

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
6:15PM, Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
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, Nancy Dugan, Ruda Stone,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,  
MVPS Staff: Katy Kurth, Donna Swift,  
Parents/PTO: Allison Tarry,  
Press – MVTV – Shavannáe Anderson, Vineyard Gazette - Maia Coleman  
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** (Agenda Item #II)  
**A. Including But Not Limited To: December 19, 2020** - Tabled

**Principals' Reports** (Agenda #III)

\* During this discussion Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 6:22PM.

**A. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School**

- Students shared their projects and learning on Vimeo (see documents on file). All students were in-person and comfortable wearing masks—even during after school pickup and outside activities, however, they were tired at the end of each day. The Covid-19 transportation schedule delayed the departure bus which was a challenge another end of day challenge. The School hoped to return to a full day after February break.
- All UIRSD schools exceeded Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements on live instruction (i.e. synchronous remote or in-person learning not lunch or recess).

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

- A new banner at the WTS proclaimed, “We Fly Together Just Six Feet Apart”.
- After hard work over the holiday break, the drop-off/pickup bus and traffic congestion was reduced and the new system was working well (see documents on file). Some lunch deliveries continued.
- WTS could accommodate 3 additional students expected to join in-person learning at the start of the second semester and additional students had registered in the School District.
- Asymptomatic test lists were received and implemented. The procedure went very smoothly.

**Finance** (Agenda Item #IV)

**A. Expenditure and Revenue Report** (See documents on file.)

- Many variances were resolved by moving expenses to CARES Act funding.
- Despite several accounting shifts, overall staffing was within target. For example, a Teacher Salary line was canceled out by a Special Education, Education Support Professional (ESP).
- A slow increase in WTS health insurance projection would be monitored.
- So far transportation finances were better than expected; increased regular school day transportation was compensated by a drop in field trips and special education transportation—possibly through special education families quarantining at home or providing their own transportation.
- Reductions on SpEd transportation was one of many variables effecting both Statewide revenues (Chapter 71, Medicaid, etc.) and expenses.

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- New information would require recertification of the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget:
  - School Choice numbers;
  - Charter School tuition/revenues, and
  - health insurance rates (mid-January/late February).
- In the meantime (see below: Meetings/Events) estimated warrant articles numbers, including contingencies and Owners Project Managers (OPM) costs, were:
  - WTS roof construction: \$325,000,
  - WTS elevator \$30,000
  - WTS Fridge \$70,000
  - Chilmark School windows \$184,000
  - Chilmark School doors \$160,000— with some proviso.
- The Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Committee reported a 3 week delay in the current contract, that was not expected to effect the summer 2021 work schedule.
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Interim Business Administrator Mark Friedman put out an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for UIRSD capital projects over a 3 year term—which garnered 4 bids (CHA, Atlantic Construction Management, ACG, and Vertex), the winning bidder being CHA Consulting, Inc.
  - This would reduce procurement workload, facilitate OPM access and take advantage of economies of scale on both sides by:
    - allowing a company to plan for multiple projects (e.g. the above warrant articles) and
    - eliminating UIRSD need to continually put out 6-week long OPM bids. (Previously the UIRSD had trouble with single small project OPM Requests for Proposal (RFP).
  - The UIRSC was unfamiliar with the process and discussed it at some length.
    - They questioned the financial impacts of unknown OPM project costs. It was explained that each project would still be separately negotiated according the size, complexity and available funds.
    - Although future projects were not known, the RFQ included a list of current projects as an example of ongoing work.
    - RFQs were common practice for such things as engineers and architects, and used by many entities (e.g. Nantucket Schools and Martha's Vineyard Airport). A complex bid evaluation process focused on expertise and quality service. References and market pressures, as well as individual project negotiations insured appropriate rates.
    - There was a protest that the RFQ had not been formally reported to the UIRSC, although Mr. Friedman had requested UIRSC participation in the RFQ award committee. Town Administrators and the Chilmark School HVAC Committee participated in the award process.
  - *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AWARD OF THE OWNERS PROJECT MANAGER CONTRACT AS VETTED BY THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR AND RENEWABLE FOR UP TO TWO YEARS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

**B. Grants**

At the end of the meeting:

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$48,448 RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (REAP) GRANT; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Skipper Manter asked how the funds were spent.

**Superintendent's Report**

(Agenda Item #VII)

**B. New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Enrollment Projections**

Based on such things as housing starts and birth rates, the Chilmark School showed about 20% increase over the next 10 years, and the WTS about 10% increase (see documents on file).

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

The first week tested all staff with 0 positive results. The second week of random staff and students (900 tests distributed according to numbers set for each Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS)) showed 1 positive. Kits were distributed for home tests and returned, were packed up and sent to Miramus on Thursday, with results received at the Superintendent's Shared Services Office on Saturday. Families and Boards of Health were then notified of positive tests. Program Manager Molly Houghton was doing a great job on logistics and implementation. In answer to UIRSC questions the following points were explained.

- Some glitches were being addressed.
- There was a high level of compliance, with explanatory phone calls to those who were struggling.
- So far the budget was as expected and Administration would report further as the program progressed.
- The MVPS were well ahead of other school systems. The State system (funded for the initial 6 week implementation period) involved nasal swabs and was much more time-consuming and cumbersome.

**C. All Island School Committee (AISC) Meeting** – See below: Meetings/Events

Among other items, there would be a presentation by the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition. All were urged to attend.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair** – None (Agenda Item #VI)

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

- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, January 21, 2021 - Zoom
- UIRSC – 6:15PM, Monday, January 25, 2021 – Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, February 1, 2021 – Zoom

**Adjournment**

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:53PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda/Revised Agenda 1/19/21 (2 p.)
- Lowell-Bettencourt email re: Updated School Times Starting in January 12/22/20
- Lowell-Bettencourt email re: Transportation for WTS Update 1/7/21
- Stevens email re: Virtual Winter Performance Link 1/18/21
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020-2021, (14 p.) 1/19/21
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020- 2021 1/19/21
- NESDEC, West Tisbury Elementary School, Vineyard Haven, MA, 2020-2021 Enrollment Projection Report (9 p.)
- NESDEC, Chilmark Elementary School, Vineyard Haven, MA, 2020-2021 Enrollment Projection Report (9 p.)

**Minutes approved 2/16/21**