

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Monday, October 25, 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,
Staff: David Crawford,
Towns: Rob Hanneman – Chilmark,
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.

Updated Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Bond Inter-Municipal Agreement (Agenda Item #II)

In consideration of legal clarity:

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF CHILMARK ON THE BORROWING FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING VENTILATION AIR CONDITIONING AND INSULATION PROJECT; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Substitute Pay Rate Increase (Agenda Item #III)

There was a severe MVPS substitute shortage which put extra pressure on staff (see 10/18/21 Minutes p.1-2 #III A & B). The goal was to build a resource pool of retired teachers (a win-win situation), however substitute pay rate established 8-9 years ago was only \$90. In consultation with the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Cabinet on union hourly wage for teachers and Education Support Professionals (ESPs), Superintendent's Shared Services Office researched comparable daily rates around the region (Falmouth \$130, Nantucket \$150, Bourne \$120, Monomoy \$112, Barnstable \$110) and proposed a 33% increase to \$120 per day. MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman proposed voting first for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) and then FY22. The ensuing discussion covered several points.

- Although it was an All Island (MVPS) issue, authority rested with each local School Committee.
- Substitutes were required to be High School graduates, pass the Criminal Offender Records Investigation (CORI) and work well with students. An orientation was provided.
- The UIRSC asked if substitutes were likely to come over from Cape Codd.
- A higher UIRSD rate was considered however Administrators emphasized pay equity issues with working staff as well as avoiding bidding wars between MVPS districts.

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- The budget impact would be to increase the \$48,000 West Tisbury School (WTS) substitute budget by \$16,000, and the \$8,700 Chilmark School substitute budget by \$2,900.
- Anecdotal and regular feedback showed the \$90 rate as too low.
- The UIRSC considered increasing the rate for FY22, and re-discussing the issue during the FY23 budget process, essentially constituting a temporary rate increase.
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO INCREASE THE UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE PAY TO \$120 PER DAY CONTINGENT ON ALL OTHER MARTHA'S VINEYARD SCHOOL DISTRICTS PAYING AT THE SAME RATE; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget Workshop (Agenda Item #IV)

The UIRSC debated whether the Administrators' request lists should have been received prior to the meeting or presented at the meeting.

- **West Tisbury School (WTS)** – total requests \$128,105
- Increased costs trended over several years:
 - Line #218 PowerSchool (student data management software) up \$3,000 (also due to increased enrollment);
 - Line #382 telephone up \$1,422;
 - Line #388 alarm maintenance up \$1,544.
 - Line #413 student insurance doubled in FY22 up \$11,400;
- Line #254 Student Activity – the new and popular Sexuality/Gender Identification Club start up and teacher stipend costs - \$1,280;
- Line #259 Substitute pay raise taking into account alternate fill-in measures such as ESP or other staff coverage - currently up \$8,825 (could be amended);
- Line #313 the third of five increases to allow for rotational technology equipment replacement - \$20,224 (see Minutes: 11/15/18 p.1-2 # IV & 11/19/18 p.5 #VIII);
- Line #322 the two new one-on-one ESPs \$65,409 (see 8/26/21 Minutes p.3-4 #V-C)—if an Individual Education Plan (IEP) changed, the position would not be filled.
- Line #398 landfill rates increases in addition to expanded trash volume from disposable trays because students lunches were not confined to the cafeteria - \$5,000; (WTS recycled, and composted).
- Line #218 – \$10,000 annual price for DDOS (Distributed Denial of Service) Information Technology (IT) protection service - WTS Technologist David Crawford described the status and cost of the security upgrade to prevent flooding or ransomware attacks. (The fiber upgrade was already in place from the Obama Press Corps use—see Minutes: 9/19/16 p.6 #D & 3/20/17 p.5 #XII.) Some protection against malware was already instituted. Schools were increasingly dependent on IT and several school districts in Massachusetts had already been attacked. Mr. Crawford preferred immediate installation but would settle for the FY23 budget.
- **Chilmark School** – total requests \$166,477
- Increases pertaining to the additional 1st/2nd Grade classroom (see 6/22/21 Minutes p.4-5 #D);
 - Line #446 - 0.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) regular teacher increase (up \$53,747);
 - Line #453 - combined 0.8 FTE special teachers increase (math, reading, writing) up \$57,743;
 - Line #458 - 1.0 FTE ESP up \$29,184;
 - Line #485 – Undistributed Supplies up \$3,500;
 - Line #522 – Furniture - new desks and chairs \$700

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- Substitute pay raise increase (see above #III);
- Line #512 - IT fiber upgrade (Comcast pays for installation) and DDOS protection - \$16,769;
- Line #596 - Student accident insurance up \$2,834—despite hard work with the insurance agency;
- Line #574 - Custodial Supplies due to residual supplies from last year's purchases – down \$1,000;
- Line #576 - Ground Maintenance – down \$1,000;

Districtwide - total changes \$121,125

- Line #636 - Chilmark HVAC borrowing \$95,000 principal on a 10-year borrowing at 2.75% with Line #641 - \$26,125 in interest (which would decline over the life of the bond).

• These requests constituted \$415,707 a roughly 3% increase. Budget Version #2 was also amended slightly, (e.g. adding the \$50,000 Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB)) and would incorporate the 2.59% contractual changes in Version #1. Transportation and Supt.'s Shared Services Office budget assessments were not included.

- The bulk of the increases were staffing issues.

- The OPEB liability had already reached the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) or Annual Required Contribution (ARC).

- Administrative increase pool should be in a separate line item and the collective bargaining (see 10/14/21 Minutes p.1) adjustment pool should also be added.

• The UIRSC considered the Version #2 requests to be reasonable but agreed the next step should be a more complete Version #3 which included all elements.

- The UIRSC suggested the cafeteria return to re-usable trays by putting tray return receptacles at various points in the building.

- The UIRSC returned to the discussion on private pre-school use of a Chilmark School classroom (see 9/20/21 Minutes p.1 #III) and requested it be on a regular meeting agenda with an invitation to the Chilmark Select Board.

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

Meetings/Events

- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, November 1, 2021 – TBD
- **UIRSC Budget Workshop – 8:00AM Tuesday, November 2, 2021 – by Zoom**
- **UIRSC – 6:30PM Monday, November 15, 2021 – by Zoom**

Adjournment

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:03PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN AND ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/25/21
- UIRSD FY23 Budget, Proposed (Non-Contractual) Changes from FY22 Budget

Minutes approved as amended 11/15/21