

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:30PM, Tuesday, March 15, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

Page 1 of 3

Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman*, Kate DeVane, 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,
Staff: Kim Garrison,
Towns: Greg Orcutt, Kate Warner,
Press – MVTV – Kelly Marolf, MV Times - 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 (Agenda Item #II)

A. Including But Not Limited To: March 2, 2021;

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2, 2021 MINUTES; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD) (Agenda Item #III)

A. Green Communities Documents for Review and Approval

(See documents on file & 2/16/21 Minutes p.2 #B.)

* During this discussion Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:39PM.

In formally voting to join West Tisbury Green Communities Program the West Tisbury School (WTS) would commit to purchasing fuel efficient vehicles and reducing energy usage 20% within 5 years (no penalties levied). This should be reasonably achievable since the 61,000 sq. ft. facility was under-insulated and its systems needed upgrading. Energy Committee Chair Kate Warner was working to find funding for a feasibility study to facilitate planning for the 3 sections of the school and suggested every opportunity be taken to improve sustainability. For example the 13,000 sq. ft. flat roof replacement (see 1/25/21 Minutes p.1 #III A) could include improved insulation and solar-panel-ready wiring.

- The UIRSD lunch delivery van (its only vehicle) was exempt due to weight parameters.
- All fuel bills (oil, propane, electricity, gas stations) would be sent to WT Accountant Bruce Stone for State reporting purposes.
- Chair Alex Salop would sign the documents and deliver them to the WT Board of Selectmen.
- WTS Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt enthusiastically endorsed the proposal as a great opportunity. Probable UIRSD funds to augment grants would be part of the budgeting and transfers. Projects were one-time expenditures while reductions in operating costs would be ongoing savings.
- The Town would make the WTS first priority on the next round of grant applications: Green Communities (competitive with matching funds required), Cape Light Compact, and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)—the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant was turned down.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADOPT THE GREEN COMMUNITIES POSITION AND AUTHORIZE THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL CHAIR TO SIGN ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

- The UIRSC thanked Kate Warner for all her work and she thanked the UIRSC for their cooperation.

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
March 15, 2021

Page 2 of 3

B. School Choice Vote for 2021-2022

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea recommended the UIRSD continue to participate in the program which afforded Island students some opportunity to attend schools that better fit their needs.

- Skipper Manter proposed that to reduce the financial burden, the number of students "choicing in" be mandated to match the number of student "choicing out". Others felt decisions should be left to the discretion of the administrators who understood the complexities of the situation: facility, class configuration, staffing, etc.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTER-DISTRICT AND INTRA-DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

C. COVID-19 Remote Learning Attendance Policy – Third Reading

(See documents on file & Minutes: 2/16/21 p.4 #VI B & 2/18/21, 3/2/21 p.1-2 #III A.)

Supt. D'Andrea proposed policy confirmed the intent of the UIRSC crafted policy with further explanations and clarified expectations.

• The UIRSC raised the issue of the timeframe referred to in Section 4 on the definition of "in-person learning with no restrictions". Cohort D would continue until the end of the 2020-21 school year but was not planned for the 2021-22 school year. It was agreed that the Section could be either eliminated or amended to read "until the elimination of Cohort D".

• Some members objected that such a comprehensive change should not be considered a third reading, suggesting three readings of the current policy and then three readings of the new policy—however, the timeframe for the additional readings would render the issue moot.

• Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt notified the UIRSC that Cohort D attendance was shrinking daily, with all parent requests to change from or to remote learning swiftly implemented. It was possible that shortly grade level Cohort D's might have only one or two students—possibly only those attending under the new policy. This would put a strain on staffing since synchronous learning was required and desired, and zooming into the classroom was a strain on students (in-person and remote) as well as staff, reducing the quality of education for all. She and the staff would do their best to find creative ways around the situation. Quarantining students had access to their regular classes.

• There were questions on encouraging in-person at the school where families were located, as well as about those just choosing to take a vacation.

• Responses included:

- disinclination to disenfranchise students,

- student needs that required Cohort D,

- recognition of the burden to staff and students but the importance of extraordinary circumstances.

• Roxanne Ackerman raised the issue of anxiety, especially among the Wampanoag Tribal families.

Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt noted grant-funded extra guidance and counseling for pandemic related anxiety (including house calls) and asked everyone to reach out to families to share the resource.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO THE THIRD READING OF OF THE COVID-19 REMOTE LEARNING ATTENDANCE POLICY AS IT STANDS; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

• **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 INTERIM POLICY OUT OF DISTRICT ACCESS TO LEARNING AS AMENDED FOR SECTION 4 BE ADOPTED AS PROCEDURE AND GUIDANCE FOR ADMINISTRATORS.**

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #IV)

In response to the proposed Tisbury School building project, Roxanne Ackerman advocated for leadership in more regional planning. It was suggested the matter be taken up at the All Island School Committee (AISC).

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
March 15, 2021

Page 3 of 3

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

- Students and staff were excited by the start of the WTS boys and girls intramural basketball season—possibly with some inter-mural games at the end of the season.
- Head of Chilmark School Susan Stevens encouraged UIRSC members to visit the on-line fundraiser silent auction with such items as Salt Rock Chocolate tours and Fountas & Pinnell book donations.
<https://events.handbid.com/auctions/heart-of-gold-bids-for-the-kids-14360>

Meetings/Events: (By Zoom)

- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, April 5, 2021 – Zoom
- UIRSC – TBD – Zoom

Adjournment

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:36PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/15/21
- Rise Engineering, West Tisbury Elementary School Energy Audit Report /February 24, 2021 (9 p.)
- West Tisbury Energy Report and Reduction Plan (10 p.) 3/15/21
- West Tisbury School Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy (4 p.)
- Salop letter re: UIRSD Green Communities vote 3/16/21
- Up-Island Regional School District, COVID-19 Interim Policy, Out of District Access to Learning (4 p.)

Minutes approved 5/4/21