

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
6:15PM, Tuesday, October 27, 2020  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

**Page 1 of 3**

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

Others: About 75-80 attendees (see participants list) including  
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Nancy Dugan, Ruda Stone,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,  
Nurses: Pamela Rendek,  
MVPS/MVEA: Nedine Cunningham, Anne Davey,  
Towns – West Tisbury – Greg Orcutt, Chilmark – Marina Lent,  
Press – MV Times – Lucas Thors, MVTV – Kelly Marolf,  
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.

**Up-Island School Reopening Plan & Possible Vote** (Agenda Item #II)

\* During this discussion Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 6:20PM and Kate Devane entered at 6:46PM.

Working with Superintendent Matt D'Andrea and the Health/Safety Committee, Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt proposed the following:

- kindergarten (K) through fifth grade would start in-person 5 days a week November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and;
- and grades six through eight would start in-person 5 days a week on November 17<sup>th</sup>; with
- K through third grade from 9:10AM to 1:40PM and
- grades 4 through 8 from 8:10AM to 2:40PM.
- Enrollment had increased from 341 students to 350 (see documents on file).
- Cohort C had been shrinking slightly as in-person learning increased and the remainder were using the gym and cafeteria.

No other standards had changed (6 ft. distancing, masks, etc.) and all mitigation strategies would remain. Some UIRSC members advocated for expanding the school day to 5 hrs. Administration was working on this but noted problems with arrival/departure staging and transportation logistics—families with multiple children were being asked to adapt to the staggered scheduled. A letter from Chilmark School staff (see documents on file) also raised the issue of difficulties inherent in the changed school day such as, student isolation at their desks hampering collaboration and socializing, as well as student and staff stamina. School therapists offered non-sedentary movement activities.

- Cohort D was continuing with UIRSD classes as follows: K/1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades, 7<sup>th</sup> grade; with 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades joining in-person classes by remote technology (Owl) supplemented with some asynchronous work.
- The budget implications were as previously noted: large tents, extra cleaning, etc.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**October 27, 2020**

**Page 2 of 3**

- The Boards of Health (BOH) were putting metrics together (see 10/22/20 AISC Minutes p.2), and a document was being prepared covering various scenarios. However each situation was different so that even if the Island were to move into the red zone in-person school would depend on a number of other factors as well as the metrics and decisions would defer to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and to heads of schools. Without regular testing protocols schools were looking to parents to closely monitor symptoms.
- This plan would be revisited in two weeks.
- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TWO UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING PLANS AS PRESENTED THIS EVENING; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—ABSTAIN* as coming too late to the conversation.

**Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget Workshop**                      (Agenda Item #III)  
(See documents on file.)

- This starting-point level-service draft merely moved the existing staff/expenses and contractual changes forward (including the Chilmark School nurse) for a total of \$255,467 or 2.03% with the following exceptions:
    - lane changes expected in the next version;
    - Health insurance rate raise assumption, due to unknown Covid-19 impacts—to be researched through the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG);
    - \$50,000 Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) increase.
  - Later versions would include Covid-related spending projections: technology (Chromebooks, hotspots...), personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning/disinfecting schools and buses, tent rentals, additional heating fuel, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) filters and other facility maintenance.
    - Less predictable expenses would include instructional changes and mental health support.
    - The UIRSC asked for a separate report itemizing Covid-19 related expenses and resources. The UIRSD portions of the Covid related grants were:
      - \$48,544 Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER),
      - \$22,363 Technology (competitive),
      - \$80,100 School Reopening,
- Substantial spending from these grants involved one-time items (specialized equipment, dividers, picnic tables, etc.)
- The UIRSC also requested:
    - the usual 'wish lists' from school leadership,
    - capital planning/spending (current projects: Chilmark School window replacement almost completed and WTS roof design Aquinnah warrant article approval);
    - some health insurance rate marker,
    - projected transportation increase (not as much as previously feared), and
    - report on OPEB status.
  - Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt emphasized that FY22 would involve foundational changes and assumptions both in staff and other expenses, so consequently yearly budgets would not be 'apples to apples' comparable. In addition the UIRSC should keep in close contact with Towns and Finance Committees (FinComs) regarding tax collection issues.
  - There was a brief mention of Excess and Deficiency (E & D) and the contingency reserve (see 6/2/20 Minutes p.2-4 #III A).

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**October 27, 2020**

**Page 3 of 3**

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

- The UIRSC expressed their gratitude to the West Tisbury Chief of Police and the Town for voting Town funding for another School located blinking speed light.
- The Covid self-evaluation software (see 9/8/20 Minutes p.2 #V A) was being instituted as a further assurance for staff.

**Meetings/Events: (By Zoom)**

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

AISC Meeting – 5:00PM, Thursday November 5, 2020

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

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

**Adjournment**

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:31PM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE – AYE, SKIPPER MANTER – AYE, ALEX SALOP – AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN – AYE, KATE DEVANE – AYE.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda/Revised Agenda (2 p.) 10/27/20
- UIRSC Participants 10.28.20 (2 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Enrollment Census Worksheet (2 p.)
- Friedman cover email re: UIRSD Level Service Budget 10/26/20
- FY22 Up-Island Regional School District FY22 (13 p.)
- Up-Island Regional School District FY22 General Fund Budget – Version #1, 10-26-2020 (13 p.)
- Stevens email re: Letter from staff of Chilmark School 10/17/20

**Minutes approved 12/21/20**