

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, November 23, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Page 1 of 2

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

Others: iPad, MH, Susan Conlan, Kurth,
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Ruda Stone, Nancy Dugan,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Staff: Amy Hoff, Sara Hoffman, Theresa Holmes, Lucy Leopold, Michele Mayhew, Tricia Pedro, Skye Sonneborn, Zoe Turcotte,
MVEA: Leadership,
Parents: Liza Williamson, Towns – West Tisbury – Greg Orcutt,
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 & Minutes: 10/27/20 p.2 #III, & 11/16/20.)

- Draft #2 was up \$561,130 or 4.45% at \$13,127,404 reported as follows:
 - enhanced contractual increases (lane changes included);
 - \$75,210 Salary Increments (usually a residual pool) accounting for staffing shifts/resignations and new hires at the same or increased pay grades;
 - 5% health insurance rate placeholder (moderately conservative);
 - \$50,000 Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) increase (above the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution – ADEC);
 - \$20,224 West Tisbury School (WTS) technology phase 3;
 - \$34,340 full time Chilmark School nurse (with benefits including health insurance as above).
 - Both Transportation (dependent on FY22 pandemic status) and the Superintendent's Shared Services Office were substantial factors expected to increase, but not yet established.
 - Contractual increases were set, although staff numbers could be examined for reductions. Head of Chilmark School Susan Stevens confirmed the need to include a one-on-one Special Education (SpEd) Education Support Professional (ESP) for an incoming FY22 student. WTS Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt strongly advised against any staff decreases in terms of:
 - staff flexibility (e.g. multiple certifications) required during the pandemic;
 - programming including enrichment and regional English Language Learners (ELL);
 - class sizes as limited by the teacher's contracts;
 - a larger middle school than expected from Chilmark and returning Charter School students.
- Some members strongly supported staffing levels. An inventory of staffing shifts/resignations, was requested but it was noted an employee list had already been submitted (see 10/27/20 Minutes Documents on file).
- There were only 3 other 'debatable' items, WTS Technology, OPEB, and the Chilmark nurse.
 - Members were proud to have hit the OPEB ADEC (pay-down at 30 years), and some argued that given expected increases, the \$50,000 annual increase should be eliminated to reduce taxpayer burden—albeit by a minimal amount. The OPEB Line would continue to contribute \$558,286 into the Dukes County Pooled OPEB Trust (now funded at about 27%), as well as the pay-as-you-go and new hire contributions.
 - Mr. Manter argued that actuarial studies varied (the last one was June 2020) and consequently it should remain as a minor increase. The UIRSC agreed to ask the three Towns for their

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
November 23, 2020

Page 2 of 2

preferences on whether to reduce the budget or continue the OPEB increase at various sums. West Tisbury Finance Committee member Greg Orcutt concurred that the commitment was to a long term debt.

- The Contingency fund was considered in terms of:
 - 3 contingencies (WTS, Chilmark School, Regional) at 3-5% each—recommended best practice;
 - un-budgeted FY22 repeat Covid expenses such as personal protective equipment (PPE);
- CARES Act grant spending was reviewed some items being ordered or encumbered but not yet billed. No funds were available to pay Ms. Stevens for extra days (see 7/20/20 Minutes p.4 #IV).
- The FY22 Budget Public Hearing required a fairly accurate figure.
- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET AT 5:00PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Discussion (Agenda Item #III)

(See Minutes: 1/18/19 p.2 #IV A & 4/8/19 p.2 #V B & 6/24/19 p.3 #D, & 12/5/19 p.1-2 #III & 12/16/19 Budget p.1 #II, 1/27/20 p.4-5, & 5/26/20 p.2 #B, & 6/2/20 p.2-4 #III A, & 11/16/20 p.2-3.)

E & D protocol was reviewed again. Last year E & D was utilized to fund the Contingency line. Mr. Manter questioned the bond rating drop in terms of his standard objections to E & D (certification restrictions, unstable amounts, return to the Towns, etc.). The UIRSC considered past or possible dedication to the OPEB Trust. The UIRSC asked it be put on the next agenda.
- State School Choice revenues/enrollment reports (last year at \$330,000) had not yet been released. The UIRSD usually used these funds to reduce Town assessments.

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

Parents expressed concern on student eye health due to the amount of screen time.

Meetings/Events: (By Zoom)

AISC Meeting – 5:30PM, Thursday, December 3, 2020

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

UIRSC Budget Meeting - 6:15PM, Tuesday, December 8, 2020

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

Adjournment

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:58PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/23/20
- UIRSD FY22 Budget Draft #2 11/23/2020
- Up-Island Regional School District FY22 General Fund Budget – Version #1, 11-23-20 (13 p.)
- PO#...Voucher...Vendor... Date Approved...(2 p.)
- UIRSD ESSER Grant – FY21
- Dukes County Pooled OPEB Trust For Period Ending 6/30/2020

Minutes approved 12/21/20