

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
5:00PM, Monday, November 9, 2020  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

**Page 1 of 4**

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

Others: Emma Bryant, Maia Colman, Susan Conlan, Skye Kerns, Heidi Rydzewski,  
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: Mary Kuh Ambulos, Pamela Rendek, Ellen Rossi, Donna Swift, Zoe Turcotte,  
MVPS/MVEA: Anne Davey,  
Towns – West Tisbury – Greg Orcutt, Chilmark – Warren Doty, Marina Lent,  
Press – MV Times – Lucas Thors, 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 – Sept. 1, 8, & 21, 2020; October 13, 2020** (Agenda Item #II)

• *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, AND OCTOBER 13, 2020 MINUTES; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: SKIPPER MANTER – AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN – AYE, KATE DEVANE – AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE – AYE, ALEX SALOP – AYE.* The UIRSC expressed their appreciation to Recorder Marni Lipke.

**Principals' Report** (Agenda Item #VI)

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

Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reported the re-opening plan for the entire school (see 10/27/20 Minutes p.1-2 #II) was going well, including special classes (art, music, etc.). Students and staff were managing many new protocols. Average class section size was about 12 students with lots of outdoor learning—thanks went to the Agricultural Hall for 100 or more picnic tables. Arrival and departure coordination was resolving congestion. Bus ridership continued very low.

• Anticipating higher internet use, the State approved a second round of e-rate funds at \$8,818.08 for the WTS and \$1,954.05 the Chilmark school covering 60% of the cost a speed upgrade.

- UIRSD Cohort D education was reviewed (see 10/27/20 Minutes p.1 #II). Some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers were using Owl technology to live-stream in-person classes to remote students.

- Thanks went to technologists Becky Barca and David Crawford.

**A. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School**

Head of School Susan Stevens reported that all students were in-person 5 days a week with lots of outside space use, including a circus-like tent (courtesy of the Outermost Inn) that covered the entire central green.

- The window replacement was completed in a single weekend with a short punch list remaining.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 9, 2020**

**Page 2 of 4**

**i. Chilmark School Heat Update**

The design Request for Proposal (RFP) responses were narrowed to \$134,400 from CES (an outlier bid) and \$38,000 from TE2 Engineering. The Chilmark Committee awarded the contract to TE2 the highest rated company with the lowest bid. The UIRSC considered:

- the wide discrepancy in bids (not unusual);
- authority (thanks went to the Town of Chilmark for taking the procurement lead);
- and funding (Green Community grant and Town-appropriated warrant article funds residing with the UIRSD);
- review of previous UIRSC motion to cede the project to the Town after (see Minutes: 6/24/19 p.2 #B & 10/21/19 p.2 #IV C).

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILMARK SCHOOL HEAT AND TO PAY THE AMOUNT OF THE TE2 BID AS REPORTED; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**Finance** (Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Covid Testing Funding Approval**

(See 11/5/20 AISC Minutes p.2-4 #III A.)

The UIRSC debated sources for the UIRSD share of the \$150,000 requested from the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS). The WTS share could be taken from CARES Act funding, however the Chilmark School would have to cover its share from small line item residuals and the Contingency reserves.

- The issue of the Chilmark School Nurse deficit (\$30,641) was also outstanding (see Minutes: 8/27/20 p.2 & 9/1/20 p.4 #B).
- Interim MVPS Business Manager Mark Friedman stated the Chilmark 'proportion' of the \$98,779 UIRSD Contingency line was \$20,422—although Excess and Deficiency (E & D) sources could not be identified.
- Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt preferred use of the CARES Act funding to leave space for further unknown budget factors.
- It was better to delineate sources and make transfers as expenses became known, allowing a more accurate accounting of the budget status in this extraordinary and unpredictable year.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SHARE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM:*

- *ACKNOWLEDGING THE USE OF \$24,251 FROM THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL RELIEF (ESSER) GRANT; AND*
- *AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$3,800 FROM THE CONTINGENCY LINE FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL SHARE;*

*KATE DEVANE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—NAY, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**B. Prior Year Invoice** (See documents on file.)

The invoice was verified and it was noted other MVPS also received AAA prior year bills.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION PRIOR YEAR BILL FOR \$325; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 9, 2020**

**Page 3 of 4**

**C. Capital Projects Status Update**

The WTS roof article was on the Aquinnah Special Town Meeting warrant.

**Superintendent's Report** (Agenda Item #V)

**A. School Reopening Update** (See also above # IV.)

Administration was closely monitoring positive cases turning up in the MVPS (see documents on file). At this time it was clear the community spread was not school-based, but contracted from outside sources. Prevention protocols (hand-washing, masking, self-checks) were helping contain the infection rates. Administration would continue to consult with the Health/Safety Committee and to balance recommendations with MVPS students' educational needs.

**B. Covid Testing Program Update** (See 11/5/20 AISC Minutes p.2-4 #III A.)

Alex Salop was working with private donors and the Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Foundation—which was providing management as well as funding.

**C. October 1, 2020 Student Census** (See documents on file.)

MVPS enrollment was 2,151 down 20 students from last year, with the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School up about 30 students to 701, but most elementary schools were down:

- Chilmark down to 50 from 55 students, and
- WTS down about 10 students to 341.

**D. Mask Policy - 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** (See documents on file.)

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL FACE COVERINGS/MASKS POLICY; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

- The MVPS received frequent public records requests which legally included all school committee member emails regarding MVPS business. The new email addresses would greatly facilitate public record responses by automatically retrieving all relevant emails.
- The UIRSD capital plan was being updated for the next meeting. The UIRSC discussed the ongoing issue of much-needed WTS parking lot improvements (on the list without a time designation)—especially in view of long-term planning for extraordinary events such as the continuing pandemic.

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

**UIRSC Budget Meeting - 5:30PM, Monday, November 16, 2020**

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

**Adjournment**

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:20PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/9/20
- American Arbitration Association Summary Invoice/Statement 9/14/20

**continued >**

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**November 9, 2020**

**Page 4 of 4**

**Documents on File (cont.):**

- Lowell-Bettencourt/Crawford emails re: E-Rate Funding Summary 11/9/20
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Enrollment Census Worksheet
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Coverings/Masks Policy (2 p.) 10/13/20

**Minutes approved 12/21/20**