

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
6:15PM, Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
Chilmark School  
and by Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,  
Jim Newman,

Others: Keenan & Kenny – John Keenan, Antonia Kenny, Jerry Thiboutot,  
CHA Projects – Aditya Modi, Mike Owen  
Recorder: Marni Lipke  
Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Hope MacLeod, Ellie Parece,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,  
West Tisbury – Energy - Kate Warner,  
Chilmark – Town Administrator Tim Carroll  
Press – Shavanáe Anderson – MVTV, Louisa Hufstader – Gazette,  
Eunki Seonwoo – MV Times,

\*Late arrivals or early departures of UIRSC members

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

**Approval of Minutes** (Agenda item #II)

**A. Including But Not Limited to: December 7, 19, and 22, 2022**

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:*
- *NOVEMBER 14, 2022, NOVEMBER 21, 2022*
- *DECEMBER 7, 2022, DECEMBER 12, 2022, DECEMBER 19, 2022, DECEMBER 22, 2022;*
- SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—*
- ROBERT LIONETTE, SKIPPER MANTER, OTHER ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

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

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

- Congratulations to WTS student ambassadors (one from each town) who traveled to Boston to meet with others from across Commonwealth for a Government Project Day of Service.
- All were encouraged to come to the School play February 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> to watch 35 WTS performers. Everyone was also invited to the School Spelling Bee on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ACCESS testing for English Language Learners (ELL) was going well.
- Kudos went to the coaches for managing so many children playing in the basketball season.
- After School activity clubs (homework, winter garden, stories & crafts, Leggo®, etc.) continued to be popular. Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt was exploring partnerships with other Island organizations (such as Felix Neck) and donations to expand the program (see Minutes: 11/21/22 p.5, & 12/12/22 p.1 #III).
- WTS was awarded[ the second year of the summer school grant (see 5/23/22 Minutes p.2 #B).

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- WTS alumnae were prominent winners in the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Science Fair.

### **B. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School**

#### **1. Update on First Meeting of SPACE Task Force**

There were no new break-throughs or conclusions at the first meeting. The Chilmark Preschool had been paying \$1,000 annually to the UIRSD budget for building expenses. The UIRSD acknowledged: the involvement of the Chilmark Community Center, the Town, the universal pre-school goal and the difficulties of the situation.

#### **2. New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Report**

Projections showed continued growth in enrollment for both UIRSD schools (see documents on file). NESDEC projections (based on births, mortality, housing, etc.) were fairly accurate in the in the near future becoming less dependable as the years moved out.

#### **3. Ski Trip – Out of State**

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHILMARK SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE SKI FIELD TRIP FOR 7 STUDENTS, 2 STAFF AND 4 PARENTS TO SUGAR LOAF, MAINE FEBRUARY 6-10, 2023; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* All students would wear helmets.

#### **4. Donation Acceptance**

The Chilmark School received a \$4,910 grant for 2 more Cambro units to keep food warm during and after transport from the WTS. Previously the UIRSD had received two larger grants that covered: the WTS outdoor freezer and dry store area, new stove, ovens and a hood, washing stations, and a food trailer.

### **Finance** (Agenda Item #IV)

#### **B. Chilmark Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project, Amend Inter-municipal Agreement**

(See documents on file & Minutes: 9/200/21 p.3-4 #IV C, & 10/18/21 p.2-3 #IV C.)

- Keenan & Kenny Architects (K&K) reviewed the:
  - history of their involvement with the project;
  - original boiler units and unconditioned attic at the 1999 completion of the School;
  - 2016 abandonment of the original system for ERV units that were unsuccessful due to noise and insulation problems.
  - The first two bids for a new system of electric heat pumps, variable flow system, attic air handlers and proper construction and interconnection with ERVs were unacceptable due to unknown bid spec factors that increased electrical contractor uncertainty—HVAC mechanical bids were considered accurate.
- K&K along with Owner's Project Managers (OPM) CHA Projects made careful examinations (crawling the attics, getting as-built drawings, meeting with the Chilmark Building Inspector) and debated timing, savings, policies and practice to define architectural and electrical elements: access/demolition, painting, duct work, etc. while being sensitive to the budget.
- A surveyor was hired to find the best emergency generator location.

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- They determined that old equipment had to be removed from the attic and designed access through the gable walls of 6 classrooms (preserving classroom ceilings and avoiding disruption). The access would be closed with small barn door replicas (facing the courtyard) for perpetual access. A structural engineer was hired to examine bearing walls.
- The new units were compatible with the existing ERV motors which saved about \$140,000.
- The entire School would be foam insulated—except the lobby and entrance to be done during a re-roofing project. The insulation bids would go out in March so the contractor could stockpile everything on site for an early June start to a 90 day window, coordinating with any summer activities.
- Reaching out to contractors working on other Island projects (such as the Tisbury School) CHA presented a timeline starting with bid documents in February 2023 (timed to accommodate Annual Town Meeting (ATM) schedules) and work commencing in early June 2023. However, lessening but still significant supply chain problems (e.g. 62 week electrical breaker backlog) could delay completion until the end of summer recess 2024.
- The amount of the overage was unclear however the team was certain that additional funding and voter participation would be necessary. The bid deadline was the end of March with bids held for 90 days. Various options, funding/construction timing and other issues were explored.
- If it was within a few \$100,000 Excess & Deficiency could be used—Select Board notification and 45 day waiting period required.
- The UIRSD could vote to borrow funds—Select Board notification and 60-day waiting period required.
- The Inter-Municipal agreement for Chilmark borrowing could be amended—with payments starting in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25).
- The generator cost was separated and could be included in the borrowing or considered for alternate funding (see below: # VI E).
- The UIRSC directed Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman to check with Counsel re: E & D and/or borrowing waiting periods if Select Boards approved the withdrawal without a Special Town Meeting (STM).
- A joint 3 Town Select Board and UIRSC meeting would be required to award the bids as timely as possible.
- After further debate it was agreed that amending the Inter-Municipal Agreement was the most efficient option. Chilmark Town Administrator Tim Carroll had submitted already a placeholder article.
- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO REQUEST THE WEST TISBURY, CHILMARK AND AQUINNAH SELECT BOARDS REOPEN THE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING/VENTILATION /AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) (?AND GENERATOR?) PROJECT; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE BIDDING SCHEDULE FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL HEATING/VENTILATION/AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) PROJECT AS PRESENTED; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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- The UIRSC understood that although the project would start this summer, equipment and supply chain issues might delay completion until next summer.
- The UIRSC thanked K&K and CHA for their time, work and attendance, and Mr. Friedman for arranging the above comprehensive presentation that allowed a clear knowledge of the issues.
- \* There was a brief recess from 7:36-7:39PM.

### **A. Expense and Revenue Report** (See documents on file.)

The Report was updated for all salary adjustments, contingency spending and encumbered lines. Small variances in Information Technology (IT) would be explored for the next meeting. Health and dental insurance variances were manageable. Revenue was as expected.

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

#### **A. General Update**

The UIRSC was well represented at the All Island School Committee (AISC) meetings but there continued to be other quorum challenges.

- Quoting the Julie Wells Vineyard Gazette article “Finding a Rhythm to the Roller Coaster of 2022” summed up the MVPS year’s challenges: unexpected migrant influx, sheltering in place during a bank robbery (commendations to UIRSD Administrators), collective bargaining arbitration and fact finding; were all uniquely and well navigated.
- Superintendent Richie Smith’s had been in his post 6 months. His educational philosophy to deliver quality instruction and student centered education was based on Harvard Education Director Roland Barth principle that student achievement is primarily linked to the relations among the adults serving a school system.
- In 2023 Tisbury School construction was progressing rapidly and the MVRHS was on a 270 Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) feasibility study timeline, after the Towns and MVRHSC worked diligently to craft a funding agreement.
- A lean 2.5% MVRHS budget was ratified at the last meeting.
- The Health & Safety Committee and the Central Office continued to monitor a particularly difficult flu, RSV and Covid-variant winter.

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

This month’s report outlined the various Shared Services programs, with school locations, staff, students, administrators; along with some acronym definitions. For example the WTS Project Headway class had 7 students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and 6 or more peers, 1 teacher and 3 Education Support Professionals (ESPs).

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

#### **A. Environmental School Building Task Force (ESBTF) and Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funding**

#### **B. Discussion of Potential Position to Support ESBTF**

(See Minutes: 12/7/22 p.3 #VI, & 12/19/22 p.5 #VI B.)

There was no update from the West Tisbury Energy Committee or the ESBTF. The UIRSC explored various options to start a multi-million dollar project encompassing both environmental greening (feasibility study completed) and educational facility improvements.

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- The UIRSC considered warrant articles to:
  - hire a project-specific business manager to:
    - coordinate community involvement (Select Boards, Finance Committees, a Building Committee, etc.),
    - commence procurement,
    - draft MSBA Statements of Interest (SOIs),
    - determine feasibility costs and/or bid specifications,
    - oversee construction, etc.
  - or place a non-binding question to the Towns on their willingness to commit resources;
  - or hire a feasibility study for the educational facility portion.
  - Another option was to request the ESBTF and Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt for more basic proposals rather than best case scenarios.
- Unknown factors made various courses of action unclear.
  - An educational feasibility price was likely to be high and the MSBA required its own very thorough feasibility study that planned for the next 25 years; i.e. it did not accept outside studies.
  - The project business manager position required skilled, certified personnel so the UIRSC asked about hiring an OPM instead—for example CHA charged ~ \$25,000 per MSBA SOI.
  - MSBA application and funding was a lengthy competitive grant process (in this case for ~ 38% of eligible funding) that prioritized schools with extreme dilapidation, previous MVPS applications taking 7-10 years before acceptance.
  - The UIRSC scheduled a separate meeting on the topic next week (see below: Meetings/Events).

### **C. Excess and Deficiency (E & D) Policy** - Tabled

### **D. Expense-Based Budgeting** - Tabled

### **E. Warrants**

- \$108,000 was insufficient for a Chilmark School emergency generator. Contractors advised that purchasing 2 smaller generators was cheaper than one large one. The electrical design and implementation was part of the above HVAC project, so the easier route was to include funding in the Inter-Municipal Agreement amendment.
- The WTS also needed some heat circulation, HVAC and electrical work so the issue would be added to next week's meeting. The UIRSC directed Mr. Friedman to check with MVPS Counsel on whether this was considered part of operating expenses (and therefore part of the UIRSC budget) or allowed as a capital warrant article.
- The Chilmark window replacement was progressing and should be completed by the end of the school year. Interior doors were being replaced and exterior doors would go out to bid shortly.

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

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

- Recorder Marni Lipke would be unable to attend/record February meetings due to health issues.
- Roxanne Ackerman advised that family issues precluded her Chairing the UIRSC so the matter would be taken up at next week's meeting.

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Meetings/Events

- **UIRSC – 5:30PM, Monday, January 23, 2023 – WTS/Zoom**
- **AISC – TBD, Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

**Adjournment**

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:44PM; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 1/23/23
- Chilmark School Meeting – Project Timeline and K+K's Addition 1/17/23
- Chilmark School Town of Chilmark, 8 State Road, Chilmark, Massachusetts, drawings (15 p.)  
1/5/23
- Chilmark School HVAC Design and Bidding Schedule
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (15 p.) 1/16/23
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2022- 2023 1/16/23
- NESDEC, West Tisbury, MA, 2022-2023 Enrollment Projection Report (12 p.)
- NESDEC, Chilmark MA, 2022-2023 Enrollment Projection Report (12 p.)
- UIRSD Student Support Services Update (2 p.)

• Chat:

Louisa Hufstader • Vineyard Gazette: The sound is really indistinct.

Louisa Hufstader • Vineyard Gazette: Yes it sounds like there is only one mic and it's far away

Mary Boyd: That should be better.

Louisa Hufstader • Vineyard Gazette: Better with the guests. The room is nearly hopeless, I'm afraid. I am recording audio to play back at a slower speed in case that helps.

Louisa Hufstader • Vineyard Gazette: 2-Thank you for asking.

Louisa Hufstader • Vineyard Gazette: Appreciated nonetheless!

**Minutes approved 2/21/23**