

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
5:00PM, Monday, November 18, 2109  
West Tisbury School**

**Page 1 of 5**

Present: Chair – Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,  
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Amy Tierney,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,  
Chilmark SAC - Judie Flanders, Alicia Knight, Robin Moriarty,  
Donna Swift,  
WT FinCom – Greg Orcutt,  
Press – Lynn Christoffers – MVTV, Will Sennott – Vineyard Gazette,  
Recorder: Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals or early departures

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

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.

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

**A. October 21, 2019**

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 21, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD)** (Agenda item #VII)

**A. Chilmark School Advisory Council (SAC)**

(See documents on file & 8/20/19 Minutes p.2-3 #III A.)

Members of the Chilmark SAC introduced themselves and reported on the status of the three-year School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Goal 1 – Develop and integrate expanded Science/Technology/Art/Math (STEAM) curriculum.

- STEAM had been integrated into all curriculums but not yet all school activities, as the school year started by focusing on socio-emotional learning, Responsive Classroom and community building.

- The community was engaged through Zero Waste Week, and the School had community guests but had not yet forged partnerships— with the exception of Windermere.

- Student work portfolios were completed. Teachers were still waiting on Professional Development (PD) funding (see 11/7/19 Minutes p.2).

Goal 2 – Accommodate the needs of all students in our multi-aged learning environment

- All School staff strengthened their abilities through Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) PD day on inclusive differentiated instruction and socio-emotional learning as it applied to colleagues and students, as well as in two Responsive Classroom summer trainings.

- The Special Education teacher was introducing new technology learning supports such as speech-to-text software.

## UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

November 18, 2019

Page 2 of 5

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) providing multiple pathways into student engagement, representation and action/expression, as well as Response to Intervention (RTI) implementations resulted in more student needs being met within the classroom instead of requiring pull-out.

- Portfolios were completed.

Portfolios of student work however parent and student surveys were not yet in process.

Goal 3 – Create a sustainable school environment

- The School was lucky to have active parents and other community partners (Island Grown Initiative (IGI), Cape Light Compact, Vineyard Conservation Society) who helped: create a Committee and collaborated on Zero Waste Week.- Habits and principles were integrated across the curriculum. For example, the fourth grade had taken on properly cleaning and sorting the recycling.

Goal 4 - Enhance communications within the School community, within the broader Chilmark Community and within the District

- The School was generating more emails, the Weekly Peek, and staff was talking to parents at pickup and drop-off times. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) hosted a very successful all-community potluck. Teachers responded to parent requests with the first Curriculum Report.

- Head of School Susan Stevens was reporting monthly to the UIRSC and was in contact with other Town boards.

- Staff continued to brainstorm new ways to communicate. A survey was being planned.

• The UIRSC thanked the SAC members and requested that once or twice a year each school demonstrate student projects in UIRSC meetings.

• Ms. Stevens invited the UIRSC to a kindergarten/first grade project on Thursday, November 21st about mapping the Island for new comers.

• The UIRSC thanked the SAC for their report.

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

**A. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School**

**B. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School** (See documents on file.)

The Principals yielded their time to the School Resource Officer discussion.

### **C. School Resource Officer (SRO) Position Discussion**

• Chilmark Police Chief Jonathan Klaren proposed putting a one-half day per week Chilmark SRO in his Department Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget.

• This would mean that all three Up Island Region Towns would vote on a West Tisbury School (WTS) SRO but only Chilmark would vote on a Chilmark School SRO.

• It was agreed that the gravamen of the issue was a regionally uniform Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) delineating the SRO roles, responsibilities, student relations, supervisory status, etc.

- Before the next meeting Supt. Matt D'Andrea would redistribute other SRO MOU's. He particularly recommended those of the Edgartown School and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS).

• WTS Principal Donna Lowell Bettencourt had highlighted this discussion in the weekly newsletter but no parents were in attendance. The UIRSC planned the next meeting to be in Chilmark. The UIRSC suggested a separate email.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 18, 2019**

**Page 3 of 5**

**Finance** (Agenda item #IV)

UIRSC members were asked to sign the warrants.

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

The UIRSD was in good standing.

- The School Choice fund deficit would be resolved when the monthly revenue was deposited and would be shifted into the Teacher's Salary Increment line.
- The Circuit Breaker fund was very healthy due to the one-year lag in a residential placement reimbursement, the student having moved on to the MVRHS. It would have to be spent in FY20 and could not be rolled over into FY21.
- Skipper Manter suggested it be used to reduce Town assessments.
- There was a disagreement on what the law allowed on Circuit Breaker spending:
  - any Special Education expense, or
  - any educational expense (except administrative, building or maintenance costs).
- The matter would be researched.
- Funds could be dedicated to pay for Special Education lines and thus indirectly reducing UIRSD assessments.

**B. West Tisbury School Parking Lot** (See documents on file.)

- The UIRSC had been working to save on design costs despite \$20,000 warrant article fund.
- It was agreed the matter would be prioritized in January.
- There were three responses to the Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Request For Proposal (RFP).

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

**A. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget & Schedule** (See below: Meetings/Events.)

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

No meeting was scheduled at this time.

- Robert Lionette asked that a future agenda include Principal's reports on the health/wellness curriculums, administration and direct service.

**Personnel** (Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Unpaid Leave of Absence** (See documents on file & 5/20/19 Minutes p.4 #VIII A.)

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A TWELVE WEEK EXTENSION OF MATERNITY LEAVE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL LAIS SCHOENHERR TO AROUND FEBRUARY BREAK 2020; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD)** (Agenda item #VII)

**A. UIRSD Financial Policy – 2nd Reading** (See documents on file.)

- Roxanne Ackerman protested the policy, since she was satisfied with the current effective procedures and seeing no benefit or improvement in the proposal.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 18, 2019**

**Page 4 of 5**

**#1.** Skipper Manter advocated strongly for monthly transfers (not counting encumbrances), as an individual would balance a checkbook.

- Others felt the constant work would be both burdensome and time-consuming as funds moved back and forth for seasonal and uneven spending.
- There was a question of whether this was a good method to judge the spending/income status.
- #2 requiring UIRSC permission to transfer made #1 redundant so #1 was eliminated.

**#2.** The debate was on the level of micro-management as unduly onerous and ungainly, making it impossible for Principals to manage finances in a timely manner; for example: a Special Education residual could not be used to cover unexpected home tutoring before the next UIRSC meeting. Similarly, English Language Learners (ELL) Translation was purposefully under-budgeted in anticipation of other residual department funding.

- Principals strongly advocated for authorization over intra-departmental transfers.
- Principals also noted that they were financially vigilant and kept the UIRSC informed of concerns.
- The language was changed to: No inter-departmental transfers without school committee approval, with monthly reports on all transfers.

**#3.** was also considered to be redundant and was eliminated.

**#4.** would establish three reserve line items (one for each site and one for Districtwide expenses) to fund emergencies, as alternative to the new more cumbersome Excess and Deficiency (E & D) protocol (see 3/18/19 Minutes p.4 #E). The debate centered on two issues:

- whether to use the E & D to offset the reserves or return E & D to the Towns
- at what level the lines should be funded
- whether to fully fund the lines by spiking the FY21 budget or incrementally increase them.

**#5.** required all E & D be returned to the Towns when it was deemed fiscally prudent. The UIRSC suggested that instead all or 50% be committed to the Other Post Employee Benefit (OPEB) Trust. Supt. D'Andrea requested input from the three UIRSD Town Finance Committees on Excess and Deficiency policy items (#4 & #5) and it was agreed they would be invited to the December 16th meeting.

**#6.** was considered redundant with #2 and there was some opposition to absolutes.

**#7.** Keeping Towns informed (like several other policy areas) would require establishing procedures and timelines.

- THE COMMITTEE DID NOT VOTE A SECOND READING.

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

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$12,862.75 FROM THE SOUND FOUNDATION FOR THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL YOGA PROGRAM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Adjournment**

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:52PM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**continued**

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 18, 2019**

**Page 5 of 5**

**Meetings/Events**

- MVRHSC Budget Hearing - 6:00PM, Monday, November 25, 2019 – MVRHS
- MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, December 2, 2019 – MVRHS
- **UIRSC Budget – 6:00PM, Thursday, December 5, 2019 – Chilmark**
- **UIRSC/Budget Hearing/Certification/SRO – 5:00PM, Monday, December 16, 2019–WTS**

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/18/19
- Sign In Sheet 11/18/19
- Doyle email re: West Tisbury School Circulation Memo 11/4/19
- UIRSD General Fund Expenditure July 1, 2019 to November 18, 2019
- Chilmark School 2018-2020 School Improvement Plan (SIP) (2 p.)
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 11/1/19
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (4 p.) 11/08/19
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (2 p.) 11/15/19
- Up Island Regional School District of Martha's Vineyard minutes excerpts re: SRO (7p.)
- Schoenherr email re: Maternity Leave 10/11/19
- Up Island Regional School District Financial Policy 9/16/19
- Up Island Regional School District of Martha's Vineyard Other Post Employee Benefits Procedures

**Minutes approved 12/16/19.**