

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, July 15th, 2019
Chilmark School**

Present: Chair – Skipper Manter, Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Amy Tierney,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head: Catherine Edwards

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes Read and Approved (5 MIN)

A. June 24, 2019 & July 1, 2019 — Moved by Robert, Seconded by Kate. Skipper has an issue with the minutes of June 24th section D — felt was misquoted - remove the word 'circumvent' from the record. Minutes approved unanimously as amended.

B. Discussion of no Marni — hence someone taking notes.

III. Principals' Reports (20 MIN)

A. Susan Stevens - Chilmark School — Overseeing the different projects from the summer list. Robert Hanneman will be back in a week, setting up meeting with HVAC working group.

B. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School — Capital Projects underway, all going well.

C. Out-of-State Travel – West Tisbury School - Alton Jones/RI (Sept), Ski Trip/NH (Feb 2020), UK trip/UK (June 2020). Moved by Kate, seconded by Robert, unanimous vote. Robert voiced appreciation for all the opportunities our students. Skipper agreed, with a shout out to the international travel. Susan also mentioned that the administrators will be visiting Cuttyhunk in August.

IV. Finance (15 MIN)

A. Expenditure & Revenue Report — Amy notes that we are not quite done with prior Fiscal. One more warrant to come from WT, and a few other plusses and minuses. E&D is looking like approximately 100,000. Amy went through several lines to review deficits and corrections. Charter School tuition was higher than expected. About 1% remaining.

B. Auditor's Report — Audit Report — key deficiencies keep reappearing, seem to not be clearing. Matt pointed out that significant progress has been made — down from 19+ recommendations in previous years. Some are suggestions to have outside firms do some work that we have done internally (specifically the external penetration review process). Discussion included partnering with the High School to save \$\$\$. Matt also mentioned that we are upgrading the servers, which will be done by the end of summer. Password management is also underway, also will be complete by end of summer. Vendor management policy needs to be done. Matt and Amy are working on this. Enforce restrictions on work stations - Cliff is working on this. Server Room — monitoring temp, humidity, and a camera. Cliff is working with a company who is developing

this equipment and will be piloting the equipment for free. Generator at the Super's office - everything is backed up to the cloud daily, so the most that would be lost in a server crash is a day of data. There are also battery backups, so that is a redundancy. Skipper mentioned the 'temporary' nature of the Super's office. Auditor's will be back August 12th. Perhaps there can be a review of the work to date with the Auditor, Matt will then report back to the group in Sept.

i. Change of Audit Firms — Skipper brought up that he doesn't feel that we are getting the best bang for the money. Specifically, the lack of information shared about the E & D change in law, which the auditors knew about and UIRSD did not. Very disappointed in the fact that there was not transparency in the sharing of information, Skip would like to employ a different auditing group. Robert mentioned that previously UIRSD said that they would routinely review relationships with outside Vendors/ Contractors. Skip also mentioned that there may be a benefit in changing companies every 5 years or so. Robert shared his frustration with the lack of answer when the auditors were questioned, which Kate agreed to. Roxanne put forth that the way things have always been done does tend to be the way that they are done until they are challenged. Skipper put out the request that we put out an RFP for Fiscal 2020, not for 2019 as this company is in place for this cycle. Kate not following the letter of the law can come back to reflect poorly on the company, Catherine shared the audit system that she is a part of in her tribal work, putting out an RFP every 3 years so that new proposals are sought in a routine way. Add to budget for 2020.

C. FY21 Fiscal Policy Draft — bullet points about a sound Fiscal process for the UIRSD handed out from Skipper. For review and under advisement Robert would like to be sure that before we act on any policy in this regard, the UIRSD go to all three towns Selectman/Fin Com. Kate did discuss bullet point #5, addressing E & D funds and the system that we have put in place was done in concert with the towns.

V. Superintendent's Report (20 MIN)

A. Catherine Edwards – *Direct Services Administrator, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)* — Introductions all around. Catherine gave a brief introduction of her position and her background. Education, outreach, and a variety of other tasks fall under her position. Discussion includes the desire to meet more frequently, more engagement. Robert brought up the Policies and Procedures that needs to be reviewed annually, Catherine will get this information from Matt. She will also share contact information with Matt to be shared out to all the building principals.

B. Educational Strategic Plan Update — All Island Meeting - Superintendent shared his thoughts at the All Island Meeting, time for comments from local school committees. Matt shared that the All Island Cabinet meeting for Administrators in early August to review the plan and revise as needed. Matt will be bringing MCAS data as it is released, Sept most likely. Robert asked if the discussion from All Island Selectmen Meeting and the All Island SC meeting impacts Matt's Strategic Plan. Matt answered in the affirmative and discussed greater transparency.

C. All-Island School Committee Meeting — not one scheduled at the moment, the new chair will meet with Matt to set this up.

VI. Personnel (5 MIN)

A. Retirement — Robyn Maciel Wingate to retire in January 2020. Motioned by Kate, Seconded by Robert, unanimous. With appreciation.

B. Resignation — Amy Hoff resigned as ESP at WT, will be hired as a 1st Grade Teacher. Also unanimous.

VII. Old/New Business

A. Chilmark HVAC Working Group Members — review of where we left off, request to the Chilmark Selectman about a working group. Selectmen recommended Robert L, and Robert Hanneman, a Chilmark parent but did not forward a Selectman as a member. Skipper suggested that this needs to be under the Selectmen rather than the UIRSD. Amy asked about ACG and their role in this group. Robert offered that this is the town's request, ACG is hired by the school, so ACG does not have a place at the table. Kate urged diplomatic approach to be sure not to burn bridges with ACG. The town does not want to have the oil burner replaced until the Chilmark Selectman have reviewed the situation. Both ACG and the burner project contractors can be told to put work on hold until this review is complete. Roxanne asked if there can be a recap of the months that we discussed the Heat and ACG participation. Skipper asked for a report next meeting from this Working Group.

B. UIRSC 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule — via email, Alex Salop asked for a review of the meeting times, finding meeting on Monday in the evening. Skipper talked about why Monday has been historically used. Perhaps it is the fact that it is the third Monday, or is it all Mondays? Review with Alex about the other Monday's as every other night is busy. Attempts should **be made to accommodate Alex.**

C. UIRSC Reorganization — take effect as soon as the current meeting adjourns. Kate is current vice-chair, moves to chair. Roxanne to vice-chair. Robert moved, Kate seconded, unanimously approved.

VIII. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

- i. Donna shared that we received the Safer Schools Grant, in the amount of \$35,000. The Committee voted to accept the Grant money. Accepted unanimously. Matt took thanked and congratulated DLB as the grant was a tight time crunch and a lot of work. Matt also noted that the High School and Edgartown school also received this grant.
- ii. Robert visited the interest rate on short term borrowing,

Adjournment

Minutes approved 12/16/19.