND THE APRIL 8, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School

(See documents on file & below: Meetings/Events.)

Head of School Susan Stevens encouraged all to attend the Kindergarten/first grade Research Fair on June 3rd and the Spring Musical on June 5th. All were also welcome at the Community Lunch June 7th with Vineyard Sound (please RSVP), and Graduation on June 14th.

Finance (Agenda item #III)

B. Further Discussion – West Tisbury School (WTS) Parking Lot Design

(See documents on file & 3/18/19 Minutes p.1 #III.)

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) applied for a State Community Compact grant for a pilot engineering program for exactly this type of project. Special Projects Planner Dan Doyle presented short-term interim modifications to parking lot traffic patterns while the team worked on the more permanent project proposal by student Hollis Oliver. The interim changes were designed to increase safety and included: drop-off/pick up at the school curb, an extra curb cut, and traffic loops around the back parking lot. The UIRSC had reservations about:

- whether the road was wide enough for a pickup/drop-off lane and two-way traffic;
- traffic through the crowded back parking lot;
- continued mixing of buses and parent drop-off/pickup;
- curb cut permitting issues;
- unsolved handicapped access problems.

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West Tisbury Town Hall expressed reservations about Hollis Oliver's plan, because it eliminated the buffer zone of trees that screened the school from Old County Rd.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO THANK THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION; HOWEVER THEY SAW NO REASON TO SPEND MONEY ON AN INTERIM PLAN, AND THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THE TEAM CONTINUE WORKING ON THE OLIVER PLAN WITH MINIMAL TREE LOSS AND CLEARING.

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #VI)

B. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School (WTS) (See documents on file.)

Principal Donna Lowell- Bettencourt introduced the What's Up at the WTS page and noted the Memorial Weekend concert on Friday, May 24th, and the Fun Run on the June 17th the last full day of school. Everyone was invited to Graduation on June 13th (see below: Meetings/Events).

C. School Resource Officer (SRO) Discussion – West Tisbury School

Police Chief Matt Mincone had been talking seriously to Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt on instituting a SRO (see Minutes: 1/20/15 p.2 # III & 3/16/15 p.3 #C), possibly funded (~ \$85,000) through a joint sponsored warrant article. There was a currently an officer in training who would be a good candidate. UIRSC discussion covered:

- including the Chilmark School,
- negotiating clear philosophical and modeling of the position,
- raising the issue early in the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget cycle.

- There was a Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math (STEAM) project-based learning summer program at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) for a fee (scholarships were available). The UIRSC requested a presentation on UIRSD STEAM learning.

- UIRSD Spanish students continued to qualify for the MVRHS Honors courses despite a rising admissions bar (see 6/20/16 Minutes p.2 #IV B). There were ~ 400 English Language Learners (ELL) students in the MVPS, the vast majority speaking Portuguese, with some Spanish, Mandarin, and Czech students. The UIRSC requested a discussion on the Spanish Program.

Finance (Agenda item #III)

A. Expenditure & Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

Business Administrator Amy Tierney gave a detailed financial review, starting with general fund revenues.

- All Towns paid their assessments, with Aquinnah's assessment reduced by Impact Aid.
 - Impact Aid varied and often presented timing issues at the end of the fiscal year.
- Chapter 70 would rise a little and Chapter 71 (Transportation) was estimated at \$150,000.
- School Choice offset was fairly on target and awaiting Special Education reimbursements. School Choice was a separate fund as was Circuit Breaker.
- Medicaid was unpredictable but the UIRSD was hoping for ~ \$102,000

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- Interest had only been posted through mid-December.
- This year the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) distributed unanticipated drug subsidy rebates with ~ \$40,000 to the UIRSD.
- Charter School Tuition Reimbursement and tuition expenses could mean a \$70,000 shortfall. (UIRSD Charter School per pupil tuition was \$30,563, reduced by mandated cap to \$22,813). Charter School and Medicaid revenues were hard to predict and consequently difficult to budget.

Expenditures were in good shape.

- The Superintendent's Shared Services Office would have a small residual in the final quarter.
- The WTS site showed ~ \$19,000 residual in the Teachers Increment Line that could be used to cover deficits in the Substitute lines.
 - Heating fuel expenses would show a \$5,000 deficit due to price increases and a long, cool spring—which could be mitigated by not filling the tank at the end of the year.
 - Circuit Breaker funds would be transferred to Special Education Tutoring.
 - The UIRSC authorized some paving repairs to the parking lot (see 10/15/18 Minutes p.3 #IV D) depending on whether funds were available.
- The Chilmark site was also in reasonable shape.
- Both Schools added Security lines (previously included in Maintenance) (WTS - \$3,750, Chilmark - \$2,500) in accordance with Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines.
- Districtwide expenses would show the new bid on the \$995,000 Borrowing Anticipation Note (BAN) (see 3/21/16 Minutes p.1-2 #IV B) at 2.81% (up from the FY18 1.25% and the FY19 budgeted 2%) leaving a \$8,800 deficit. Thanks went to Skipper Manter for signing the note. The UIRSC thanked Amy Tierney for her sharp attention to the Budget.
 - Recorder Marni Lipke suggested the UIRSC elect an official Clerk with the authority to sign borrowing documents.
- Amy Tierney expressed serious concerns about the low Excess & Deficiency (E & D) balance and a possible \$70,000 negative requiring \$36,000 in residuals from the General Fund, and complicated by the 45 day E & D waiting period.

C. UIRSD Capital Projects Update

Supt. D'Andrea negotiated a \$10,000 invoice reduction with vendors whose poor work resulted in extra Owners Project Manager (OPM) charges, but leaving a \$20,466.92 deficit. There were two lines with substantial residuals that might cover the shortfall: Dukes County Retirement System Assessment and Workmen's Compensation.

- Skipper Manter, who always opposed E & D, declared he would vote to transfer line items in consideration of the changed E & D policy and Ms. Tierney's close budget management.
- Audit exit interviews were scheduled for June (see below: Actions). The meeting schedule was set (see below: Meetings/Events).

THE UIRSC DIRECTED THE SUPERINTENDENT TO CONTACT AQUINNAH TO SAY THAT THE UIRSC WOULD LOCATE ANY OF THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS IN AQUINNAH AT AQUINNAH'S INVITATION. Roxanne Ackerman suggested a fall meeting after the annual Wampanoag Tribe Powow and some resolution of Tribe Education Dept. issues.

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Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

A. All-Island School Committee (AISC) Meeting (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The agenda would include:

- a presentation on educational legislation by State Representative Dylan Fernandes;
- Consultant Jim Shillinglaw on the Project Headway report;
- hopefully union negotiations update and vote.

B. Annual Town Meeting (ATM)

All three Town Meetings went well, approving all budgets and warrant articles. Chair Skipper Manter addressed the MVTV cameras and thanked the people of West Tisbury and Chilmark for their support but particularly the people of Aquinnah who voted a substantial override.

Personnel (Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Maternity Leave of Absence (See documents on file.)

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST WITH CONGRATULATIONS FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL LAIS SCHOENHERR FROM AUGUST 28, 2019 TO NOVEMBER 20, 2019; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. Resignations (See documents on file.)

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH BEST OF LUCK THE RESIGNATIONS OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL*
 - *CAFETERIA WORKER PATTY POOLE AT THE END OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR,*
 - *EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CHARLOTTE DELASIN AS OF APRIL 22, 2019*
 - *EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CELIA MERCIER AT THE END OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR;**KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE 35% LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SECOND GRADE TEACHER KRISTINA FLETCHER FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Ms. Fletcher's would be participating in a shared classroom and her position was covered. There would be no or a small positive financial impact.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair (Agenda Item #VIII)

- There was no public comment.
- Prin. Lowell Bettencourt informed the UIRSC of a possible shift in Special Education (SpEd) staffing moving Education Support Professionals (ESP) hours to teacher hours depending on an upcoming Individual Education Plan (IEP). Skipper Manter requested the Budget be amended to show changes.

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- Robert Lionette had heard concerns about temperature readings on the WTS playground surface, (there had been no complaints or comments to Administration). He suggested a student project on the changing environment that included the impact of playground surface radiant temperatures.

Adjournment

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:39PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events

MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, June 3, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
AISC - 4:00PM, Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
Chilmark School Community Lunch (RSVP) – Friday, June 7, 2019
MVRHSC (Audit) – 4:00PM, Monday, June 10, 2019 - MVRHS
UIRSC (Audit) – 5:00PM, Monday, June 10, 2019 – MVRHS
WTS Graduation – 5:00PM, Thursday, June 13, 2019
Chilmark Graduation – 10:00AM, Friday, June 14, 2019
WTS Fun Run – Monday, June 17, 2019
UIRSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 24, 2019 - WTS

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/20/19
- Sign In Sheet Agenda 5/20/19
- Chilmark School Principal's Report May 20 2019, (2 p.)
- West Tisbury School short term circulation alternative
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2018-2019 5/20/19
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2018-2019, (15 p.) 5/20/19
- UIRSD Capital Projects Update – May 20, 2019 (2 p.)
- Fletcher/Lowell-Bettencourt emails 5/20/19
- Schoenherr letter re: maternity leave request 4/9/19
- Poole letter of resignation 4/24/19
- Mercier letter of resignation 4/23/19
- Delasin/Boyd emails re: of resignation 4/24/19

Minutes approved 6/24/19.