

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, June 22, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference due to COVID-19**

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Present: Chair – Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette*, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,

Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Nancy Dugan,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
MVPS Staff: Mary Ambulos, Catherine Mafcher,
MVPS/MVEA Spencer D'Agostino
FinCom – WT – Greg Orcutt,
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.

Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2020; June 4, 2020 (Agenda Item #II)

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2020 AND JUNE 4, 2020 MINUTES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #VI)

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

The students had very cleverly videoed a Zoom school play Sugar Rush. Videos of the Fifth Grade graduation speeches were also sent out.

i. Chilmark School Heat Update

* Robert Lionette entered the meeting at 5:10PM.

- The Town of Chilmark was starting the procurement process to hire an engineering design firm. The UIRSC would get reports but had authorized the Heating Committee to act for them.
- Money for the School windows was appropriated at Town Meeting and Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Interim Business Manager would proceed with procurement starting with formalization of the current Owners Project Manager (OPM).

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

- The year ended well, including virtual field trips and the Eighth Grade Graduation parade. Transitions to prepare for next year included Chilmark sixth graders to the WTS and WTS eighth graders to the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS).
- Facilities preparation and planning for the 2020-2021 School Year were in process but also awaited Massachusetts Governor guidance, which was likely to be 90-95% restrictive.
 - The broken crank-out office window at the front of the building would be replaced (using maintenance line funds for a discounted window and donated labor) with a standard up-and-down window to allow people to drop-off or pickup items, minimizing adult traffic in and out of the building. Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt would formally thank the contributors.

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- Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt was working with Food Service Director Jennie DeVivo on next year's lunch configuration as students would probably not be using the cafeteria.
- The numerous outside doors that previously presented a security challenge, now allowed students to directly leave and enter classrooms without traveling the hallways.
- Building permits were already in process.

IV C. Lunch Program Review

VI C. Food Insecurity Issues

The UIRSC praised the WTS and all involved staff for fabulous work distributing 24,820 meals from March 18th to June 22nd—this last day of school. Feedback from families tagged it as something comfortingly normal in abnormal times.

- Island Grown Initiative (IGI) donated funds to pay for the grab-and-go supplies, and other significant food donations, bakers, Cronigs, etc. considerably reduced the cost of the program. In addition, the MVPS was reimbursed for every meal with no Free and Reduced distinctions, so no Lunch Fund deficit was expected.

- IGI would take over summer lunches in accordance with a survey and sign-up. Pickup locations would be WTS, MVRHS, and Edgartown School. Delivery to those in need was being arranged with the MVRHS transportation.

- The program also included the Charter School and some pre-schools.

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$12,047 FROM ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

Finance (Agenda Item #IV)

A. Discussion of Finances (See documents on file.)

- What looked like a \$1,000,000 current available balance would be significantly reduced by end-of-year payments, such as:
 - ~ \$400,000 final Superintendent's Shared Services Office assessment;
 - ~ \$100,000 as yet unposted short term borrowing;
 - ~ \$50,000 June reconciliation including health/dental insurance;
 - ~ \$78,000 outstanding worker's compensation invoice.

A projected reserve of about \$100-150,000 would be rolled into Excess and Deficiency (E & D) largely from the un-billed MVRHS transportation (see 5/11/20 Minutes p.2 #B).

- Revenues had been mostly booked with the exception of the June Chapter 70 reimbursement— which, if paid in full, would result in revenues ~ \$30,000 over projections. However this could be modified by Charter School tuition variables (see 6/24/19 Minutes p.3 #D). Communications among MVPS Principals allowed some monitoring of Charter School enrollment changes.

- A new line item for \$112,500 from Special Revenues was Circuit Breaker funds transferred to the General Fund (see 6/2/20 Minutes p.2).

B. Year-End Transfers (See documents on file.)

Transfers were from Increment lines, sometimes referred to as Teachers Salary Increments but titled here as Principals or Professional Salary Increments. These residuals were often from new lower-salaried hires, staffing shifts, leaves of absence, etc. Transfers were within separate sites.

- WTS included:

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- teacher salaries and longevity;
- regular day substitutes and Special Education (SpEd) Education Support Professionals (ESP) from before the Covid closure;
- WTS new computer equipment for the current deficit and another \$10,000 for year-end closing needs addressing remote learning needs. The UIRSC requested Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt share the re-envisioned use of technology in view of the previous five-year refresh program (see 11/12/19 Minutes p.1 #III). This timing allowed the WTS to anticipate some 2020-21 needs and purchase already back-ordered stock, in keeping with possible State mandated hybrid or remote learning guidelines. Needs and spending would be closely monitored.
- Chilmark School transfers included:
 - Teachers Salaries
 - Reference materials for some needed purchases;
 - copier lease; and
 - \$16,000 projected cost for the current plumbing project (see 5/11/20 Minutes p.3 #III A).
- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 END-OF-YEAR TRANSFERS AS DOCUMENTED; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*
- Student lunch debt had to be covered at the end of each fiscal year. However, the debt was not canceled and families were asked to pay. Some collections were expected and would be posted to the Revolving Lunch account (see also below: D).
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 END-OF-YEAR TRANSFER OF UP TO \$9,698.52 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO STUDENT LUNCH DEBT; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

D. Donations

These donations would be equitably divided.

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE DONATIONS TO STUDENT LUNCH DEBT AS FOLLOWS:*
 - \$2,000 FROM MR. ERNIE BOCH, JR.;
 - \$1,000 FROM THE SHARKEY LYTLER FAMILY AND \$1,000 IN MATCHING BUSINESS FUNDS;
- ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE,*

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

A. All-Island School Committee (AISC)

The UIRSC praised the June 18th AISC meeting and Labor Counsel Sean Sweeney's clear explanations. The AISC was likely to continue meeting over the summer as Massachusetts guidelines on the next school year were released.

B. Town Meetings Update

Four Town Meetings went well. Aquinnah and West Tisbury would meet tomorrow.

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Old / New / Business (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Chilmark School Nurse Discussion

The UIRSC reviewed the situation (see 5/11/20 Minutes p.3) noting the uncertain school year. Head of School Susan Stevens planned to also use the position to enhance health education.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UIRSC THAT MS. STEVENS PROCEED WITH HIRING A 0.4 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT NURSE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ADAPTATION IN FALL 2020.

B. Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Programs Discussion

Currently special needs students were receiving remote learning which was working out extremely well for some families, reducing driving time for services, etc., although others were struggling. In continuing weekly meetings with the State, Student Support was granted permission for face-to-face learning but with appreciable and financially impactful health and safety compliance requirements: training, supplies, protocols, student needs thresholds, etc. The State required suspension of all programming until July 6th. All families of students whose Individual Learning Plans (IEPs) included ESY were being notified of the situation and further developments awaited final State guidance. Planning included such measures as outdoor or tent instruction and/or small group sessions.

- Some students whose IEP might not have included ESY might now benefit from ESY after the difficult Covid closure. The Department was monitoring a number students in difficult situations.

C. Special Education Update and Discussion

The Department acknowledged the extremely stressful status of families home-schooling students with disabilities emphasizing constant family staff communication as vital. There were a great many meetings both among staff teams, and with community support organizations so that SpEd staff were working extra hours, delivering creative instructions, utilizing videos, delivering materials to the home. The UIRSC thanked Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt and Ms. Stevens for their flexibility and diversity in planning for all their students.

- Prin. Donna Lowell Bettencourt commended the SpEd staff, and noted that IEP meetings and reporting were continuing as conference calling with parents. Staff was also working on annual evaluations to reduce any September backlog.

- In planning for the coming year, everyone acknowledged probable regression problems for all students (but particularly those with IEPs).

D. Discussion: Selection of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) Members

Alex Salop was interested in amending UIRSC representation to the MVRHSC noting that the current mandate of the top vote-getter did not take other important factors into account. The UIRSC reviewed the history of similar attempts (see Minutes: 11/15/10 p.3 & 4/14/14 p.2-3 #IV A, & 7/17/17 p.3 # VII), noting that when the MVRHC agreement was formed in the 1950s all three UIRSC towns were fairly small. Opinions varied, including:

- advocating for the MVRHSC to be the same as the AISC;
- advocating for two representatives for West Tisbury;
- MVRHSC representation by Town or School ratio of students;
- opening the MVRHS Regional Agreement to amendment as raising controversial issues: vote weight, financial assessment, etc.

Amending the MVRHSD Regional Agreement required the MVRHSC to request a warrant article be posted and approved by all six Towns.

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Personnel (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Leaves of Absence (See documents on file.)

B. Resignations (See documents on file.)

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE/ACKNOWLEDGE WITH CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN COONEY:*
 - *A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ROBYN DORI FOR THE DURATION OF A WEST TISBURY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE ASSIGNMENT, AND*
 - *THE RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DAN COONEY AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 TO ACCEPT A WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER POSITION;*
- ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

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

As the UIRSC was not meeting in person there were problems with signing of warrants. Options included having members come into the Superintendent's Shared Services Office or appointing a representative to sign for the Committee. After some discussion:

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO DESIGNATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR OR THEIR ALTERNATE DESIGNEE TO SIGN WARRANTS FOR A BRIEF PERIOD UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WHEN THE UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECONVENES; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

Adjournment

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:59PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/22/20
- Stevens/Chilmark Chatter emails re: Memorable Moments 6/20/20
- Stevens/Swift emails re: Sugar Rush Video Update 6/20/20
- Up-Island Regional School District All Expenditure Report - General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (11 p.) 6/22/20
- Up-Island Regional School District Revenue Report - General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2019-2020 6/22/20
- UIRSD FY20 Year End Requested Year-End Budget Transfers June 22, 2020
- Stone/Lowell-Bettencourt/Dori emails re: Leave Request 6/9/20
- Stone/Lowell-Bettencourt/Cooney emails re: Letter of Resignation 6/5/20
- Lytle family letter re: contribution 5/25/20

continued >

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Meetings/Events

- **MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 29, 2020 – Zoom Conference**
- **UIRSC Meeting – 5:00PM, Monday, July 20, 2020 – Zoom Conference**
- **Special & Annual Town Meetings – *TBD***
 - Aquinnah – 1:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Fire Dept. Grounds
 - West Tisbury – 7:00PM, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Tabernacle

Minutes approved 7/20/20