

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
Immediately After the 4:00PM UIRSD Budget Meeting,  
Monday, December 16, 2109  
West Tisbury School**

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Present: Chair – Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Skipper Manter, 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,  
Press – Lynn Christoffers – MVTV, William 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 at 5:27PM.

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

- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF:*
    - *JULY 15, 2019,*
    - *NOVEMBER 7, 2019,*
    - *NOVEMBER 12, 2109 AND*
    - *NOVEMBER 18, 2019;*
- SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

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

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

The West Tisbury fifth grade won the 2019 Marine Debris Creative Advocacy Competition Silver Award.

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ACCEPT \$2,500 FROM THE HARWORD AND BOW SEAT OCEAN AWARENESS OCEAN CONTEST; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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

- The Chilmark School fundraiser was in the planning stages (see below: Meetings/Events).
- The Town received a letter of interest on the Chilmark School heating proposal. At the moment the Principal's Office, the kindergarten/first grade, art and pre-school classrooms had no heat. Alan Forest and Cole Powers would work on the problem over the holiday break.

**Public Hearing** (Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Presentation and Discussion**

The Hearing was opened at 5:36PM.

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL 8:30AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 IN THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL: ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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

**A. Possible Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Certification**

(See above & below.)

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

Not much had changed in the last month. Revenues were up to date with assessments paid on time. The Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) commitment to the Trust was paid.

**F. Review of Circuit Breaker Account & Law** (See documents on file.)

A Circuit Breaker balance of \$144,798 was in a special account. It could be used to offset Special Education expenses in the budget or left to revert to Excess and Deficiency (E & D). Business Administrator Amy Tierney reported that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) had required Circuit Breaker funds be closed out the previous year.

- The high balance and revenue came from reimbursement for a residential placement that lagged a year behind (the student having left the School).
- It was suggested that since the taxpayers had paid for the first year (when no reimbursement was paid due to the one-year lag) this year's funds should be returned to the Towns.
- Offsetting the Budget with such a large amount, which was one-year-only revenue would put the UIRSD at a disadvantage for the FY22 budget.
- Head of Chilmark School Susan Stevens could use the funds for a one-time purchase for first and third grade Fontas & Pinnell Reading curriculum units. She also was stretching the Chilmark Special Education teacher time with a half-time Education Support Professional (ESP).
- The Principals advocated for a Special Education Stabilization Fund to cover unexpected expenses: hospitalizations, new students, equipment, special services, residential tuitions, etc. (see 9/16/19 Minutes p.1-2 #IV A). Such a stabilization fund could be subsidized with residual Circuit Breaker revenues allowing them to be "banked" for future Special Education use.
- Although there were no current students eligible for Circuit Breaker revenues school populations were unpredictable and special needs continued to increase.
- Skipper Manter suggested the Circuit Breaker funds be returned to the Towns and the article funded at the same amount as the return.
- The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) was also discussing such a fund.
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO DRAFT A WARRANT ARTICLE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT A SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY-SKIPPER MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Mr. Manter was in favor of the fund but wanted to see a dollar amount.

**C. Transportation Budget** (See documents on file.)

This Draft was not yet finalized. It contained a number of different methodologies for cost reimbursement. Despite higher costs, the increased number of runs reduced local costs.

**D. Capital Warrant Articles**

It was hoped the Chilmark window project would save funds by completing two final phases during the summer vacation.

**E. Chapter 70 & 72 Review** (See above #IV.)

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

**A. All-Island School Committee (AISC) Meeting** - Nothing to report.

**B. School Resource Officer (SRO) Update** (See 12/16/19 Budget Meeting p.2.)

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

**A. Possible Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Certification** (See above #IV.)

If all the capital and SRO articles were included school spending increase was about \$1,000,000.

- There was disagreement over the approximately \$108,000 E & D offset to the Reserve line.

- The UIRSD FY21 Budget itself was up \$545,858 or 4.46% showing a 5.82% assessed increase (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.2-3).
- ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO REQUEST THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE LOBBY TO REVERT TO THE OLD EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY PROCESS; THERE WAS NO SECOND. The directive came from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Others agreed the current process was unsuited to regional districts (see 3/18/19 Minutes p.4 #E).
- UIRSC members were reminded to sign the warrants.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair** – Not needed  
(Agenda Item #VII)

**Adjournment**

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:18PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Meetings/Events**

- **UIRSC/Budget Hearing/Certification – 8:30AM, Monday, January 6, 2020–WTS**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, January 6, 2020 – MVRHS**
- **Chilmark School Fundraiser - 7:00PM, Saturday, February 1, 2020 – Chilmark Com. Center**

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 12/16/19
- Sign In Sheet 12/16/19
- Up-Island Regional School District General Fund Expenditure July 1, 2019 to December 16, 2019
- DeVane email re: Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Language 11/20/19
- Chilmark School Weekly Peeks (2 p.) 12/13/19

**Minutes approved 1/27/20**