

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Monday, September 19, 2022
West Tisbury School
and by Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Alex Salop, Kate DeVane—by Zoom*, Roxanne Ackerman—by Zoom*,
Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter—by Zoom

Others: Amelia Smith, Ginger, Recorder: Marni Lipke
Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,
Hope MacLeod, Kim Garrison, Ruda Stone,
Principals: Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
Aquinnah Select Board – Jim Newman,
WT Energy Com – Doug Ruskin, Kate Warner,
Marc Rosenbaum, RDH Building – Andrew Steingiser
Chilmark Energy Com. - Rob Hannemann, Mike Jacobs,
Press: MV Times – Eunki Seonwoo, Vineyard Gazette – Louisa Hufstader,
MVTV – Shavannáe Anderson,

*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 with a full agenda.

Minutes Read and Approved (Agenda item #II)

A. Including But Not Limited to: August 15, 2022

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 15, 2022 MINUTES; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Principals' Report (Agenda item #III)

* Kate Devane (5:08PM) and Roxanne Ackerman (5:11PM) joined the meeting during these discussions.

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

1. Enrollment (See documents on file.)

Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt was off-Island. Assistant Principal Mary Boyd reported enrollment at 352 including Project Headway students. This was in line with last year's enrollment (~361) when accounting for an average size kindergarten (K) compared with last year's small class, and the large eighth grade (50 student) graduation. Official enrollment and School Choice numbers would be available after the October 1st census—although State certified School Choice numbers were published later in the year.

2. Back-to-School Night & Barbecue (BBQ) (See documents on file.)

Thanks went to all who attended Back-to-School Barbecue. The event drew 250 employees, parents and students for good food and conversation tying into this year's theme on connections: student-to-student and school-to-community—part of the focus on post-pandemic social-emotional remediation. Professional Development (PD) would also focus on this theme through the “3 Signature Practices Playbook” learning system.

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3. Curriculum Nights (See documents on file.)

Due to the pandemic, many middle school parents had never been in the building and were now enthusiastic about moving towards normal. There would be refreshments and a brief welcome by Administrators followed by 10 minutes each with children's teachers. Parents of lower grade levels were more informally welcomed throughout September and October.

- This was the first year without masks and it was clear they had been more impactful than expected. Some basic learning had to be re-taught but the WTS was doing well returning to pre-pandemic school climate and academic levels.
- Nurses continued to track Covid numbers which were low across the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) with maybe 1-2 students and staff testing positive per school.

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

- As previously reported School started with 70 students, up from the usual 50-55:
 - 18 kindergarteners requiring a split classes despite a smaller first grade of 13,
 - 20 second/third grade students, and
 - 19 fourth/fifth graders who were just back from their week on the *Shenandoah*.
- The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) showed "In Canto" on the outside movie screen. Parents were welcomed to Fridays Morning Circle being held outside while weather permitted. Today was the first full day for kindergartners. Like the WTS the School was returning towards pre-pandemic normal.
- A meeting was scheduled for work on the windows. The School was still waiting for the new door.

Finance (Agenda item #IV)

A. Expense & Revenue Report (See documents on file.)

The UIRSD continued to have some hiring issues but this first Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Report showed no big issues for either expenses or revenues—health insurance costs were being monitored.

C. West Tisbury School Generator

Vineyard Generator and Kraft Power discovered serious problems during the August routine maintenance of the 1996 generator. Repairs were estimated at \$26-30,000:

- \$13,000 for parts arriving in 2-3 weeks;
- about the same for labor (due partly to equipment needed to lift the generator off its pad), and
- \$1,200 monthly rent (+ \$25/hr. when in service) for an emergency backup.
- Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt asked the UIRSC to consider taking repair funds from the Contingency line but she could also run a line in deficit pending further developments.
- Generator replacement was on the Capital Plan, but would be moved up the timeline. Diesel-fueled replacements were backlogged 40-50 weeks and could be as high as \$100,000.
- It was important to get accurate kilowatt capacity, since a too powerful generator would wear out as fast as one not powerful enough.
- The UIRSC considered a number of factors.
 - It might be cheaper to forego repairing the old generator and rent the emergency backup until a new generator could be installed.
 - If a replacement funding article was voted at April 2023 Annual Town Meetings (ATMs) for bid/ordering during the 2023 spring/summer, the installation timeline would be ~ 2 years. The UIRSC discussed how to accelerate Town funding but also noted ongoing supply chain issues.
 - Backup rental might not be available long-term, since companies were reluctant to pay return transportation. A capital lease (lease-to-purchase) required Town authorization.

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- Chilmark School was also in desperate need of a generator (see Minutes: 10/21/19 p.2 #VI B, & 1/21/22 p.2 #B, & 6/21/22 p.2 #B), but installation, even of a backup, was complex, requiring location work and conduits, so it was included in the Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) project.
- The UIRSC asked MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman and Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt to research options, possibly with the Owner Project Manager (OPM) as an added fee on the contract.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #V)

Chair Alex Salop congratulated everyone on the respectful, positive management of the unexpected influx of Venezuelan immigrants.

A. General Update

The next All Island School Committee (AISC) meeting would focus on starting Process and School Governance trainings with Meg Mayo Brown from National Sheep Improvement Program or NonSpecific Interstitial Pneumonia, or National Schools Interoperability Program, or New Superintendent's Induction Program (NSIP) and Dorothy Presser from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

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

The newsletter showed UIRSD data on special needs and Shared Services for 2021-22. Parent feedback from the previous year was minimal. Student behavior was universally effected by the pandemic, and interrupted learning stability was clearly shown, but teachers were working to make-up for lost time.

- The Department had a great start to the 2022-23 school year. It was wonderful to see everyone and welcome new teachers to Shared Services.
- A drop in MVPS special needs designation percentages last year was now reversed coming in at a higher percentage than pre-pandemic percentages. The UIRSC requested data from 2019 thru 2022.

Old/New Business (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Chilmark School – Level 3 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Installation

(See documents on file.)

Chilmark Energy Committee members Rob Hannemann and Mike Jacobs gave a detailed report.

- The Town received a \$42,000 State grant for a charger in the Town Center—the first fast charger (15-30 minutes) on the Island. It required road and parking space signs, and an underground Eversource wire and transformer—followed by road/parking resurfacing. The expandable charger (protected by buffer poles) would have 2 outlets but could charge only one car at a time.
- After the following considerations the Chilmark Select Board (CSB) approved the last paved Chilmark School parking lot space (not counting the dumpster space).
 - The Chilmark Community Center lot was overly busy and full of children during the tourist season. Chilmark Public Library Trustees objected to the loss of a parking place. The Town owned the Post Office lot but the charger would require extensive Federal leasing/red-tape delays. The new Tri-Town Emergency building chargers were for Town use.
 - Vehicle owners could cross the street to the Chilmark Store during the recharging interval.
 - As a side benefit the School would get a free electrical upgrade—helping the HVAC project.
- Head of School Susan Stevens' repeated security concerns (see 8/15/22 Minutes p.1 #III A1) which the UIRSC acknowledged while recognizing the open, public nature of the School campus. The Energy Committee, CSB and Administrators would explore measures, like restricted use during school hours.
 - Since the charger space was not visible from the road, EV owners had to enter the parking lot to see if it was occupied. The UIRSC also raised traffic concerns, although EV usage was still fairly low.

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• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF CHILMARK TO PROCEED FORWARD ON THE LEVEL 3 ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INSTALLATION IN THE CHILMARK SCHOOL PARKING LOT; ROXANNE ACKERMAN AND ALEX SALOP SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.* The UIRSC and Energy Committee members exchanged thanks.

B. West Tisbury School Roof Project Update

The Town issued a building permit. Materials were being delivered. The contractor work would start October 3rd and hoped to be done by October 31st. Administration worked with the contractor to minimize disruption and keep student areas safe.

C. Prius Surplus (See documents on file.)

The UIRSD 2009 Toyota Prius (42,782 mileage – Blue Book value \$7,000+) was part of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) fleet. The MVRHS expected to receive a new Prius this week. The UIRSD Prius should be surplus and sold to the highest bidder. As there was no revolving fund available, the price would go into miscellaneous revenue and be absorbed into any revenue shortfalls or revert to Excess and Deficiency (E & D). There was an objection that the money should be returned to the taxpayers.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO DECLARE SURPLUS THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009 TOYOTA PRIUS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.* The UIRSD would now own one vehicle, the van used for lunch deliveries.

D. Environmentally-Friendly School Building Task Force Presentation

(See documents on file and Minutes: 2/16/21 p.2-3 #B, & 3/15/21 p.1-2 #III A, & 12/7/21 p.1-2 #III A, & 4/27/22 p.3 #V B.)

- This project furthered Town and Island goals to be 100% renewable and 0 fossil fuel by 2040. The UIRSC acknowledged and thanked the Task Force members: Roxanne Ackerman, Mark Friedman, Rob Hannemann, Aquinnah Select Board member Jim Newman, Doug Ruskin and Kate Warner, as well as pro-bono consultant Marc Rosenbaum.
- The lengthy RDH Building Sciences Report results were as expected, focusing primarily on Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) issues, particularly 70% heat loss through air leakage out and in, door/window quality, inadequate insulation and non-functional or unusable equipment, e.g. 1 of 3 boilers, or noisy fans shutdown because of interference with student learning. The proposal rectified insulation and air sealing, proposed new doors, windows and equipment (including hot water) for a more comfortable building that would reduce window opening and closing.
 - Energy savings would be about \$14,000 per year which would increase as energy prices rose.
 - The Project would allow WTS Head Custodian Jamie Labbe to spend time on other duties. The Task Force and consultants highly praised Mr. Labbe's pro-active and skilled work on WTS energy saving.
 - The WTS would become part of the Town emergency shelter system.
- A professional cost estimator using current construction craze and Island factor formulas set the cost at \$26-37,000,000 including: bid documents, OPM, solar panels and possibly storage batteries. Various funding options were possible: Federal grants, Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Town funding for emergency shelter components, etc. Issues and options like this were being discussed and balanced all over the world.

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- \$6-8,000,000 modular classroom costs were included in both Options.
- Option 1 (recommended) to complete the entire project over one 1-2 year period, had a number of advantages: the lowest total cost, early performance benefit and best technical approach (eliminating discrepancies between phases of a multi-phased project).
- Option 2 was to phase the project. Advantages included: distributing costs over time and replacing components as they aged out, instead of all at once before the end of their lifespans—although most equipment was old so there was a risk it could fail and need replacement before it was scheduled.
 - Renewable energy sources would be added when the revised energy needs were known.
 - Given the scope of the project and the move to modular/temporary building, the Task Force suggested the UIRSC and Administration consider incorporating other desired educational/infrastructure changes, for example technology or wiring updates.
 - The Task Force recommended and pushed for fall 2022 Special Town Meetings (STMs) for all three Towns, to appropriate funds for an OPM to start Request for Proposal (RFP) design, specifications (specs), and budgeting.

Issues discussed were:

- Did the project require its own OPM or could the UIRSD use its current OPM on retainer—the current contract ran to the end of FY23.
- Administration had begun talking about educational infrastructure changes that could be included, however it was agreed to wait for Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt's input.
- The Report was primarily an engineering task however inclusion of other changes should be a thoughtful, unhurried visioning process, and would involve a more architect-heavy design, making a fall 2022 STM timeline premature.
- Emergency shelter infrastructure was likely to include, showers, laundry, etc.
- The UIRSC requested the RDH Report be posted on the WTS website.
- Superintendent Richie Smith and Mark Friedman pointed out that the relatively small MVPS system was already working 120 hrs./wk. on 3 major, ambitious construction projects, the Tisbury School, the MVRHS, and the track and field so that the limited Central Office staff had no further capacity for procurement, oversight, additional meetings, financial work, etc. The UIRSD agreed this was a “sanity” issue. Consultants and the Task Force suggested the UIRSD hire its own facilitator to concentrate on this project since intense oversight was critical to success.
- The UIRSC also considered fiscal responsibility issues of embarking on another expensive project, noting the Tri-Town Ambulance and Up Island Senior Center projects already in progress.
- Ms. Stevens reminded the UIRSC that money was voted some years ago for 3 Chilmark School projects that were still not completed.
- The UIRSC discussed forming a Committee or re-constituting the Task Force with more stakeholders, such as Jamie Labbe.
- (The UIRSC suggested a Chair's questions and comments succeed all other members' turns.)

Personnel (Agenda Item #V)

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

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LEAVES OF ABSENCE:*
- *CHILMARK SCHOOL FIRST/SECOND GRADE TEACHER JESSICA WHITELEY 20% REDUCTION FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR,*

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- WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CARMEN CREANGA FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR;
 - MATERNITY LEAVE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN TEACHER KELLIE DAVIES FROM AROUND NOVEMBER 17, 2022 TO APRIL 3, 2023;
 - WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DANIELLE FOGG FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2023;
- ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: KATE DEVANE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

Public Comment – None (Agenda Item #VI)

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

Kate DeVane asked MVRHSC representatives to request an agenda item on MVRHS/Oak Bluffs legal suit costs.

Meetings/Events

- AISC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2022 by Zoom
- UIRSC – TBD - 5:00PM, Monday, October 17, 2022

Adjournment

- ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:16PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, KATE DEVANE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 9/19/22
- WTS 2022-2023 Enrollment (as of 9/13/22)
- Social Emotional Learning 3 Signatures Practices Playbook
- Up-Island Regional Special Education-Snapshot SY2021-2022 (2 p.)
- Time....8th Grade....7th Grade...6th Grade...
- Chilmark School Weekly Peek (4 p.) 9/23/22
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021-2022, (15 p.) 9/16/22
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 9/17/22
- Up Island Regional School District, Toyota Prius (#V1) September 16, 2022
- Town Center Level 3 EV Charger, Energy Committee Proposal 8/2022 (5 p.)
- Zero Carbon-Ready Retrofit Study, West Tisbury Elementary School, West Tisbury, MA (197 p.)
Prepared for the Up-Island Regional School District, September 9, 2022
- West Tisbury School Energy Report, (12 p.)
- Davies email re: Requesting leave 8/30/22
- Simmons email re: Maternity leave 9/14/22
- Creanga email re: One year leave request 8/30/22
- Fogg email re: Leave of Absence request 8/16/22
- Whiteley email re: Reduction in hours to 80% 8/31/22

Minutes approved 10/17/22