

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

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

Others: See participants list including: Sarah Davis, Laura Debettencourt, Gail Lachapelle, Heather Rogers-Rodrigues, Jennifer Russell, Beth Seabourne, Rebekah Thomson,
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: Kathleen Amodio, Molly Cabral, Kristine Cammorata, Dan Cooney, Kellie Davies, Laura Edelman, Amy Hoff, Theresa Holmes, Kaitlyn Kurth, Victoria Phillips, Jane McGrarty Sampaio, Elizabeth Stuart,
Chilmark: – Warren Doty,
Press – Kelley Marolf – MVTV, Maia Coleman – Vineyard Gazette,
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— August 19 & 27, Sept. 1, 2020 (Agenda Item #II)
September 1, 2020 minutes were not available. August Minutes were approved at that meeting.

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)
A. Donna Lowell-Bettencourt – West Tisbury School (WTS)

- Teachers in the lower grades met with families and students, making assessments, teaching/monitoring access to learning platforms, talking about schedules and new protocols. Kindergarteners and first graders would start next week.
- Cohort C (internet/technology problems, special needs or those who did not engage last spring) were in the School. Cohort C size was likely to vary between 12 and 25 students, with the WTS monitoring student engagement— several of those invited, politely declined.
- Staffing was still fluid in terms of choosing in-person and remote instruction. A substitute cafeteria worker had completed training.
- The current weather allowed physical education (phys ed) classes to be outside, so the gym was being used as a remote learning center for Cohort D. The playground was open to the public after-school and on weekends in keeping with Community Preservation Act Committee (CPA/CPC) funding. Consequently it was closed to day use by WTS students until health/safety protocols on shared equipment could be established.

- Other remote learning sites such as the Chilmark Community Center (see 9/8/20 Minutes p.2), Agricultural Hall, YMCA and Boys & Girls Club were being explored, possibly in partnership with the Charter School. Off-site venues posed difficult administrative logistics such as supervision and technology access (see 9/8/20 Minutes p.2).

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- Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt was attending the West Tisbury Board of Health meetings and commended them as great partners.

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

- Teachers were meeting with students and families outside on a staggered schedule to explain devices, internet access, scheduling and learning platforms. The remote learning schedule was the same as the in-person schedule.
- Kindergartners toured the school, the outside playground boundaries, and their classroom which would be a self-contained unit (bathroom and lunch in the room) as well as learning about personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Remote learning started and there would be an all school meeting every morning except Fridays.
- Mr. Jeff Kurth, whose grandfather owned the house where the school is now situated, was the new Chilmark custodian.
- Only one tent was lost to the windstorm—the rest were taken down. There would be a consultation with Chilmark Board of Health agent Marina Lent on playground protocol. With four classes of not more than 12 students each, recess would be divided into four stations.
- The School was working with a parent group on supervision and cleaning/disinfecting practices for a remote learning pod at the Community Center, for fourth/fifth grade students—requests from third graders would complicate scheduling. The UIRSC asked her to coordinate with Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt over possible additional UIRSD students and on possible grant funding. Robert Lionette suggested that under the Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) these pods were under UIRSD jurisdiction and that it should be moved forward with alacrity as there were UIRSD family requests for the service.

Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD)

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Capital Projects (See documents on file.)

- The second phase (replacing 33) of the Chilmark windows was put out to bid and winning bidder (within budget) Cape Cod Builders had ordered the windows for installation in mid-October working on weekends with a completion date before the end of the calendar year. The Company would install plastic sheeting and expected to work outside to minimize contamination and dirt.
- So far there were five interested parties for the designer/engineer Request For Proposal (RFP) on the Chilmark heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) project (see documents on file). It was hoped the system would be designed and detailed specs provided around mid-December. Funding through the Chilmark Green Community grant might be enhanced with a partnership with Cape Light Compact on insulating the attic.
- The WTS roof design was approved at the Chilmark and West Tisbury Annual Town Meetings (ATMs) but was eliminated from the Aquinnah Warrant to streamline their ATM for covid prevention. Administration was anxious to keep the timeline in view of the warranty deadline (see 9/16/22 Minutes p.4). Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt and Roxanne Ackerman would contact Aquinnah Town Hall.

Finance

(Agenda Item #IV)

A. Expenditure and Revenue Report

There were no significant variances this early in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), except for:

- WTS health insurance deficit due to staff choosing different plans, and
- not unexpectedly, WTS custodial supplies which might be reimbursed with Federal grants;
- and as projected, the Chilmark School nurse (see Minutes: 7/20/20 p.4 # VI & 9/1/20 p.4 #B).

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• Skipper Manter suggested that this was usually the start of the budget season and pushed hard for a level-funded projection of the FY22 budget, stating he did not want to be under pressure. Interim Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Finance Director Mark Friedman explained that FY21 was so unpredictable that a level-funded draft was not yet possible, since there were gaping financial data holes around school configuration, transportation, custodial supplies, staffing, Town and State tax revenues, etc. With administration currently overwhelmed with reopening issues, school committees were likely to be facing a condensed focused budget process. Many school districts across the State were still operating without a FY22 budget. The UIRSC asked for a tentative budget schedule.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

A. Mask Policy (See documents on file.)

The UIRSC was comfortable with the Policy as drafted by professional health care providers.

- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea interpreted the kindergarteners and first graders 'recommended' (as opposed to required) masks as: masks would be worn but building administrators had some flexibility around comfort, support, etc. Possible parent challenges were mentioned. The UIRSC considered that School mask policy took precedent over Town mask ordinance.

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

B. School Entrance Protocols (See 9/17/20 AISC Minutes p.3-4.)

As discussed at the All Island School Committee (AISC), staff and students were asked to complete a daily self assessment for symptoms and adherence to travel quarantines. The Chilmark School asked assessment questions to each student, with their families if present. Both schools were getting good parent/family feedback. Visitors to the buildings were strictly limited, with appointment logs at the single entrance/exit.

C. Remote Learning Update

Remote learning started September 17th for most MVPS students. Teachers were better prepared, able to more effectively engage students and utilize platforms learned with summer professional development (PD). Lunches were being coordinated to be delivered in buildings, for pickup and to remote access sites. The UIRSC congratulated the Administration and entire staff for the long hard way to get to the present point.

Personnel – None (Agenda Item #VII)

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

• The UIRSC decided to meet biweekly with limited agendas.

Adjournment

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:22PM; SKIPPER MANTER AND ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

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Meetings/Events

- **AISC – 5:00PM, Thursday, October 1, 2020 – Zoom or TBD**
- **MVRHSC Meeting – 5:00PM, Monday, October 5, 2020 – Zoom or TBD**
- **UIRSC – 6:15PM, Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – Zoom or TBD**

Documents on File:

- Agenda 9/21/20
- UIRSC Participants 9.21.20
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Coverings/Masks Policy (2 p.)
- Hanneman email re: Update on Chilmark School HVAC 9/21/20

Minutes approved 11/9/20