

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:15PM, Monday, October 13, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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

Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith,
Mark Friedman, Nancy Dugan, Ruda Stone,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Staff: Susan Conlan, Donna Swift, MVEA: Anne Davey,
Parents – Sean O'Sullivan
Community: Meg McDonald
Press – Michelle Vivian – MVTV, Maia Coleman – Vineyard Gazette,
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 – Sept. 1, 8, & 21, 2020 - Tabled (Agenda Item #II)

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)

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

All 55 students would be back in school in about two weeks. The Chilmark Community Center was functioning as a remote learning cafe with two teachers and a volunteer including the 4 Cohort D students. The playground was in use as well as playing tennis during breaks. Masks were worn during contact sports. The UIRSC asked about moving to a full day, however Head of School Susan Stevens noted the long days wearing masks and adapting to new procedures and suggested waiting until all were back in school and settled before extending the current schedule.

B. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School (See documents on file.)

October 1st enrollment although fluid (some moving off-Island, others joining) was 341 students. Starting today the 2nd and 3rd graders joined kindergarten and 1st graders in-person. There was room in the buses although heavy parent drop-off/pickup required adjustment and readjustment of parking lot patterns. Days were tiring but going well. Students adapted well to masks and procedures. The playground was split in multiple parts and sanitized after each cohort use.

- The lunch program was heavily used by both remote and in-person students and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended the free lunch waiver to the end of the 2020-21 school year.

- Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt was exploring wastewater testing with Biobot Analytics as an early warning system for Covid-19 outbreaks. This had the advantage of not disrupting the school day and not hiring extra administrative staff. Testing frequency and funding (\$1,200 per test) was not yet determined and the company was so busy it did not return calls/contacts. The UIRSC suggested this could be a CARES Act/ESSER funding priority—if it proceeded.

- The Boards of Health were meeting biweekly.

- Alex Salop continued to advocate for more students in-person, citing his Qualtrix research of 47 schools and over 200,000 student of which 70% had returned to hybrid or full in-person learning, which showed a total positive rate of 0.15% for students and 0.72% for staff. Prin.

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Lowell-Bettencourt emphasized that the slow roll-out had been very helpful in working out day-to-day logistics and staff adaptation (see below: V A). A number of details still needed to be worked out including arrival/departure staggering to relieve traffic congestion. UIRSD planning/models would not collapse the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) 6 ft. distancing recommendation.

Financial Report (Agenda Item #IV)

A. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Covid Testing Directive – Funding

Approval (See AISC Minutes: 10/1/20 p.2-6 #III B & 10/8/20 p.1-2 #IV A.)

After an initial vote to approve, the Testing Advisory Committee delayed implementation of the plan due to some concerns requiring further clarification of testing mechanics as well as legal and financial issues. The Committee was consulting with infectious disease experts and studying the Wellesley and Watertown school districts who were moving fwd with voluntary testing. Superintendent Matt D'Andrea reiterated that testing could be required for in-person learning as long as the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) provided a viable alternative—which was Cohort D Remote Learning.

- The UIRSC noted the above issues raised financial issues, so workshops were scheduled to start the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget process (see below: Meetings/Events). They requested:
 - a level service budget several days prior to the first Budget Workshop;
 - a Covid-related expenses score sheet delineating what source or grant was being used;
 - an update on the Chilmark Heating project;
 - confirmation Chilmark School windows were on the Aquinnah Special Town Meeting Warrant;
 - Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC) membership report.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

A. School Reopening Update

- Supt. D'Andrea expressed Administration's excitement as buildings began to feel more like schools. Fortunately infection rates had not spiked and the MVPS hoped to announce next steps by the end of October for middle and high school students and extended school days, including separate plans tailored to each district's capacity—with some consistency across the MVPS.
- Families had been very supportive in finding alternate transportation so bus numbers remained low. However as noted above this caused ancillary pickup/drop-off traffic problems.

B. Mask Policy - 2nd Reading (See documents on file.)

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED THE FIRST READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL FACE COVERINGS/MASKS POLICY; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

C. Impact Aid – Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Policies and

Procedures (IPP) (See documents on file & 1/28/19 Minutes p.3 #IV B.)

Delayed approval of the IPP was effecting impact aid. This document allowed for parent and Tribe feedback on education accessibility, emphasizing communication between the UIRSC and the Wampanoag Tribe through publicized meetings, participation and two meetings in Aquinnah in each year. It was reviewed and voted each spring by the UIRSC and the Tribe, before being submitted with the Impact Aid application. Administration had been in contact with Wampanoag Education Committee Chair Martha Vanderhoop who sanctioned the Policies. Aquinnah UIRSC representative Roxanne Ackerman suggested the IPP also be submitted to the Tribal Council.

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- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WAMPANOAG TRIBE OF GAY HEAD (AQUINNAH) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Personnel (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Retirement (See documents on file.)

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER RUTH CHAPMAN AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 WITH GREAT SADNESS AND APPRECIATION; SKIPPER MANTER AND ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

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

Meetings/Events: (By Zoom)

AISC Meeting – 5:00PM, Thursday October 22, 2020

UIRSC Budget Meeting - 5:00PM, Tuesday, October 27, 2020

MVRHSC Meeting – 5:00PM, Monday, November 2, 2020

UIRSC Regular Meeting - 5:00PM, Monday, November 9, 2020

UIRSC Budget Meeting - 5:00PM, Monday, November 16, 2020

Adjournment

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:24PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/13/20
- Stone/Chapman emails re: Retirement Next Year 10/2/20
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Coverings/Masks Policy (2 p.) 9/21/20
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Policies and Procedures 2019-2020 School Year (5 p.)
- Up Island Regional School District Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (2 p.) 10/9/20
- UIRSD Cares Act Grants Budgets, ESSER Grant School Reopening Grant, Remote Tech Learning Grant
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020- 2021 10/9/20
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020-2021, (14 p.) 10/9/20

Minutes approved 11/9/20