

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, December 21, 2020
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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

Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith,
Mark Friedman, Ruda Stone,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
MVPS Staff: Spencer D'Agostino,
Press – MVTV – Shavannáe Anderson, Lucas Thors,
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.)

Approval of Minutes – October 27, November 9, 16 & 23, 2020 (Agenda Item #II)

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:*
- *OCTOBER 27, 2020,*
- *NOVEMBER 9, 2020, NOVEMBER 16, 2020, NOVEMBER 23, 2020,*
- *DECEMBER 8, 2020, AND DECEMBER 15, 2020;*
- SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget Workshop (Agenda #IV)
Public Hearing (Agenda Item #V)
(See documents on file & Minutes: 12/8/20 & 12/15/20.)

* During this discussion Robert Lionette entered the meeting.

Chair Alex Salop formally opened the public hearing, advertised as mandated, at 5:05PM.

- Version/Draft #5 (total budget \$13,192,511) increases (\$580,298 or 4.6%) were reviewed:
- \$185,000 contractual or level service budget (annual increase, steps, lane changes, etc.);
- \$12,500 elimination of Circuit Breaker income;
- \$14,400 FY22 / restoration FY21 non-union salary increments (see 6/2/20 Minutes p.2 #III A);
- with a 5% health insurance rate placeholder—actual number in February 2021 from Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG);
- \$50,000 Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trust—as approved by 2 of 3 Town Finance Committees (FinComs);
- \$20,224 West Tisbury School (WTS) technology Phase III (see 11/12/19 Minutes p.1 #III);
- \$29,517 one-on-one 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Chilmark School Education Support Professional (ESP);
- \$34,340 - 0.6 FTE Chilmark School Nurse (see Minutes: 5/11/20 p.3, & 6/22/20 p.4 #VI A, & 8/19/20 p.3, 8/27/20 p.1-2 #III A, & 9/1/20 p.4 #B);
- \$13,443 insurance (worker's comp, liability, property);
- \$110,300 assessment Superintendent's Shared Services Office;
- \$5,538 transportation;
- a \$1,188 reduction in debt (shifting from short to long term borrowing).

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With was some disagreement this was considered the minimum cost of a quality education.

- Revenues were unchanged from the previous meeting.
- FY21 School Choice enrollment and Charter School tuition/reimbursement were estimated at FY21 levels since State information was delayed.
- Chapter 70 State aid (also delayed) was currently estimated at \$870,000 (about a \$13,000 drop).
- Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement was increased about 10% to account for this year's increased costs.
- FY21 Medicaid offset was estimated at \$36,000 as an average of the last 3 years (including FY20-21 Covid expenditures).
- \$98,000 Excess & Deficiency (E & D) offset as distributed into site-based contingencies.
- No new borrowing projects were included in Part D.
- Interest income was projected at \$28,000.

The total assessed budget was \$13,146,217 a 4.62% overall increase—Town assessment determined by enrollment.

- Warrant article amounts were as yet unknown but would cover:
 - Chilmark School windows final phase—(West Tisbury already voted),
 - Chilmark School exterior doors,
 - WTS roof construction,
 - WTS walk-in refrigerator/freezer, and
 - WTS stage elevator.
- The UIRSC revisited controversy around E & D depletion which had dropped the District bond rating from A+ to AA- with further downgrade possible if the situation was not corrected. The new questions being:
 - frequency of bond review;
 - E & D generation through unexpected windfalls (lower health insurance expenditure, revenues above estimates, etc.)
 - ability to rollover E & D each year to increase the balance.

There being no public comment, the Public Hearing was closed at 5:44PM.

VI. Finance

(Agenda Item # VI)

A. Possible FY22) Budget Certification

Robert Lionette supported the budget with the exception of the proportional contingency distribution, emphasizing:

- specific site related sources of E & D could not be determined;
- the level of minutiae was counterproductive to emergency spending;
- a unified contingency fund was one of the benefits of being a region.

Although \$98,000 E & D revenue matched the contingency total, it offset the entire budget not the specific lines—and consequently was a separate issue from the divided contingency. There was a single objection that the spending might not be according to formula.

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO CERTIFY THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET DRAFT #5 FOR AN OPERATING BUDGET AT \$13,192,510.88 OR 4.60 % INCREASE ASSESSED AT \$13,146,216.78 OR 4.62% INCREASE;*

- WITH A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO MOVE THE ENTIRE CONTINGENCY AMOUNT INTO PART B THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE;

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

B. Expenditure and Revenue Report - Tabled (See documents on file.)

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Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)

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

Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reviewed the continuing re-opening plans:

- starting 6th thru 8th graders at 4 days a week January 11, 2021 and 5 days a week January 18th;
- with 4th thru 8th grades at full hour school days; and
- increase kindergarten through 3rd grade days for an hour but not yet to full days.

Pupil enrollment in hybrid learning continued to increase, shrinking Cohort D numbers. Middle School (6th thru 8th grade) Cohort D students were live-streaming into the classrooms.

- The UIRSC continued to urge full in-person full-day school. Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt attested the facility could not accommodate simultaneous full school departure and arrival.
- A member requested bus ridership by route and Cohort D second semester enrollment by grade.

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

- All school events were continuing such as: morning meetings on zoom, 4th/5th grade fundraising for Heffer International, the Peace Tree in January. The school day would be extended to 2:40PM on January 11th —still a slightly shortened day on concerns about the long hours and masking for younger students. There was a request for any Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) policy on masks to distribute to the community.
- Students (with some parent support) were climbing up to the Community Center equipment shed roof by the shed door. The door had been broken and repaired at Chilmark School expense and was now broken off completely. Consequently the shed would be locked to preserve the equipment—making play equipment unavailable to the community.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Covid Testing Update (See AISC 11/5/20 AISC Minutes p.2-3 #III A.)

The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) expected to implement two testing programs.

- The first 400 of 2,400 free Federal/State BinaxNOW symptomatic test kits for in-school illness were received and distributed. School nurses were in training and parental consent forms would go out shortly.

- Thanks to Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and MV Youth, funding was completed for the asymptomatic surveillance testing. Thanks also went to MVPS Business Manager Mark Friedman and attorneys for working to complete the contract with Miramus.

Personnel (Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Leaves of Absence (See documents on file.)

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL RESOURCE TEACHER SUZANNE COSGRAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2021; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; ALEX SALOP—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

Chair Alex Salop applauded Kate DeVane for her activism and MV Youth grant award for the Island autistic population.

Meetings/Events: (By Zoom)

MVRHSC Public Hearing - 7:00PM, Tuesday, December 22, 2020

MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, January 4, 2021

UIRSC – TBD

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Adjournment

Wishing everyone happy holidays and looking forward to reconvening in the new year.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:25PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/21/20
- Friedman/Stone cover email re: Reminder: UIRSD Sch Comte Dec. 21, 5:00PM 12/20/20
- UIRSD FY22 Budget Draft #5 12/21/2020
- UIRSD FY2022 Assessment – Proposed V #5, 12/21/2020
- Up-Island Regional School District FY22 General Fund Budget – Version #5, 12-21-20 (14 p.)
- RatingsDirect: Summary Up-Island Regional School District, Massachusetts; General Obligation (7 p.) 6/22/20
- Cosgrave email re: Extending Maternity Leave 11/24/20
- Chilmark School 12/18/20 Weekly Peak (4 p.)
- UIRSD FY22 Budget Draft #6 12/21/2020
- UIRSD FY2022 Assessment – Proposed V#6, 12/21/2020
- Up-Island Regional School District FY22 General Fund Budget – Version #6, 12-21-20 (14 p.)

Minutes approved 1/25/21