

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
5:00PM, Monday, November 16, 2020  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman, Kate DeVane, Skipper Manter\*,  
Others: iPad, MH, Susan Conlan,  
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman,  
Ruda Stone,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,  
MVPS/UIRSD: Elsbeth Todd, Melissa McNickles, Laura DeBettencourt,  
Natalie Krauthamer, MVEA: Spencer D'Agostino,  
Towns – West Tisbury – Greg Orcutt,  
Press – MVTV – Shavannae Anderson,  
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.)

**Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget Workshop** (Agenda Item #II)  
(See documents on file & 10/27/20 Minutes p.2 #III.)

\* During this conversation Skipper Manter entered the meeting at 6:05PM.

- The level service draft (with staff as of October 2020) showing ~ 2% increase was briefly reviewed before considering Administrators' needs projections.
- West Tisbury School (WTS) Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt listed the following important items.
  - Phase 3 (\$20,224) of the five-year Technology upgrade (see 11/12/19 Minutes p.1 #III) was more needed than ever. All students now had devices.
  - As CARES Act grants might not be available, Covid related expenses (cleaning services and supplies, testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), heating, etc.) should be budgeted. To avoid the transfer complexities granularity, a contingency reserve was deemed the best solution, either Covid Contingency lines for each school or as part of the general Contingency Line Item.
  - The need for a covered walkway to shelter students and families in inclement weather at arrival and departure was highlighted by pandemic generated staggered drop-off/pickup.
  - Also in relation to the pandemic a permanent outdoor pavilion would enhance classroom space.
  - The Regional lunch program had grown, not only beyond the school construction vision but also beyond the 2010-11 renovation. Cafeteria Director Jenni DeVivo and Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt were looking at grants for equipment work in summer 2021.
    - The outdoor walk-in refrigerator/freezer was failing, and advocacy on warrantee issues did not sufficiently cover repairs.
    - The dishwasher donated by the Edgartown School had reached the end of its useful life—but could possibly be covered by Revolving Lunch funds.
    - A permanent overhang leading to the outdoor fridge/freezer was previously discussed but in view of the success of the meals program Administration and the UIRSC expressed interest in a more comprehensive kitchen expansion/renovation so the UIRSC asked for some rough estimates.
- Head of Chilmark School Susan Stevens had the following requests:
  - continuance of the full time Nurse who was also teaching the health/wellness curriculum;

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- possible need for a one-on-one Education Support Professional for an incoming student;
- Covid related contingency (including environmentally compostable plastic-ware for grab-and-go lunches), not yet possible to quantify;
- replacement of 4 front and 4 side exterior doors, now rotted and difficult to lock—3 locksmiths had failed to repair them.
- WTS CARES Act grant spending was:
  - about \$35,000 in cleaning supplies, PPE, and one-time expenses (plexiglass, on-line textbooks, marker-boards, livestream technology, walkie-talkies for in-building student traffic flow coordination) were covered by the School Reopening grant;
  - \$38,400 Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) with \$24,000 earmarked for testing;
  - Technology grant providing younger/primary grades with individual devices, and microphones for teachers (needed for talking through masks).
- Chilmark purchased 2 Chromebooks and 4 iPads, which was sufficient unless there was an influx of new students.
- Current capital planning included the next phase of the Chilmark School windows (warrant article voted by West Tisbury) and the design for the WTS flat roof (see 9/21/20 Minutes p.2 #VI A). The UIRSC explored the problem generated by the canceled Aquinnah Special Town Meeting (STM) and how to fund the \$4,873 Aquinnah portion in time to bid, award and finish the design for 2021 summer construction to beat the warranty deadline. Large indoor gathering restrictions made a timely STM unlikely and spending operating budget funds on warrant article projects was fiscally discouraged.
- Transportation costs were still very difficult to project. At the moment there were very few riders, but schedules continued to change. Wages were likely to increase modestly as was vehicle procurement. Chapter 71 reimbursement was still unpredictable.
- Excess and Deficiency (E & D) policy and history were again debated.
  - Due to the pandemic move to remote learning, FY20 E & D was estimated at \$150,000.
  - E & D could be voted as part of the annual budgets but any spending outside the budget procedure had the potential to generate STMs.
  - The UIRSC created a contingency line with E & D reserves (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.2), with the proviso that all spending from the line be reported to the three Towns—of this year's \$98,779 certified E & D, \$3,800 was earmarked for Chilmark School testing (see 11/9/20 Minutes p.2 #IV A). The only caution on funding the contingency line with E & D was that it was not a reliable source, varying with each year's revenue and spending.
  - Traditionally the UIRSC voted all E & D funds into the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trust—however the previous Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator found this impacted UIRSD cash flow.
  - MVPS Interim Business Administrator Mark Friedman reported that Standard & Poors slightly dropped the UIRSD bond rating due to the lack of E & D—despite Mr. Friedman hard argue on the contingency line and OPEB pay-down.
- The most recent actuarial study put the UIRSD Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) at \$860,000 per year which the UIRSD had exceeded through current the \$529,000 OPEB Trust line item and \$345,000 in pay-as-you-go expenses. In addition the UIRSD budgeted OPEB funding into each new hire as well as the above mentioned year-end E & D contributions. The UIRSC took a moment to acknowledge the achievement. Mr. Friedman would confirm ADEC parameters (pay down or lack of liability growth) with the auditors.

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- The UIRSC requested the following additions to the next FY22 budget draft:
  - 5% health insurance placeholder,
  - \$50,000 OPEB increase,
  - \$20,224 Phase 3 WTS Technology,
  - full time Chilmark School Nurse;
- and the following information:
  - Covid grant/spending spreadsheet,
  - transportation projections, and
  - future capital projects.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None** (Agenda Item #III)

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

**AISC Meeting – 5:30PM, Thursdays November 19 & December 3, 2020**

**UIRSC Budget Meetings - 5:00PM, Monday, November 23 & 30, 2020**

**MVRHSC Meeting – 5:00PM, Monday, December 7, 2020**

**UIRSC Regular Meeting/Public Hearing - 5:00PM, Monday, December 21, 2020**

**Adjournment**

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:17PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/16/20
- WTS Site FY22 Budget Areas

**Minutes approved 12/21/20**