

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Thursday, October 18, 2021
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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

Others: Allison Cameron Parry, Recorder: Marni Lipke
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Ruda Stone, Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Towns: Doug Ruskin, Kate Warner, – West Tisbury
Press – Shavanáe Anderson – MVTV, Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette, Eunki Seonwoo – MV Times

*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 (Agenda Item #II)

A. Including But Not Limited To: September 20, 2021

• *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 MINUTES; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)

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

- Students had a great time on the Shenandoah and there were no issues—4th graders couldn't wait for their turn. Instead of candy, students were holding a Halloween fundraiser (outside or in the Chilmark Community Center) to eliminate plastics including student designed games with recycled plastics.
- The year was off to a very rough start as several positions were still vacant so that teachers were having to fill in and Head of School Susan Stevens was teaching some classes. Morning meetings had recommenced outside. Administration made reservations for the February 2022 ski trip to Maine.

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

- For Massachusetts Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) Week students were participating in a penny boat challenge. In a successful drive to increase engagement, 113 students were participating in after school activities: Maker Club, Sewing Felt Animals Club, Story & Craft Club, Middle School Gardening & Cooking Club, Technology Club, Baking Club, Art Club, Leggo Building Club, Knitting Club, Exploring Martha's Vineyard Animals at Felix Neck Club, Sex/Gender Alliance Club. Sports were back in season and everyone was very excited to once again be competing with other schools. More students were also taking advantage of the open gym before school. The School Store had reopened helping children with math, business and money skills. Administration and the UIRSC thanked the volunteer community adults and teachers stepping up to supervise activities and be role models.

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- Test & Stay was working well, allowing students (currently ~ 23-24) who had been exposed to Covid to test at 7:45AM and stay in school instead of quarantining. Surveillance testing started 2 weeks ago.
- Like the Chilmark School, WTS was also facing staffing challenges and Administrators and teachers were having to fill-in, particularly as substitutes were in short supply for the entire Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS)—Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt supported a substitute pay raise.
- The UIRSC thanked the Administrators for filling in

1. Out-of-State Travel

At the end of the meeting, the UIRSC asked about Covid tests and/or vaccination proof for re-entry after out-of-state travel. Administration noted that vaccination requirements and proof needed policy statements and the legalities were still in flux. The UIRSC asked that the issue be put on the agenda.

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN STEPHANIE DREYER TO ATTEND THE 'WHAT'S NEW IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE' CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 2, 2021 IN WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, (Kate DeVane temporarily absent.)*

Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD)

(Agenda Item #IV)

B. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Transportation Policy - 2nd Reading

(See documents on file.)

- This was a first time transportation policy, crafted by the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Transportation Committee. It adhered to standard Massachusetts General Law (MGL) on free transport for kindergarten (K) through 12th grade students, delineating:
 - how close students lived to bus stops,
 - snow cancelation or delays procedures,
 - student behavior and parental guidance and complaint procedures,
 - breakdown and accident practices,
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Special Education eligibility and regulations.
- The Policy was accompanied by more detailed guidelines/procedures on:
 - student code of conduct,
 - driver and transportation expectations,
 - parental guidance, and school responsibilities.
- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

C. Discussion and Possible Vote to Ratify the Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Bond Inter-Municipal Agreement

(See 9/20/21 Minutes p.3-4 #IV C, & documents on file.)

A MVPS attorney and the Unibank financial representative (both experienced in this type of regional school district/municipal situation), reviewed the Agreement drafted by Chilmark bond counsel. The MVPS attorney approved the document (relying on MGL Chapter 40, Section 4A), while advising that although it did not necessarily constitute a UIRSD borrowing, the UIRSC should act as follows in order to cover all bases:

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- vote approval for the Town of Chilmark to bond for the total cost of Chilmark School HVAC;
- within 7 days of such vote to notify the three Towns of the amount and nature of the borrowing;
- delay signing the Agreement until the 60 days have elapsed from said vote;
- if any Town Meeting is called and does not approve the borrowing to not sign the Agreement;
- contact the municipal finance bureau of the Dept. of Revenue re: borrowing protocol with any questions.
- The UIRSC discussed the vote protocol at some length.
- The borrowing would be for \$950,000 plus 10 years interest (remaining funds to complete the \$1,264,000 cost included ~\$191,000 previous article residual, and the \$126,000 Chilmark Green Community State grant);
- The largest issue was whether to vote it as a UIRSD borrowing or to vote to approve the Agreement. This included whether the UIRSD was exposing itself to liability, as well as a debate over whether the UIRSC was overthinking the action.
- The UIRSC noted the cooperation and best interest of the Town of Chilmark with the UIRSD.
- THERE WAS A CONSENSUS TO WAIT THE REQUIRED 60 DAYS.
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO APPROVE THE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT DOCUMENT; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

A. Environmentally-Friendly Building Task Force Update

The custom (engineering) category Green Communities grant application was submitted with 3 goals:

- a West Tisbury School without dependence on fossil fuels;
- complete conversion to electricity to allow use of renewable (solar) energies;
- up-grading the building envelope by stretch code to be as close to current standards as possible—current energy use intensity (i.e. energy used per sq. ft. per year) was now 65 compared with a green constructed new school at 25.

The engineering study cost was guesstimated at ~ \$40-50,000. If successful, the grant could supply \$25,000, with Cape Light Compact contributing an additional \$5,000, leaving the remainder to be supplied by the UIRSD. It was also emphasized that any delay would increase the total cost due to the current high demand and materials/labor shortages. As an example the funds voted 8 years ago to cover the Chilmark School HVAC project now constituted less than ¼ of the cost.

- West Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) representative advised the UIRSC that support of the program would include eventual capital costs reaching well into the millions. Again as an example, the 12,000 sq. ft. Chilmark School built in the 1990's was borrowing over \$1,000,000 for slightly better insulation and heat pumps (see above #IV C) while the WTS was 61,000 sq. ft. and built in 1973, 1985 and 1995. Although the project would greatly reduce utility costs, the UIRSC should not rely on complete pay-back. Construction spending would be spread over a number of years as projects were scheduled to accommodate the school calendar.

- UIRSC comments included:

- The better the Island was taken care of, the more residents and visitors could enjoy it.
- The engineering study was a necessity in determining scope and cost of work.
- There were Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) funds available to cover the UIRSD portion possibly in budget residuals and/or in the contingency line—currently at ~ \$83,000).
- Projects under \$50,000 could solicit 3 written quotes. Projects over \$50,000 had to adhere to the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

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• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UP ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION AND STATED GOALS AND TO COMMIT TO SPENDING MONEY WHEN IT MAKES SENSE.

• The UIRSD thanked Doug Ruskin and especially Energy Committee Chair Kate Warner for their hard work and advocacy.

Financial Report (Agenda Item #V)

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

• WTS and Chilmark School new hire figures were incorporated into the Expenditure Report, although there were still some lines in positive reflecting continued vacancies (see above # III A & B). The Increment line negative was an accounting anomaly.

• MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman expressed some concern about the staff changes and additional classroom in the small scale Chilmark School budget (see 9/20/21 Minutes p.3 #IV A), although he hoped to cover all the negatives with the federal Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) III grant funds. ESSER II and III spending was staying true to percentage allocations for each school, as historically set by enrollment numbers.

• District portion was healthy with some fine-tuning still in progress for insurance encumbrances.

• Revenues were as expected.

B. UIRSD Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Audit (See documents on file.)

The later than normal completion was due to pandemic lockdown and issues.

• The UIRSC requested that the District Technologist be present for any audit meeting to put a price on the requested technology security issues.

• The UIRSC had requested the audit be put out to bid as pro-forma financial procedure and consequently comparable rates had been researched (see 11/6/17 Minutes p.1).

C. Chilmark School HVAC Project - Update and Possible Vote (See above #IV C.)

D. Vote to Surplus the West Tisbury School Outdoor Walk-In Fridge/Freezer

This was a housekeeping measure required by MGL for all equipment valued over \$5,000—although it was unlikely the unit safe enough to be used for anything (including storage) except spare parts.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO DECLARE SURPLUS THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL OUTDOOR WALK-IN FRIDGE/FREEZER; 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.*

E. Vote to Surplus and Donate the 2009 Toyota Prius to Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)

This was another housekeeping measure to transfer ownership to the MVRHS with the rest of Island vehicle fleet for administrative purposes, as the MVRHS Transportation Dept. already did all the work for maintenance, inspection, etc. The UIRSC objected on a number of fronts.

- They requested the current value of the car (~ \$10,500).

- There would be no change in the UIRSD use of the vehicle—the UIRSD sometimes agreed to MVRHS use of the car.

- A UIRSC action to donate its buses to the MVRHS was for different purposes (see Minutes: 9/15/14 p. 2 #IV B, & 3/7/16 p.1).

- The UIRSC suggested the District be given a level of return in its transportation assessment.

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• ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO DECLARE THE PRIUS SURPLUS AND DONATE IT TO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 2 AYES, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—NAY, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—NAY, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

F. Prior Year Security Systems Invoices

Six invoices totaled \$1,613 covering corrective maintenance not part of the regular billing cycle.

• ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE SECURITY SYSTEMS PRIOR YEAR INVOICES WITH THE COMMUNICATION THAT SUCH PRACTICE WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED IN THE FUTURE; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #VI)

A. Covid Testing Update

Both Covid testing programs were up and running. About 1400 (~ 50%) families or staff had signed consent forms and Administration was looking to incentivize signatures for more consent.

- Surveillance tests were administered to 415 students or staff per week.
- Currently 40 MVPS students were in the Test-and-Stay program.

B. October 1, 2021 Student Census & UIRSD Homeschool, Charter School, Private School Numbers (See documents on file & 9/20/21 Minutes p.5-6 #V B).

The count showed 2,191 MVPS students (up 40 from last year) of which 701 were at the MVRHS. All schools except Tisbury increased over last year, These figures were used to determine the MVRHS proportional assessments and all Towns' assessments would decrease except Oak Bluffs School and West Tisbury.

- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea estimated that UIRSD Charter School enrollment dropped slightly.
- There was a request to get pre-school incoming kindergarten projections from Early Childhood Coordinator Jenn Royal.

Public Comment

(Agenda Item #VI)

- The UIRSC considered whether to move this item to the beginning of the meeting for public convenience or to leave it at the end to allow public to comment on meeting actions.
- Chilmark School parent Allison Cameron Parry asked about the Test and Stay program restrictions to cover only in-school exposure. Supt. D'Andrea confirmed the restriction and offered to send State Department of Education confirmation.
- Martha's Vineyard Times correspondent Euniki Seonwoo had a question on the failed Prius transfer. The UIRSC repeated its concerns and expected to discuss the issue again with more information.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None (Agenda Item #VII)

Meetings/Events

- Chair Alex Salop advocated for in-person meetings. Skipper Manter noted Zoom meetings as more environmentally friendly (reduced travel) and noted the West Tisbury ban on in-person meetings.
- UIRSC Budget Workshop – 6:30PM Monday, October 25, 2021 – by Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, November 1, 2021 – TBD
- UIRSC – 6:30PM Monday, November 15, 2021 – by Zoom

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Adjournment

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:33PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/18/21
- MVYPS Schools Student Transportation Policy (4 p.) 9/20/21
- MVYPS Guidelines for Provision of Transportation (7 p.)
- Towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, and West Tisbury, Up-Island Regional School District Intermunicipal Agreement Draft (7 p.) 10/13/21
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Enrollment Census Worksheet (2 p.) 10/1/20
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-2022, (15 p.) 10/17/21
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 10/18/21
- Electronic Security Systems, LLC invoices (6 p.) 10/7/21
- Up-Island Regional School District Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information, Year Ended June 30, 2020, (53 p., including covers & blanks) 9/23/21
- Up-Island Regional School District Management Letter June 30, 2020, (10 p., including covers & blanks) 9/23/21

Minutes approved as amended 11/15/21