

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:15PM, Tuesday, May 4, 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,
Towns: Chilmark – Rob Hannemann
Press – MVTV – Shavanae Anderson, 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.

Minutes Read and Approved (Agenda Item #II)

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15, 2021 MINUTES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Principals' Report (See below: Meetings/Events) (Agenda Item #III)

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

- The year was already winding down, with a number of retirements, resignations and leaves of absence (see below: #VII). Class lists were being formed for the 2021-22 school year. Pods and classroom moves were being planned and instigated to reduce summer work and give staff a summer break.
- The State Commissioner of Education planned to release 2021-22 school year guidance in July—Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) cabinet meetings anticipated full in-person learning with some safety restrictions.
- Special events were planned for eighth graders to celebrate graduation (see below: Meeting/Events).

B. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School

Chilmark School was also involved in end of year planning and MCAS testing next week. The UIRSC was invited to:

- a student-made whale exhibit on May 5th with QR codes connected to student reports;
- the May Day celebration (May Pole dance and 5th grade created games) on Monday, May 10th;
- May 28th Menemsha Memorial Walk to the Sea with Coast Guard speakers, flowers, poems and taps.

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

A. Appointing a Task Force for Environmentally-Friendly Building Updates

The UIRSC discussed numbers and configurations for a small group. The consensus was:

- West Tisbury Energy Committee Chair Kate Warner;
- Chilmark Energy Committee representative;
- UIRSC representative,
- MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman,
- Chilmark and/or West Tisbury School (WTS) head custodians depending on the agenda.

Finance (Agenda Item #V)

B. Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project Update

(See 3/2/21 Minutes p.2 #IV.)

Although HVAC had been a problem from the building inception (see 1/24/00 Minutes p.1 #VII A), the UIRSC had been dealing with this phase of the project since 2014/15. Chilmark School HVAC Group Chair Rob Hannemann reported the Covid delayed Request for Proposal (RFP) only received a single

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bid at 3 times the amount of allocated funding. A communications failure misplaced the professional Owners Project Manager (OPM) estimate which confirmed the project to be about 2.2 times the allocation—due to contingencies, profit, overhead, Island factor, etc. The Group chose not to accept the single bid which was significantly overpriced, and the construction boom showed companies to have already booked for the year, forestalling a further complete RFP. Instead the Group proposed the following measures (endorsed by the Chilmark Select Board and estimated at \$140,860) that could be accomplished within the given timeframe, and would greatly improve building comfort while lowering energy consumption:

- remove abandoned equipment in the attic,
- bring insulation up to code in the pods and central portion, and
- install new internet-connected individual-control thermostats throughout, consistent with project design.

Chilmark Town Administrator Tim Carroll and MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman were asked to prepare an RFP in anticipation of approval.

• The UIRSC discussed:

- removal of abandoned equipment as an important part of the project and agreement of OPM and engineers that the-is work would be very advantageous and not become redundant;
- funding sources parameters, language, balances e.g: Green Communities grant, warrant article(s) residual (~ \$227,000) (see 2/12/18 p.4 #C);
- construction schedule well within the summer break;
- current precarious status of HVAC—functioning on only one boiler (see 1/28/19 Minutes p.1-2 #A);
- planning and timeframe of total project funding—warrant articles/Town meetings, borrowing, current long-term debt retirement, etc.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AND ACCEPT THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING VENTILATION AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT PHASE AS DESCRIBED BY ROB HANNEMANN NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL OF \$160,000 FUNDED FROM THE GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT FOR \$126,000 AND THE REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE APPROPRIATE WARRANT ARTICLES; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Thanks were exchanged for team patience and hard work in a difficult process.

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

* During this discussion Kate DeVane entered the meeting at 7:13PM.

- The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget was in good shape.
- The Superintendent's Shared Services part was coming in, as usual, at or slightly under budget.
- The WTS variances covered by School Choice transfer and mostly within departmental budgeting. A deficit in the Music Department was due to preparation and expenditure for the school musical which was then canceled and lost ticket revenues due to the pandemic.
- Chilmark site variances were modest except for nurse's salary increase (see Minutes: 8/27/20 p.2 & 9/1/20 p.4 #B, & 11/9/20 p.2 #IV A) also potentially covered by School Choice funds.
- The Contingency line had not been utilized to date.
- Funding appropriation was necessary for good capital project RFP responses, consequently, although bids would be expedited, construction timeframe depended on the project, e.g.: WTS refrigerator/freezer and elevator projects in summer 2021; Chilmark windows summer or weekends during school year (see 9/21/20 p.2 #VI A), while the WTS flat roof might be delayed.
- All assessments were posted or in process. Medicaid was less than budgeted due to the pandemic. Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement would not be known until June.

C. Special Education (SpEd) Stabilization Fund (See 12/16/19 Regular Minutes p.2 #V F.)

Establishment of the Fund was approved by West Tisbury Town Meeting.

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• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO RESUBMIT THE SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND ARTICLE TO CHILMARK AND AQUINNAH; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

D. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Excess & Deficiency (E & D) Certification

(See documents on file.)

The State Department of Revenue Division of Local Services (DOR/DLS) certified FY21 E & D at \$386,550 generated from unexpended appropriations and revenues. Recent UIRSC practice was to dedicate E & D to Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), or the FY20 \$98,799 commitment to the Contingency line (see Minutes: 5/26/20 p.2 #B & 6/2/20 p.4).

E. FY22 Budget Recertification (See documents on file.)

As noted Massachusetts General Law (MGL) required the budget be re-certified to confirm the E & D commitment to the Contingency line. The UIRSC again debated E & D in regards to:

- reduced UIRSD Standard and Poor bond rating pending further downgrades unless E & D reserves were maintained—clarifying that any reserve had to be a separate account from the General Fund; and
- use of E & D to further reduce the budget—discouraged because of unpredictability and future budget implications.

The Chair was not inclined to debate and alter the budget at this late date. The UIRSC requested:

- further information and an agenda item on a separate reserve account;

- invitation to Town Finance Committees to discuss a possible change in OPEB or E & D policy.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET CERTIFIED ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO CERTIFY THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET FOR AN OPERATING BUDGET AT \$3,074,430.66 OR 3.68 % INCREASE ASSESSED AT \$ 13,027,902.56 OR 3.66% INCREASE; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

F. Previous Fiscal Year Invoices (See documents on file.)

The Office was working with the company to understand and resolve the delay. Chilmark School share was \$434, and the WTS was \$1,222.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF ELECTRONIC SECURITY SYSTEMS PRIOR YEAR BILLS TOTALING \$1,556; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

G. State Coronavirus Prevention Grant Acceptance

The grant was distributed through the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) (with a June 30th spending deadline) and would probably be expended largely on additional nursing related to contact tracing.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$17,300 STATE CORONA VIRUS PREVENTION GRANT WITH GRATITUDE; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

The UIRSC thanked Mr. Friedman for everything he did.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #VI)

The All Island School Committee (AISC) would meet soon.

A. Covid Testing Update

The MVPS continued 8-900 tests each week, which helped reduce/prevent potential outbreaks. Expenses were within projections at about \$50,000 per month and Superintendent Matt D'Andrea again expressed gratitude to the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation and MV Youth. The Office

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applied for and received a \$48,000 State grant, thanks to Mark Friedman—the State pooled testing program was less effective and more difficult to administer. There were ongoing conversations about possible summer and/or fall testing.

B. In-Person Learning Update

All MVPS students who wanted to, were in-person all day with thanks and recognition to all staff: administrators, teachers, education and administrative support professionals (ESPs/ASPs) cafeteria workers, custodians, transportation workers, etc. Pending State guidance for the fall summer learning was being planned in-person with some remote learning options.

• Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt reported 32 students remaining in Cohort D:

2 in kindergarten, 4 in 1st grade, 9 in 2nd grade, 7 in 3rd grade, 0 in 4th grade,
3 in 5th grade, 1 in 6th grade, 4 in 7th grade, 2 in 8th grade.

- As a parent, Chair Alex Salop expressed his admiration for how well the WTS weathered this year's difficult circumstances.

C. Graduation Guidance

Administration was reviewing State guidance on graduation, planning outdoor ceremonies to accommodate higher attendance.

• Reduced time MCAS testing (including SpEd and English Language Learners (ELL)) would be administered in May and June, with a remote option offered for 3rd through 8th grade students in Cohort D. 10th grade in-person MCAS would be mandatory as a graduation requirement.

- Staff noted a definite regression in learning but had been working hard all year to bring students up to grade level with interventions and multi-tiered approaches. Some Cohort D students were starting to struggle and/or were encouraged to return to in-person school. Chilmark School students had seen enhanced growth as they had been in-person longer. The UIRSC asked Administration to elaborate on any additional programs and remediation plans and consequent financial implications.

- Covid tests were not required for those choosing in-person MCAS tests as distancing and mask protocols would be enforced and all staff were vaccinated.

• Supt. D'Andrea agreed to attend the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank listening session.

Personnel (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Resignations

B. Leaves of Absence (LOA)

C. Retirements

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE, ACCEPT OR APPROVE WITH GRATITUDE:*

- *THE RETIREMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2021 OF:*

◦ *KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL VICTORIA PHILLIPS,*

◦ *PART-TIME INTERVENTION SPECIALIST PATTY POOLE.*

- *THE RESIGNATIONS OF:*

◦ *EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MELINA LOWE AS OF MARCH 23, 2021*

(see 1/27/20 Minutes p.6 #VII B);

◦ *4TH GRADE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KEZIA AVEREZ AS OF JUNE 30, 2021;*

◦ *KITCHEN HELPER ASSISTANT SEAN YANCEY AS OF JUNE 17, 2021;*

- *AND LEAVE OF ABSENCES FOR:*

◦ *SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER LUCY LEOPOLD FROM APRIL 12, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022,*

◦ *HEALTH WELLNESS TEACHER LAURA EDELMAN CONTINUING 30% TIME FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR;*

◦ *ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING TEACHER SKYE SONNEBORN CONTINUING 25% FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR;*

◦ *EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL REBECCA FREEMAN FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR;*

ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0

ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

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- Staff on partial leaves of absence did not present lost staff time which would be or was already re-allocated. The UIRSC requested a report on any change in health and wellness goals in response to the socio-emotional impact of the pandemic.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #VIII)

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – None

(Agenda Item #IX)

Meetings/Events:

- Chair Alex Salop advocated for in-person meetings with zoom options and the UIRSC discussed
 - checking on protocols with the local boards of health;
 - voting on whether to be in-person;
 - possible participation in pool testing;
 - technical or acoustic problems due to masking and remote participation.
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 7, 2021 – Zoom
- WTS Graduation - Thursday June 10, 2020 – Agricultural Hall
- Chilmark School Graduation – 10:00AM, Friday June 11, 2020 – Chilmark Community Center
- UIRSC – TBD
- UIRSC terms were up for election in November 2022.

Adjournment

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:18PM; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/4/21
- UIRSD FY2022 Assessment – Recertified V#7 2/16/21
- Up-Island Regional School District FY22 General Fund Budget – Recertified Version #7, 2-16-2021 (14 p.)
- Excess and Deficiency Calculation 4/15/21
- Electronic Security Systems, LLC Invoices (5 p.) 1/17/2019
- Electronic Security Systems, LLC Invoices (5 p.) 4/25/2019
- Up-Island Regional School District, All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020-2021, (14 p.) 5/4/21
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2020- 2021 5/4/21
- Phillips letter of retirement 3/24/21
- Alvares email re: Thank You! 4/30/21
- Edelman/Lowell-Bettencourt emails re: Next Year 4/7/21
- Leopold email re: Maternity Leave 3/16/21
- Yancey resignation letter 5/4/21
- Poole email re: Retirement 5/4/21
- Lowe email re: Plans for 2021-2022 3/23/21
- Freeman email re: Leave of Absence for the 2021/2022 5/4/21
- Sonneborn email re: Leave of Absence Request 4/7/21

Minutes approved 6/22/21