

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Monday, June 21, 2022
West Tisbury School
And By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman*, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,
Others: Diamond Vanderhoop, Chilmark Library - Janet Weidner,
Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith,
Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod, Ruda Stone,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens,
Staff: David Crawford,
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals or early departures of UIRSC members

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: May 23, 2022 - Tabled

Principals' Report (Agenda item #III)

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

- 52 eighth graders had a fantastic time on their Niagra Falls trip and at graduation. The Fun Run at end-of-year games would be staggered to 3 start times—a Covid innovation that was an improvement.
- The WTS was awarded a lunch program grant. Part of it covered a large outdoor freezer/ temperature-monitored dry store area, which would greatly expand kitchen capacity—inside storage was very small. Polar King, manufacturer/installer of the excellent walk-in cooler, was awarded the bid so the area would show a nice visual flow. Remaining grant fund elements were still in procurement.
- The WTS roof project was put out to bid with a response deadline of June 30th. The UIRSC noted the current volatile construction market. The project could be done while school was in session, and the current target was fall 2022.
- The WTS and Chilmark School Advisory Committees (SACs) hoped to attend a UIRSC meeting to share their work on next term's goals.
- The UIRSC was very excited about the summer school program (see 5/23/22 Minutes p.2 #B) and asked a number of questions.
 - It was not a summer camp; invited students met Multi-Tiered-Systems of Support (MTSS) criteria.
 - Other schools could emulate the program but funding was a WTS specific competitive two-year grant. The program was designed to remediate Covid pandemic loss of academic and social-emotional learning—in keeping with Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt's two-year goal to return students to standard levels. For example current teaching challenges included instructing at grade standards when students had missed the prerequisites.

* Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 6:46PM.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT \$650 FOR UPPER LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND #700 FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

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

- Head of School Susan Stevens reminded the UIRSC that the Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) was approved in 2017, window and door replacement in 2021, and a new generator in 2022, none of which had shown any progress.
- The generator (see 1/20/22 Minutes p.3 #IV A) required a new conduit closely related to the HVAC project. The UIRSC was concerned that the School would be without backup power while the HVAC project was probably 2 years away and proposed the generator be purchased and installed with the understanding that the HVAC project would require revisiting location.
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman had hoped to bundle the School doors (a priority) with the windows but was finding it unlikely.
- Mr. Friedman then raised the issue of public procurement process (specifications, Request for Proposal (RFP), meetings, bid opening, draft/review/execution of contracts, etc.) for the entire MVPS facility system. Recent and current procurement for major projects (besides the Chilmark School projects) included: WTS Energy Feasibility Study, WTS roof, WTS walk-in freezer/dry storage (within grant deadline), Edgartown School elevator and energy upgrade, and the Oak Bluffs School boiler. Procurement timeliness was restricted by the capacity of the Superintendent's Shared Services Office (Central Office), which needed a dedicated facilities or procurement manager.
- Ms. Stevens reported that due to the Covid Pandemic the semi-annual School water testing was slightly delayed from the required date so the State levied a \$1,000 fine for FY22. Protests and negotiations were to no avail. Ms. Stevens instituted a notebook documenting all tests, results, testing dates, parent certified notification letters, etc. (This year's tests showed no lead or copper.)
- The UIRSC asked the Central Office to reach out to State Senator Julian Cyr and State Representative Dylan Fernandes.

VI. C. Update - Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project

(See Minutes: 3/2/21 p.2 #IV, & 5/4/21 Minutes p.1-2 #V B, & 8/26/21 p.3 #V A, & 9/20/21 p.3-4 #IV C, & 10/25/21 p.1 #II, & 5/23/22 p.3 #D)

- The Working Group met recently, drafted a possible schedule and considered various factors.
- Savings or possibilities re: bidding the project as a whole versus piecemealing was discussed.
- An option to have the HVAC work done during the school year, requiring an alternate location and moving planning was one of a number of possibilities that were not yet decided.
- Feedback from bidders and the Owners Project Manager (OPM) Daedalus/CHA showed a number of un-clarified gaps in the RFP (e.g. existing conditions, where equipment would be, what lines had to be run) that lead to fewer bidders and/or increased pricing to account for worst possible scenarios. The Group recommended hiring an architect (estimated cost \$60-70,000) to clarify the RFP and better present the complex project involving not only HVAC but also general contracting, electrical upgrades, strategically designed insulation, painting, etc..
- The at least 11 year old Chilmark School HVAC project was uniquely problematic both for the UIRSC and the Town.
- Some members expressed dissatisfaction pointing out they had already paid for engineering.
- Although not so named in the appropriation architect services were included in warrant article language "and any costs relative thereto".
- Others noted an architect might also advise on efficient, cost effective ways to complete the project.
- Original building plans were available but were not 'as-built', and there had been undocumented modifications since.

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• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO SPEND UP TO \$75,000 TO HIRE AN ARCHITECT FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING/VENTILATION/AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT: ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

- The UIRSC asked for an accounting of complete project funding resources and expenditures.

Finance (Agenda item #III)

A. Expense and Revenue Reports (See documents on file.)

- Revenues were within 1% of targets, with Town assessment gaps showing the previously returned funds (see 4/7/22 Minutes p.1 # II A & C).
- Expenses - see below B.

B. End-of-Year (EOY) Fiscal Year 2022 (FY23) Budget Transfers (See documents on file.)

- Skipper Manter protested he only received the transfer document this afternoon, not enough time for a detailed review. Assistant Superintendent Richie Smith emphasized this was part of the accounting/financial capacity issues in the Central Office, in that Mr. Friedman prepared end-of-year transfers/budget closeouts for 5 districts as well as the above procurement issues.
- Deficits were grouped by site with no crossover from one site to another.
- Substitute line overages were constant across the MVPS.
- The WTS site showed a significant deficit in Maintenance due to septic issues and the water leak. Administration was negotiating with the insurance company over insufficient reimbursement. Final settlement of funds would revert to FY23 miscellaneous income.
- There was a small variance in the WTS Health Insurance line.
- The Chilmark School site although very tight, was able to cover its deficits—including the \$1,000 fine noted above by careful budgeting and grant funds. The Water Testing line included an amount to pay the fine if needed.
- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT END-OF-YEAR BUDGET TRANSFERS AS PRESENTED WITH THANKS TO BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR MARK FRIEDMAN; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: SKIPPER MANTER—ABSTAIN, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea attended by Zoom due to family Covid. The UIRSC thanked Dr. D'Andrea's as this was his last UIRSC update before becoming the Wareham Schools Superintendent.

A. Student Support Services Update

Student Support Director Hope MacLeod was returning from Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) Island Disability Coalition Inclusion Award ceremony which honored Martha's Vineyard Film Festival, Island Grown Initiative (IGI), Felix Neck Audubon, and the YMCA for increasing employment opportunities and awareness for people of all ages with disabilities.

- Ms. MacLeod was available for any questions on MVPS services.

B. Non-Union Salary Adjustments – Tabled pending collective bargaining settlement.

Salary adjustments would be retroactive.

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Old/New Business (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Affordable Housing Policy/Protocol – Appointment of West Tisbury UIRSC Member to Working Group

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UIRSC THAT REPRESENTATION BE FROM A WEST TISBURY MEMBER SPLIT BETWEEN ALEX SALOP FOR EVENING MEETINGS AND SKIPPER MANTER FOR DAYTIME MEETINGS. Robert Lionette was enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the proposal.

B. Federal Grant for UIRSD Electric Buses

The Transportation Committee would examine the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant (application deadline August 19th). The UIRSD was higher on the grant priority listing, but was not currently set up for buses and a UIRSD versus Martha's Vineyard Region's High School District (MVRHSD) competition was strongly discouraged.

- The UIRSC was split on whether to own buses or not. The grant program had a number of complicated issues besides the MVRHSD/UIRSD ownership such as:
 - whether to purchase electric buses or partner with an entity that owned buses and lease them for use;
 - electric-charging infrastructure and bus range;
 - RFP timing by the deadline.

D. Contract & Any Other Negotiations Between Chilmark School and Chilmark Library

(See documents on file & Minutes: 3/21/22 p.2 #B.1, & 4/27/22 p.4 #VIII.)

The Library Board suggested a working group on the Library/School contract with: MVPS Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent, Head of School Susan Stevens, Library Director Ebba Hierta, Chilmark Library Board of Trustees Chair Janet Weidner, and UIRSC Chair Alex Salop.

- Chilmark Library services (which ended June 3rd) were available for half classes once a week. Transportation was unavailable for Chilmark student use of the WTS library.
- It was advised that the working group focus on current solutions and not previous issues.
- The draft contract was basically the same except for a scheduling change to Mondays when the Library was closed to the public—allowing entire classes to visit and resolving several other issues.
- The UIRSC agreed with the Working Group composition and allowed Alex Salop to represent them as long as any fundamental changes in the agreement were returned for UIRSC approval.

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

Following the May UIRSC meeting the Agreement was submitted to Murphy, Lamere & Murphy attorney Nancy Campany who could bring it into compliance with current law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations. Other issues included out of date clauses on, transportation, SACs, etc. The UIRSC expressed some desire to regionalize the MVPS. It was agreed that the Regional Agreement be legally reviewed and placed on the UIRSC agenda queue.

Personnel (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Leave of Absence (See documents on file.)

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE A MATERNITY LEAVE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL FOR FIRST GRADE TEACHER CHARLOTTE DELASIN FROM THE BEGINNING OF JULY 2022 TO JANUARY 2, 2023; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

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Public Comment – None (Agenda Item #II)

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

- Robert Lionette requested discussion on several community questions.
 - What were the SACs composition, purpose, constitution and goals—particularly in regards to parent population changes?
 - What was the composition, role, and responsibility for staff member search committees?
 - How were administrator contracts (the Superintendent's purview) written, updated and maintained over the years?
- This was traditionally the time when the UIRSC reorganized, however with the upcoming election:
 - SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO CONTINUE ALEX SALOP AS CHAIR UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION WITHDRAWN.
The matter would be placed on the next agenda.

Meetings/Events

• **UIRSC – TBD**

• Chilmark School Graduation – 10:00AM, Friday June 24, 2022 – Chilmark Community Center

Adjournment

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:12PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/21/22
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 5/27/22
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (3 p.) 4/08/22 (6/22)
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-2022, (15 p.) 6/21/22
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 6/21/22
- UIRSD FY22 Proposed Year-End Budget Transfers June 21, 2022
- Delasin email re: Maternity Leave 5/25/22
- Smith email re: Chilmark Library 6/12/22
- 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