

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Monday, November 15, 2021
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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

Others: MV Diversity Coalition Education Com. - Andrew Italiano
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman,
Ruda Stone, Richie Smith, Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Towns – West Tisbury – Greg Orcutt,
Press – Eunki Seonwoo – MV Times
Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski (Marni Lipke)

Call to Order (Agenda Item #I)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.

Public Comment – None (Agenda Item #II)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda Item #III)

A. Including But Not Limited To: October 14, 18 & 25; November 2, 2021

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE:*
- *OCTOBER 18, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED;*
- *OCTOBER 14, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED;*
- *OCTOBER 25, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED;*
- *NOVEMBER 2, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED;*

ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #IV)

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

- After last year's practice-only games, students were excited by the start of the basketball season (including a new Girls coach). The Homework Club was going strong. The first round of after-school clubs ended, with the second round starting after the winter holidays.
- Following Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), grade level staff meetings were closely monitoring each student (including coordination with Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams where appropriate) in terms of academic, socio-emotional, and anecdotal status to gauge remote learning and isolation impacts, increased needs and the efficacy of intervention whether more was needed or a student was responding well. Administration was also considering small group after-school tutoring to give a boost to those needing to catch up to grade level.
- The fourth through eighth grade half hour (4 days/week) Win Blocks were re-instituted for select activities or interventions.
- Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt and Assistant Principal Mary Boyd would attend the Boston Learning in the Brain Conference on the timely subject of calming anxious brains re: post-pandemic

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reactions. Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt and Ms. Boyd would share their findings with staff and the UIRSC.

1. Out-of-State Travel

- The UIRSC again raised the issue of out-of-state travel re-entry testing and/or quarantine. The Health and Safety Committee recommended including such travelers in the next round of surveillance tests—to allow for a few days for infection to manifest. It was agreed the issue should be raised at the All Island School Committee (AISC). The UIRSC asked school leaders to encourage compliance.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER TEACHERS VANESSA LOPES AND NICOLE NICODEMUS TO ATTEND THE 'HELPING STUDENTS EXIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAMS' CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 13, 2021 IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

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

- The traditional Halloween fundraiser raised \$800 for a non-profit working to reduce plastics. Fourth/fifth grade class turned the obstacle course into a haunted gauntlet and designed and sold games.
- Each class ran morning meetings for a week, inside on Mondays to hear a concert and outside all other days to allow singing. Students lead the Pledge of Allegiance, a thought for the day, announced events and birthdays, etc.
- In consideration of School size and staff interest the Kindergarten/first grade was piloting the Pollyanna Curriculum on racism/diversity, a delicate blend of teaching color and understanding without preaching. Effects would be evaluated by staff. Head of School Susan Stevens had also applied for racial literacy grant for easy-to-read books for all ages.
- The Turkey Trot would return this year at 11:00AM, Tuesday, November 23rd.

Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD)

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Appoint UIRSD School Committee Member to Amend Warrant Article #5 During West Tisbury Special Town Meeting (STM) on 11.16.21

(See documents on file & 9/20/21 Minutes p.4-5 #D.)

West Tisbury Energy Committee Chair Kate Warner advised the STM Article on the WTS roof be amended to drop the insulation as the cost (\$50,000) did not justify the utility savings (\$300 per year). The UIRSC reviewed its advocacy for greening the school, notwithstanding financial issues. Administration noted that any amendment would also complicate procedures because Chilmark had already voted the article as it stood—although it was pointed out that any action *lowering* spending might be more easily reconciled. The UIRSC agreed to let the Article stand as is for now.

B. Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Budget Workshop (See documents on file.)

- Draft #3 included all the requested highlights, but was still without either the Superintendent's Shared Services or the Transportation assessments. The UIRSC thanked Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman for his excellent information.
- The UIRSD Supt. Shared Services assessment would increase about \$135,000 (~ 1%) due to student population shifts alone.
- If the Transportation Subcommittee had a successful meeting costs might be fairly stable, due partial continuation of last year's reduced routes. The MVPS continued to consider partnering with the Cape Cod Collaborative (as well as putting the contract out to bid) on off-Island transportation however currently the Collaborative was struggling with the national shortage of school bus drivers. The UIRSC

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also noted the high (\$434,000) Shared Services Transportation costs and suggested more local school representation and/or responsiveness on the Transportation Subcommittee. (Electric bus purchasing was on hold due to the micro-chip shortage.)

- The WTS Technology upgrade was spent but not clearly shown due to an accounting anomaly and changing line items.
- The high Chilmark School increase was largely due to the additional class being added to the Budget for the first time—the class was not included the FY22 Budget (see 6/22/21 Minutes p.5-6 #D).
- Line 661 Reserve District was the Contingency reserve (offset with Excess & Deficiency (E & D)). FY21 E & D could be near the 5% limit due to State/Federal grants and the unpredictable Covid year.
- Mark Friedman estimated all revenues at FY22 levels: Chapters 70 and 71, Medicaid, School Choice (possibly slightly down according to internal census), Charter School and Circuit Breaker.
- Intra-district UIRSD Town population shifts would result in a 9% increase in the West Tisbury assessment.
- Draft #3 presented a 6.48% increase and Administration asked for guidance on prioritizing spending. Some UIRSC members noted that everything in the Draft was fairly basic and necessary without any superfluous requests. However, Skipper Manter tasked the Administration with cutting the gross spending percentage increase in half, but when asked about where and how, refused further directions. There was a discussion on how much of such a reduction would involve salary/staffing.

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

Meetings/Events

Mark Friedman would contact the Auditors re: scheduling the UIRSC Audit meeting.

- **UIRSC Budget Workshop – 6:30PM Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – by Zoom**
- **UIRSC/Public Hearing – 6:30PM Monday, December 13, 2021 – by Zoom**

Adjournment

The UIRSC thanked and commended Roxanne Ackerman for facilitating the meeting.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:10PM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/15/21
- UIRSD FY2022 Assessment – Recertified V#7 2/16/21
- UIRSD FY2023 Assessment – V#3 11/15/21
- Up-Island Regional School District FY23 General Fund Budget – Version #3, 11-15-2021 (12 p.)
- Combined Up-Island Pupil Enrollment Census (2 p.) - October 1 2021
- UIRSD FY23 Budget Version #3 11/15/21 (3 p.)
- Stone/Warner emails re: Letter to UIRSD 11/9/21
- West Tisbury, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Warrant for Special Town Meeting (3 p.)

Minutes approved 1/20/22