

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
5:00PM, Monday, May 23, 2022  
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,  
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod, Ruda Stone,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,  
Staff: Alicia Knight,  
WT FinCom – Greg Orcutt, Jeffrey DuBard,  
Press – MVTV - Shavannae Anderson,  
Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette, Eunke Seonwoo – MV Times,  
Recorder: Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals or early departures

**Call to Order** (Agenda item #II)

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

**Minutes Read and Approved** (Agenda item #II)

**A. Including But Not Limited to: April 27, 2022**

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 27, 2022 MINUTES; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

**Principals' Report** (Agenda item #III)

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

- MCAS testing had finished. The School was looking forward to the off-Island bowling trip. The traditional Memorial Day Walk to the Sea would be at Menemsha, and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades were planning Spirit Week, including a trip to Penikese, a Water Day, Tinker day with Science/Technology/Math/Engineering (STEM) contest, Music Show, Ice Cream at the Galley, followed by Graduation (see below: Meetings/Events).
- As agreed to by Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith, Chair Alex Salop and Library Board of Trustees President Janet Weidner and in keeping with past practice, Head of School Susan Stevens drafted a contract for the Superintendent and Library Director to sign, which Superintendent Matt D'Andrea forwarded to the Library Board of Trustees President. The contract was identical to previous contracts with the exception of requesting Library use on Mondays (when the Library was closed to the public) allowing the School to bring in entire classes, and to hire one of the Library staff to let students and teachers in and lock up afterwards. The UIRSD discussed:
  - whether to transfer School budgeted funds to the Library, (not requested this year);
  - UIRSC Chair's lack of authority to propose/authorize alternate solutions (see 4/27/22 Minutes p.4 #VII) and request for Chilmark UIRSC representative presence at any negotiations;

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- the Library Director as agent for the Library Board of Trustees;
- Library Board negative reactions to requested meeting(s);
- Library Board of Trustees meeting protocols.
- The UIRSC directed Supt. Matt D'Andrea to contact the Library Board of Trustees to say the UIRSC requested a swift decision to agree to the contract or to accept the previously noted meeting by the end of next week at the latest.

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

The UIRSC congratulated Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt on the successful (2 year) \$90,000 summer school grant (see Minutes: 3/21/22 p.2 #IV A, & 4/27/22 p.1 #IV A). The program would run from 7:30AM – 2:00PM, Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. It would include camp-like activities such as: art, phys ed, Island Grown Schools (IGS), field trips, etc. Staffing was mostly complete with both WTS staff and others. WTS was partnering with IGS for free breakfast and lunches, which would be packed for pickup. Families were encouraged to enroll students for whole or parts of the program, including some Chilmark 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The UIRSC thanked IGS for their generous support.

**Old/New Business (Agenda Item #VI)**

**A. Jeffrey Dubard (West Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee) – Staff Housing Opportunity**

In 1972 when the land was purchased for the School 2.7 undeveloped acres were restricted to school, recreational or conservation purposes. Town Counsel Ron Rappaport advised it could be used for teacher and school personnel housing. The location would have significant frontage on Old County Rd. and could be ~ 16 bedrooms in individual or combined units of various sizes, in keeping with the character of other Island housing. This was a preliminary discussion to see if the UIRSC and staff would support and collaborate on such a project. Various issues were discussed.

- The UIRSC and Affordable Housing Committee would put together a working group to present a proposal to the West Tisbury Select Board for eventual consideration at a Town Meeting. At this early stage Jeffrey DuBard requested a single contact, preferably a West Tisbury UIRSC representative.
- The UIRSD would not fund the project. Working with the UIRSC for guidance, the Affordable Housing Committee would put out a Request of Proposal (RFP) for bids by affordable housing organizations such as Island Housing Trust (IHT). Funding might be Community Preservation Act, low interest loans, etc. (Mr. Dubard disclosed he was on the IHT Board).
- The UIRSC should discuss/advise on such policy as whether units would be restricted to the WTS, UIRSD or Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) staff, and how the restrictions would work, i.e. if a staff member moved from a UIRSD to another district would they lose housing. Were units rented or purchased with restrictions, etc.
- There was a discussion on the implications of housing insecurity; for example it being the deciding factor in competition for staff, or modeling solutions for other school districts.
- The UIRSC thanked Mr. DuBard very much. The matter would be put on the next agenda.

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**Finance** (Agenda item #III)

**A. Expense and Revenue Reports**

Expenses were proceeding as projected. The WTS site continued to be under-budget, as did the Superintendent's Shared Services Office. Efforts continued to maximize savings for the Chilmark School site budget. The Districtwide Part continued to be over-budget due to insurance and Dukes County Retirement Board assessments. Revenues were as expected. There would be a more detailed discussion along with end-of-year transfer requests at the June meeting.

**B. Project Updates**

- RDH Buildings would start its first WTS energy feasibility tour (see 4/27/22 Minutes p.3 #B).
- The UIRSD was one of the few districts prioritized in a federal grant for electric buses, although the UIRSD no longer owned or operated buses (see 8/19/14 Minutes p.1-2 #III B). The matter would be discussed at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Transportation Subcommittee meeting, and the June UIRSC meeting. (The response deadline was August 19, 2022.)

**C. West Tisbury School Roof Update** (See 12/13/21Minutes p.4 #V B.)

The Aquinnah Annual Town Meeting (ATM) approved the additional funding. Administration met with the Owners Project Manager (OPM) and roof designer, Russo Barr to propose a new schedule: RFP advertised possibly next week, bids due middle of June, awarded by beginning July for work from September through early November—all the professionals advised the UIRSD to avoid height of summer season housing/transportation problems, as well as giving the contractor time to procure materials with the current supply chain issues. The timing would also help, in terms of whether the pre-Covid bid estimates (even with contingency reserves) would be sufficient to the current market.

**D. Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Update**

After intensive conversation, the Working Group proposed to hire an architect to clarify some bid issues and agreed to alter the timeframe to avoid the high tourist summer season (see above, & documents on file). The proposal was not yet settled including where the students and staff would go during the December to August active construction period.

**Superintendent's Report** (Agenda Item #VI)

**A. Aquinnah Town Meeting Update**

Administration expressed their gratitude for the Towns' consistent support of school budgets.

**B. Student Support Services Update** (See documents on file.)

Student Support Services was wrapping up end-of-year issues such as student transitions to other schools or the MVRHS and the Extended School Year (ESY) program.

**Personnel** (Agenda Item #VII)

**A. Leaves of Absence** (See documents on file.)

**B. Resignation** (See documents on file.)

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR APPROVE:*
- *A MATERNITY LEAVE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL READING SPECIALIST STACY SIMMONS STARTING ON OR AROUND OCTOBER 31, 2022 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR;*

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- *A MATERNITY LEAVE AND 8 WEEKS OF SICK LEAVE AND 4 WEEKS LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER ZOE TURCOTTE STARTING ON OR AROUND SEPTEMBER 7, 2022,*
  - *THE 25% RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER SKYE SONNEBORN (see 5/4/21 Minutes p.4 #VII),*
  - *THE RESIGNATION OF CHILMARK SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KYRA WHALEN AT THE END OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR;*
- KATE DEVANE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*
- Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt reported the school schedule worked well with the 25% resignation.

**Old/New Business** (Agenda Item #VI)

**B. UIRSD Regional Agreement – Review** (See documents on file.)

- Kate DeVane stated her opinion that the MVRHSC was a subcommittee of all other School Committees and that West Tisbury was not well enough represented, because of UIRSD representation issues, and that the situation had changed since the 1956 MVRHS Regional Agreement. She did not consider finances to be an issue citing the example that the MVPS paid no funds to the Cape Cod Collaborative but still retained a vote. She suggested the Agreement or population should be re-evaluated on a 5 year basis.
- Skipper Manter considered that the MVRHSC should be chosen in a separate election. The Agreement currently stipulated that the UIRSC members of the MVRHSC was determined by the largest vote getter.
- Roxanne Ackerman noted the Agreement was written to be compliant with the Education Reform Act and Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations.
- The matter was referred to the MVRHS or All Island forum.

**Public Comment** – None (Agenda Item #II)

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

Kate DeVane announced she was very happily not seeking re-election this fall and encouraged others to recruit candidates. Nomination papers were available at the Supt. Shared Services Office and UIRSD Town Halls.

Meetings/Events

- AISC – 6:30PM, Thursday, June 2, 2022
- MVRHSC – 6:00PM, Monday, June 6, 2022
- **UIRSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 20, 2022 – TBD**
- WTS Graduation – 5:30PM, Thursday June 16, 2022 – Agricultural Hall
- Chilmark School Graduation – 10:00AM, Friday June 24, 2022 – Chilmark Community Center

**continued**

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**Adjournment**

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:31PM; SKIPPER MANTER 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.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda/Revised Agenda (2 p.) 5/23/22
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 5/20/22
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 5/13/22
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (4 p.) 4/08/22 (5/6/22)
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 4/29/22
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-2022, (15 p.) 5/20/22
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 5/20/22
- Task, WBS, Task Name, Duration... (*Chilmark HVAC timetable*)
- Whalen email re: ESP Position 5/3/22
- Sonneborn email re: 25% Resignation 5/5/22
- Turcotte letter re: maternity leave 5/4/22
- Simmons email re: Maternity Leave 5/9/22
- Up-Island Regional School District of Martha's Vineyard for Grades Pre-K through Eighth, Final Proposed Regional Agreement, October 27, 1993 (10 p.)

**Minutes approved 8/15/22**