

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
6:00PM, Monday, May 15, 2023  
Wampanoag Tribe Community Center**

**Page 1 of 5**

Present: Chair – Jim Newman, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette by Zoom,  
Skipper Manter by Zoom, Alex Salop,  
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,  
Hope MacLeod,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,  
Wampanoag Education – Jade Maak, Martha Vanderhoop,  
Towns – Chilmark – Rob Hannemann,  
Chilmark Pre-School – Alicia Knight, Debbi Zetterberg,  
Press – Shavanáe Anderson – MVTV, Jenna Bernstein – MV Times,  
Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette,  
Recorder: Marni Lipke \*Late arrivals or early departures

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

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

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

**A. Including But Not Limited to: 4/13/23**

• *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 13, 2023 MINUTES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

**B. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School**

**1. Chilmark Preschool Payment**

(See Minutes: 10/18/04 p.1-2 #VII, & 5/31/05 p.3-4 #II, & 12/19/22 p.2-4 #IV D, & 4/13/23 p.4-5 # 1 & IV C.)

The Chilmark Preschool agreed to cover the cost of any changes needed to facilitate their continued residency. Head of School Susan Stevens had invoices in hand for the floor changes and storage unit. She requested preschool funds be specifically dedicated to the Chilmark School “repairs”, rather than being deposited to the UIRSD General Fund—like the \$1,000/yr rent which was paid into the UIRSD General Fund. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman proposed the creation of a revolving fund—there was precedent in other schools. The UIRSC discussed:

- avoidance of “slush” funds;
- agenda protocol;
- other funding mechanisms and avoidance of over-complication, e.g. *Alabama* trip funding;
- whether to include annual preschool rent or not.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**

**May 15, 2023**

**Page 2 of 5**

• *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ESTABLISH A CHILMARK SCHOOL USE REVOLVING FUND; ALEX SALOP SECONDED;*

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION SUCH THAT THE REVOLVING FUND ENCOMPASS ONLY THE COST OF WHAT WAS NEEDED TO FACILITATE THE PRESCHOOL CONTINUED OCCUPANCY; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED THE AMENDMENT; AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE;*

*AMENDED MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

The UIRSC requested the fund and Preschool rent protocol be put on next meeting's agenda.

**Finance** (Agenda item #IV)

**A. Expenditure Report** (See documents on file.)

As the end of the fiscal year approached, projections were that both West Tisbury School (WTS) and Chilmark School sites would be on-budget with minimal surplus, so there would not be a substantial increase in Excess and Deficiency (E & D).

- \$95,000 for Chilmark HVAC debt payment was returned to the Towns as voted (see 4/13/23 Minutes p.2-3 #IV B).

**B. Surplus Equipment**

(See documents on file & Minutes: 1/25/21 p.1 #III A, & 2/16/21 p.5 #VIII.)

Now that recent kitchen renovations were complete there were two 3-door, interior 2021 refrigerators in good shape to be surplus—shipping/freight charges might apply. There was a question of whether any of the emergency shelters or after-school programs might need one.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO DECLARE TWO WEST TISBURY SCHOOL REFRIGERATORS SURPLUS AND TO DONATE ONE TO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY PROGRAM AND TO PUT ONE OUT TO BID; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

**A. General Update**

• Three towns rejected the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District (MVRHSD) Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget which also impacted the Superintendent's Shared Services Office budget. If the MVRHSD budget failed again, the Office was confident it could absorb the ~\$15-20,000 shortfall; however it was researching whether FY24 contracts could be offered.

• Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) roles and ethics specialist Dorothy Presser had been engaged twice to address the All Island School Committee (AISC) and had been canceled due to lack of quorum. The next AISC meeting (with her presentation) was scheduled for Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM—to accommodate MVRHS Evening of the Arts.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**

**May 15, 2023**

**Page 3 of 5**

- AISC Chair Skipper Manter urged all AISC members to attend as part of their responsibility as school committee members. It was important to inform the Superintendent's Office in a timely manner if members were unable to attend; previous last minute quorum failures reflected unprofessional attitudes. The UIRSC was usually well represented and Mr. Manter was reminded that other AISC members were not present to hear his remarks.

- New school committee members were also mandated to take a 7-8 hr. training.

**B. Student Support Services Update – Tabled**

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

**A. Wellness Policy – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** (See Minutes: 11/21/22 p.3 #B1, & 4/13/23 p.2 #2.)

The Wellness Committee had not sent any changes from the previous reading.

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**B. School Choice Policy on Staff Children – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

(See 4/13/23 Minutes p.6-7 #VI A.)

- There was the usual objection to finances, and the previous meeting's conversation regarding the number of school choice students being accepted was briefly revisited.

- WTS Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt emphasized that the amendment did not add any new slots, available slots were determined by Principal/Head of School discretion, so there was no guarantee that slots would be available. The amendment only clarified that children of UIRSC staff would be included in the first (priority) of the two School Choice lotteries—as a way to improve staff situations.

- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED THE FIRST READING OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY AMENDMENT SUCH THAT SCHOOL CHOICE PRIORITY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FACULTY AND STAFF; JIM NEWMAN AND ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**C. Appoint UIRSC Representative to Negotiate Chilmark/Up Island Regional School District (CH/UIRSD) Lease** (See 4/13/23 Minutes p.5.)

There was no previous or current Town/UIRSD lease for the Chilmark School, which was a persistent comment in UIRSD audits. An initial conversation was needed with the Chilmark Town Administrator and Mark Friedman and IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO APPOINT CHAIR JIM NEWMAN AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TOWN OF CHILMARK FOR AN UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT LEASE OF THE CHILMARK SCHOOL.

**D. Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) – Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA)**

(See documents on file & Minutes: 9/20/21 p.3 #IV C, & 10/18/21 p.2-3 #IV C.)

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**

**May 15, 2023**

**Page 4 of 5**

The new bid price was reviewed. The old IMA was rescinded at the Chilmark Annual Town Meeting. All 3 Town Select Boards were in the process of approving the new IMA which extended the dates and increased the amount. Once it was approved, contracts could be signed.

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF AQUINNAH, CHILMARK AND WEST TISBURY AND THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUS INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT APPROVED ON OCTOBER 25, 2021; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**E. Chilmark School Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) – Award Contract to Apex Corporation (See 3/9/23 Minutes.)**

Financial resources and the winning bid components were reviewed. The UIRSC expressed great appreciation to Robert Hannemann for his work and persistence on this complex issue.

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE THE CONTRACT FOR \$2,286,000 (NOT WITHSTANDING POSSIBLE CHANGE ORDERS) WITH APEX CORPORATION; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

- The Town of Chilmark requested a small building committee for the project: Rob Hannemann, Susan Stevens, Mark Friedman, and the Owners Project Manager.

**Personnel (Agenda Item #VII)**

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

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL HEAD COOK LISA WEBSTER; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

The UIRSC and administrators expressed dismay at her resignation.

**Public Comment (Agenda Item #VIII)**

The UIRSC thanked Wampanoag Tribe Education Lead Martha Vanderhoop and Specialist Jade Maak and the Tribe secretary for welcoming and facilitating the UIRSC to the Tribe Community Center. The Education Dept. was celebrating the return of free after-school and summer programs for Tribal youth after the hiatus caused by the pandemic. Thanks went to the UIRSC members for coming to Aquinnah, to Roxanne Ackerman and Jim Newman for setting up the meeting. The UIRSD and Wampanoag Tribe collaborated on Wampanoag Policies and Procedures and on \$20-30,000 per year in impact aid (see 2/21/23 Minutes p.2 #C), which

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**May 15, 2023**

**Page 5 of 5**

specified two joint meetings per year. The next time it was hoped better publicity would result in parents and tribal members attendance.

- The Tribal Education Department was suffering from a severe staffing shortage and asked for help in recruiting.

**Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – None (Agenda Item #IX)**

**Adjournment**

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:12PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

**Meetings/Events**

- **AISC Meeting – 5:30PM, Wednesday, May, 24, 2023 - MVRHS/Zoom**
- **UIRSC Meeting - 6:00PM, Monday, June 19, 2023 TBD**
- **Cabinet Retreat - July 31 - August 3, 2023**

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 5/15/23
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (15 p.) 5/14/23
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2022- 2023 5/14/23
- Towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, and West Tisbury Up-Island Regional School District Intermunicipal Agreement (7 p.) 5/3/23
- Central Reach-In Refrigerators (2 p.)

**Minutes approved 6/20/23**