

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Monday, November 14, 2022
West Tisbury School
and by Zoom Cloud Conference**

Page 1 of 3

Present: Chair – Alex Salop by Zoom, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Jim Newman,
Others: Recorder: Marni Lipke
Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod, Ellie Parece,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
WT FinCom: – Greg Orcutt, WT Accountant - Bruce Stone
Press – MVTV – Shavannae Anderson, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader, MV Times – Eunki Seonwoo, *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. The UIRSC welcomed new member Jim Newman from Aquinnah. As Mr. Newman was a teacher for many years and had long wanted to be part of the UIRSC but had just spent 18 years on the Aquinnah Select Board. (*Recorder's Note: Some discussions have been grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget Workshop (Agenda Item #II) (See documents on file.)

This Draft, at 4.65% increase, was a level service budget adjusted for all contractual obligations including recently negotiated changes.

- Lowest steps were eliminated and a top step added so that almost all positions received a step—for a total of \$216,000 increase. (60% of MVPS had been on the top step).
- Lane change total was \$12,000.
- Education Support Professionals' (ESPs') day increased by 15 min. for 184 school days—\$32,000.
- Custodians received a night differential \$1 per hr. and now Special Education (SpEd) ESPs received the same—\$6,000
- The 2% FY24 across the board increase totaled \$216,000 similar to, but not technically, a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).
- An estimated 7.5% health insurance placeholder (\$108,000) was not yet determined by the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG).
- Heating oil was raised \$4,500 in line with trending and rate hikes.
- The Superintendents Shared Services Office (Central Office) budget was currently at 2.5% but was likely to be higher as collective bargaining impacted many SpEd areas.
- A 2.5% transportation placeholder was included pending the next Transportation Committee meeting.
- The FY23 negotiations placeholder amount was not included.
- These numbers were mandated and could only be changed by changing the number of employees.
- The \$50,000 Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) increase was also not included since the UIRSC had reached the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) or Annual Required Contribution (ARC). The UIRSC reviewed it's OPEB history including:
 - repeated requests to include to \$50,000 increase in the level service draft so it could be discussed and removed if so decided;

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

November 14, 2022

Page 2 of 3

- previous warrant article and Excess & Deficiency (E & D) lump sum contributions;
- Town FinCom requests for the \$50,000 increase practice.
- Having reached ADEC and in view of the level service increase (before any program or other increases) continuing the \$50,000 practice would accelerate pay down and probably instigate fairly drastic spikes and dips in future budgets.
- It could/should also be a part of collective bargaining negotiations.
- The UIRSC agreed that members would contact the region's Finance Committees (Skipper Manter – West Tisbury, Robert Lionette – Chilmark, Jim Newman – Aquinnah) on their wishes.
- The UIRSC requested actuarial information on the ADEC/ARC. Liability and ADEC calculations included hundreds of variables such as: inflation, market status, long-term health insurance costs, etc.
- The UIRSC also requested:
 - Employee Salary List (there was a discussion on appropriate information release vs. public record),
 - FY19 vs. FY24 comparative: total Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), Student Census, Accountability,
 - FY23 Contingency line use,
 - School Choice student data breakout (there was confusion around the current census configuration),
 - Administrators' funding requests.
- Chapter 70 was level funded to FY23—historically there was not much change.
- Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement was higher so revenue was set at \$239,000—a \$94,000 rise.
- A prudent Medicaid reimbursement estimate increased it \$38,000.
- The previous E & D offset (see Minutes: 1/13/22, & 1/20/22 p.1-2 #V C) was halved to \$121,000 in anticipation of a similar reduction next year to eliminate the offset.
 - FY22 E & D was submitted but not yet certified, at an estimated \$770,000 within about \$5,000 of the 5% limit.
 - Skipper Manter repeated his positions: that all E & D should be returned to the Towns annually and that the Contingency line should be separated by site in keeping with formula percentages.
 - The Regional Agreement p.4 - Apportionment: delineated stricter than usual regional costs based on each towns' enrollment numbers, which made it difficult to act as a region.
 - The previous Business Administrator had explained that E & D fund origins could not be traced to each site and that there was no mechanism for determining how to distribute it, and attempts to do so would be spending dollars to chase pennies.
 - There was a discussion on the origin of the Contingency Line (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.1-2 #III) established to avoid the cumbersome E & D process, and whether E & D offset funded a Line or the entire budget.
 - Other members preferred the flexibility of the current Contingency configuration.
- West Tisbury School (WTS) student census was slightly down from 409 to 407, but Chilmark jumped from 57 to 70 (23%). This changed assessments as follows: Aquinnah 15.4%, Chilmark 10.18%, West Tisbury almost nothing (0.49%).
- The budget meeting schedule was discussed. The UIRSC wished Business Administrator Mark Friedman a happy birthday.

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

Meetings/Events

- UIRSC – 5:00PM Monday, November 21, 2022 – **Chilmark School & by Zoom**

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

November 14, 2022

Page 3 of 3

Adjournment

• *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:10PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/14/22
- Friedman email re: UIRSD FY24 Budget – Version #1
- UIRSD FY2023 Assessment – V#7 1/20/22 - Certified
- UIRSD FY2024 Assessment – V#1 11/14/22
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY24 General Fund Budget, Version # 1 11-14-2022 (12 p.)
- Friedman email re: FY24 Draft Shared Services Budget 10/19/22
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, Superintendent's Office and Shared Service Programs, FY24 Proposed Budget Version #1 A.I.S.C. October 19, 2022 (8 p.)
- Tuitioned In on School Choice or Attending Shared Service Program (2 p.)
- Teachers.... employee list (10 p.)

Minutes approved 1/17/23