

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Tuesday, June 2, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference due to COVID-19**

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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,
Mark Friedman,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Sarah Dingley,
UIRSD/MVPS: Amy Baldino, Anita, Mareen Best, Melissa Braillard,
Kerry Branca, Molly Cabral, Kristine Cammorata, Ruth Chapman,
Molly Chvatal, Dan Cooney, Chris Connors, Emily Crossland,
Claire Crowell, Laura DeBettencourt, Stephanie Dryer, Laura Edelman,
Ray Fallon, Kristy Fletcher, Peter Forrester, Jennifer Fournier,
Carrie Fyler, Meredith Goldthwait, Debra Grant, Kate Harding,
Amy Hoff, Theresa Holmes, Pam Hurley, Alicia Knight,
Natalie Krauthamer, Katilyn Kurth, Corinne Kurtz, Lucy Leopold,
Constance Leuenberger, Emily Levett, Alexis MacTaylor,
Catherine Mafcher, Lisa Magnarelli-Magen, Melissa Mahoney,
Michele Mayhew, Judy Maynard, Meg Mcdonald, Terri Mello,
Sue Merrill, Sue Miller, Nicole Miranda, Nicole Nicodemus,
Kim Patterson, Tricia Pedro, Chelsea Pennebaker, Laurie Pereira,
Victoria Philipps, Annemarie Ralph, Lisa Regan, Kellie Ricker,
Nancy Rogers, Ken Romero, Ryan, Ruley, Jane Sampaio, Denise Searle,
Lais Schoenherr, Joe Schroeder, Alison Smith, Gretchen Snyder,
Skye Sonneborn, Donna Swift, Ashley Tartar, Elspeth Todd, Sarah Vail,
Tessa Wall, Mary Yancey, Zoe Turcotte, MVPS/MVEA: Anne Davey,
Nedine Cunningham, Spencer D'Agostino,
Towns – WT FinCom – Clark Rattet, Greg Orcutt,
Community: Abigail, Dori, Emily, Kyle,
Press – Kelly Marolf – MVTV,
Recorder: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures of UIRSC members

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.
(Recorder's Note: Some discussions have been grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2020 (Agenda Item #II)

• KATE DEVANE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 26, 2020 MINUTES; SKIPPER MANTER
SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS;
ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE
DEVANE—AYE.

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Finances (Agenda Item #III)

A. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget

(See documents on file & 5/26/20 Minutes p.2-3 #B.)

- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea thanked the staff for all their terrific dedication during the difficult closure, working hard hours, learning new software and techniques and especially thanking technology workers for keeping administrators, staff and families going and connected.
 - Based on Town requests, he recommended budgets be reduced 1-1.5%. He also thanked the Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) for their very helpful offer of two furlough days to the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS), resulting in significant savings.
- Other Town and MVPS School committees actions were reviewed:
 - Tisbury School Committee (TSC) reduced \$131,000 in currently unnecessary residential tuition and \$75,000 from a building maintenance increase;
 - Oak Bluffs School Committee (OBSC) cut ~\$50,000 including the All Island School Committee (AISC) Superintendent's Shared Services Office Budget reduction;
 - The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) has not yet met and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was still processing reductions.
 - The Town of West Tisbury collected 94% of real estate tax payments and cut FY21 Department budgets by ~ \$200,000 total, as well as postponing/cutting warrant articles. The next two tax payments would be unchanged, and the new tax rate set in November 2020.
- The UIRSC had requested a level funded FY21 Budget—amounting to \$301,402 plus a potential \$100,000 revenue shortfall. West Tisbury School (WTS) Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt presented the joint proposal of stepped reductions and contingencies, showing savings totals for each.
 - \$16,998 - UIRSC assessed Shared Services Budget reduction;
 - \$104,314 - more accurate projections than November/December budget planning plus elimination of all non-union staff raises—leaving the Chilmark School without a nurse and with a reconfigured custodial staff;
 - \$136,926 - usual Circuit Breaker offset to Special Education Home Tutoring and Expenses lines, plus savings from Covid crisis curtailment of After School Programs and Undistributed Conferences and Workshops;
 - \$186,926 elimination/delay FY21 \$50,000 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) increase;
 - \$256,046 - \$69,120 in furlough savings;
 - final tier – eliminate by attrition one or two WTS Education Support Professionals (ESPs)—delayed hiring of vacant position(s).
 - The \$100,000 revenue shortfall projection could be covered by shifting Excess and Deficiency (E & D) into a reserve line.
 - After FY20 Circuit Breaker commitment and the above offset the FY19 Circuit Breaker residual was \$19,798 which had to be returned to the State if not spent by June 30, 2020. FY20 Circuit Breaker revenue was \$135,818, which Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt recommended be put in a Special Education Reserve Stabilization (see Minutes: 12/16/19 p.2 #V F & 5/26/20 p.3 # C) as proposed articles to be voted at fall 2020 Special Town Meetings (STM).

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(The Miscellaneous Revenue noted last meeting was an error, since corrected to \$4,000.)

- Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt advised that, instead of voting cuts at this time, savings and E & D be placed in a “Covid” contingency line to allow budget and school flexibility in the coming year. Current assessments would remain fairly stable, with a promise of reductions in fall 2020 when State guidelines, school configuration, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) costs, technology/remote learning needs, and other financial information was better known.
- The UIRSC highly commended the Administrators and staff for the concise, clear presentation.
 - The November tax rate deadline took pressure off immediate severe cuts when there were so many unknowns. The UIRSC and Administrators felt it would be more responsible to present the options at Town Meetings showing planning for several eventualities, as well as contingencies for revenue shortfalls, with assurances of action as needed.
 - By State law the UIRSC could reduce its budget at any time without Town Meeting approval so long as no Town assessment was increased.
 - Instigation of two furlough days (to 184 days) would result in an increase when the school year returned to 186 days. All furlough issues were referred to the Negotiations Subcommittee.
 - Equitable student technology access in terms of device parity, internet accessibility, etc. had to be addressed for the following year.
 - Moving savings into a Reserve Line, instead of reducing lines directly, was a matter of accounting management/housekeeping.
 - Administrators had consulted human resources support staff and worked hard to accurately project staff changes/savings, longevity, maternity leaves, etc.
 - This year’s savings was a Town/School/Community partnership. Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt had not replaced three positions on maternity leave, and other teachers and Assistant Principal Mary Boyd had stepped-up, taking on extra duties and students. The lunch program was a mainstay of the community. All meals were subsidized at Free and Reduced levels. Island Grown Schools (IGS) and other individuals donated generously both in supplies and family lunch debt payoff.
 - All students were likely to experience regression and stress, increasing the need for Special education and mental health supports—and consequently for a Special Education Reserve fund.
 - West Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) members Greg Orcutt and Clark Rattet found the proposal interesting and workable provided the UIRSC explained the plan clearly at all Town Meetings. The UIRSC took serious note of the coming financial problems: loss of 1 in 4 Island businesses, high unemployment, and changes in the mill-rate.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO OFFSET THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET BY \$19,798 IN CIRCUIT BREAKER FUNDS; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO OFFSET THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 WEST TISBURY SITE LINE ITEMS #310 AND #316 WITH \$12,500 IN CIRCUIT*

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BREAKER FUNDS AS PRESENTED; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO REDUCE SECTION 'A' OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET BY \$16,998.41; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—ABSTAIN, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO CREATE A RESERVE LINE IN THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AND OFFSET IT WITH \$98,779 OF EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

• After a brief discussion the UIRSC agreed to vote recertification at the June 4, 2020 meeting.

• Thanks went to Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt, the Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs), Superintendent's Office staff and Administrators, all the people that worked so hard on the plan under heavy stress. Thanks also went to the Union for the furlough offer, the teachers and Asst. Prin. Mary Boyd for stepping up, food service workers, guidance and all others who were pitching in during the crisis.

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

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS THE RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KELLY RICKER AT THE END OF THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

• The virtual eighth grade United Kingdom exchange was off to a good start.

Adjournment

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:13PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

Meetings/Events

• AISC Meeting – 4:00PM, Thursday, June 4, 2020 – Zoom Conference

• UIRSC Meeting – 5:00PM, Monday, June 22, 2020 – Zoom Conference

• Special & Annual Town Meetings - TBD

Chilmark – 5:30PM, Monday, June 8, 2020, Community Center Grounds

West Tisbury – 7:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Tabernacle

Aquinnah – 1:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Fire Dept. Grounds

continued

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Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/2/20
- UIRSD Participants 6.2.20 (3 p.)
- Ricker/Lowell-Bettencourt Letter of Resignation 5/30/20
- Highlights of Possible Reductions to the UIRSD FY21 Certified Budget, June 2, 2020 (3 p.)

Minutes approved 6/18/20