

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, June 24, 2019
West Tisbury School**

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Present: Chair – Skipper Manter, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette*, Alex Salop,
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Amy Tierney,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
Chilmark Energy Com – Rob Hanneman,
Press –Lynn Christoffers – 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. May 20, 2019

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—ROXANNE ACKERMAN.*

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School (WTS)

B. Discussion – Current Foreign Language Study

Despite harder test qualifications and a higher score threshold, UIRSD students, including those on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) outperformed other Island schools; of the 52 graduating students, 15 placed in Spanish Honors II (sophomore level), 16 in Spanish Honors I, and 4 in College level. The UIRSC congratulated administration and staff and discussed issues.

* Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:08PM.

- UIRSD students were doing so well other Martha's Vineyard Public Schools were beginning to shift towards the same model.
- Spanish was not an MCAS graduation prerequisite although most colleges required competency in some language.
- There was conflicting research, much of it showing that early teaching and exposure during a critical developmental stage were crucial, especially to true bilingual skills. However, research also supported concentrated teaching as an important component. UIRSD students received some exposure to the language throughout the elementary grades, but intensive tuition started in seventh and eighth grades.
- The UIRSC and Principal Donna Lowell Bettencourt reviewed the sometimes harsh discussions that led to the changed instruction.
- The UIRSC praised the previous enrichment blocks and encouraged further exploration of exposure to other languages: e.g. Latin, French, Sign, and Portuguese.

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B. Susan Stevens – Chilmark

- Rob Hanneman praised the inclusion of academic discussions in UIRSC meetings.
- Head of School Susan Stevens who had returned to the Island early for this discussion introduced Mr. Hanneman in his capacity as Chilmark Energy Committee Chair. He spoke on the direction of the Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) project. The current status of the new system was noisy, uncomfortable and ineffective—and there had been no bids on the boiler although MVPS contractor Alan Fortes agreed to install one this summer. Rob Hanneman reviewed recent developments (see Minutes: 1/28/19 p.1-2 #III A & 3/18/19 p.2-3 #IV B & 4/8/19) and referred to a letter from the Chilmark Selectmen proposing a way forward with heat pumps and appropriate attic insulation, as both cheaper to install and operate, also protesting the irresponsibility of continued investment in fossil fuel equipment. The UIRSC expressed interest and next steps were discussed:
 - Rise Engineering and Green Giant, who had previously worked for the Town, could do engineering and architectural work.
 - The UIRSC suggested the Town take the lead, provided they consulted with School administration, custodians and teachers.
 - The change should not affect any procurement issues.
 - Jurisdiction issues were noted and the UIRSC asked Superintendent Matt D'Andrea to request the Chilmark Board of Selectmen form a working group to make recommendations for UIRSC spending authorization.
- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO REQUEST THE CHILMARK BOARD OF SELECTMEN FORM A WORKING GROUP; ONE UIRSC MEMBER, ONE CHILMARK ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBER, ONE CHILMARK SELECTMEN APPOINTEE, HEAD OF SCHOOL SUSAN STEVENS, AND BUSINESS MANAGER AMY TIERNEY; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Finance (Agenda item #III)

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

- Amy Tierney met with UIRSD Administrators and prepared detailed end of fiscal year reports.
- The WTS Salary Increment residual was about \$16,000, earmarked to cover substitute and custodial overtime deficits. Skipper Manter strongly favored balancing line items throughout the year and separated site budgets.
 - The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) security recommendation spending was a one time expense, although security line items were now included in budgets.
 - The UIRSC had authorized \$16,500 in WTS parking lot paving overspending (see 10/15/18 Minutes p.3 #IV D) so Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt cut back other lines to compensate.
 - *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER GROUP ONE AS PROPOSED: ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
 - The \$20,466 Capital Fund deficit was the Owners Project Manager (OPM) work on the WTS repairs (see 11/19/18 Minutes p.3) and was slightly reduced by negotiations with the contractors. The UIRSC objected to paying the OPM for poor oversight.

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- State law mandated coverage of student lunch debt from other sources than the Lunch fund —the coverage was likely to be reduced by summer payments.
- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER GROUPS TWO AND THREE AS PROPOSED: ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- The UIRSC thanked Amy Tierney for her hard work.

C. UIRSD Capital Projects Update – See above

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

(See documents on file & Minutes: 3/18/19 p.1 #III & 5/20/19 p.1 #III B.)

A cost estimate, including survey, design, Island inflation, and construction with no OPM but some engineer oversight totaled \$1,146,000. (As a non-building project under \$1,500,000 an OPM was not State mandated.)

- Skipper Manter protested the traffic confusion generated by the number of curb cuts and considered the Town was likely to object.
- The tree screen was mostly preserved.
- The number of parking spaces remained fairly stable.
- Student pedestrian safety was enhanced, as was handicapped student access.
- Partial implementation would cut \$200,000 but would increase traffic confusion.
- UIRSC members hesitated to spend \$1,000,000 on non-educational matters.
- Safe Streets initiative was financing a safe bike route to accommodate the uptick in students biking to school.
- As Kate DeVane was the project instigator, the matter was tabled until the August meeting.

D. Closing Out Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Funds

The UIRSC discussed their practice of dedicating end-of-year E & D funds to Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trust if appropriate (see 6/19/17 Minutes p.3 #III C).

- Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) E & D was very low at ~ \$46,000 and revenue showed a deficit of about \$73,000 due to Charter School tuition exceeding budget projections. The State did not report final Charter School negative revenue until late June (\$1,113,000)—December report was \$1,072,000. The UIRSC identified two issues: better forecasting and lack of reserves.
- Charter School tuition increased unexpectedly when several families moved into the UIRSD.
- There was a push to withdraw the amount from the FY20 budget, transfer it to OPEB, and adding the same amount to the FY20 budget.
- To replace E & D in the future there was a proposal to establish reserve funds in each section of the UIRSD budget.
- The budget already included more than \$500,000 in OPEB funding.
- As the majority did not support further reducing the E & D balance no action was taken.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Auditor's Report – July 1, 2019 (See below: Meetings/Events.)

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

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C. Non-Union Salary Recommendation

Management and non-union 2% raises were in line with teacher increases and consistent across the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS). The raises were essentially Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and there was a suggestion to base them on a Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- Skipper Manter felt the Technologist was underpaid, however a wage adjustment was voted previously and the position was now in-line with other MVPS technologists.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL AS PROPOSED; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY – ROXANNE ACKERMAN, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- Roxanne Ackerman raised the issue of Town concerns about out-of-control school budgets. The discussion covered:

- staff and administrative wages, quality and Island cost of living, and comparison with other Massachusetts school administrative wages;

- increasingly tight MVPS budgets while meeting student need as well as obligations like OPEB,

- growing Special Education and English Language Learner (ELL) enrollment,

- possible budget caps.

Personnel

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Retirement

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RETIREMENT OF CHILMARK SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE TEACHER ROBIN SMITH AS OF JUNE 30, 2019 WITH MUCH GRATITUDE FOR HER LONG SERVICE; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* The UIRSC noted her professional growth over her decades of leadership.

B. Retirement/Leaves of Absence

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL MARCIA CLAPPER'S REQUEST FOR:*

- *MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 20, 2019, AND*

- *RETIREMENT ON DECEMBER 20, 2019;*

ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

c. Resignations

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATIONS AS OF THE END OF THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR FOR:*

- *WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ELLEN ROSSI;*

- *WEST TISBURY SCHOOL MATH TEACHER EMILY ROBERTS;*

ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. The UIRSC wished Ms. Roberts all the best in her move to the Chilmark School Kindergarten/First Grade teacher position

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Old / New / Business

(Agenda Item #VII)

A. West Tisbury School Landscaping

- Alex Salop protested that the WTS campus was in need of landscaping maintenance. Service had increasingly shifted to custodial staff (away from contracting) with the Field Fund doing some mowing. In addition the weather had been unusually rainy. Administration was working on a feasible maintenance master plan to improve building and campus upkeep.
- The UIRSC requested Administration contact the Town of Aquinnah to schedule one or two UIRSC meetings in Aquinnah and to invite the new Wampanoag Tribe Education Director to the next UIRSC meeting.

- Robert Lionette asked for follow up on parental notification of scholarships to the MVPS Summer Science/Technology/Art/Math (STEAM) program. Information was available at the phone number provided.
 - He also asked for updates on:
 - UIRSD STEAM programs,
 - co-teaching initiative (which downsized staff and therefore budgets), and
 - UIRSD student standing in MVRHS curriculums.

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE \$500 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD GARDEN CLUB LINDA M. CHAPMAN INNOVATION GRANT FOR GARDENING BOOKS AND RESOURCES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

(Agenda Item #VIII)

Adjournment

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:59PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events

AISC - 5:00PM, Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
MVRHSC - 4:00PM, Monday, July 1, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
UIRSC (Audit) – 5:00PM, Monday, July 1, 2019 – MVRHS
UIRSC – 5:00PM, Monday, July 15, 2019 - Chilmark

Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/24/19
- Sign In Sheet Agenda 6/24/19
- Pyke-Davis/Martha's Vineyard Commission, Technical Memorandum re: West Tisbury School Circulation (8 p.) 6/24/19

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Documents on File (cont.):

- Howard Stein Hudson Proposed Location - West Tisbury School – Circulation (7 p.) 6/20/19
- Up-Island Regional School District, District Committee Meeting June 24, 2019, FY19 End of Year Budget Transfers to Be Voted
 - UIRSD FY19 Projected Revenue Analysis – General Fund, School Committee Meeting
 - June 24, 2019
 - All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2018-2019, (15 p.) 6/24/19
 - Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2018-2019 6/14/19
 - Up Island Regional School District Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2018-2019, (2 p.) 6/24/19
- D’Andrea memo re: Management and Non-Union Salary Adjustments 6/24/19
- Manter/D’Andrea/Carol emails re: Copy of Draft minutes from Selectmen’s minutes May 21, 2019 (2 p.) 6/14/19

Minutes approved 7/15/19.