

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:30PM, Wednesday, October 25, 2023
West Tisbury School and By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Acting Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette,
Skipper Manter, Jim Newman,
Others: Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
*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.

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Budget Workshop (Agenda Item #II)
(See documents on file,)

Version #1 was an amalgamated level service Budget showing current positions—there were several comments on how a level service budget should be configured.

- New legal information advised a single warrant article of operating and capital expenses.
- FY25 was the third year of the 3-year union contract.
- Possible continuation of grant positions into the budget would be covered at the next meeting.

• **The following items were not yet included:**

- \$50,000 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) increase,
- \$20,200 of the 5th and final year of the WTS Information Technology (IT) upgrade (see 11/21/22 Minutes p.5);
- Chilmark Town debt service for the School heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC);
- changes in Chilmark School Administrator salary;
- neither Transportation nor the Superintendent Shared Services FY25 projections.

• **These items were included:**

- contractual increases: Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), steps, lane changes, \$1,500 one time payment;
- 7.5% health insurance increase, 3% dental insurance increase;
- 2 Chilmark and 1 WTS Education Support Professionals (ESPs) from Contingency funding (see 12/19/22 Minutes p.4);
- 3 federal Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) III grant funded positions – WTS Special Education (SpEd) teacher (see 8/26/21 Minutes p.4 #D) and 2 ESPs;
- Chilmark School grant funded position that remained vacant.

• **WTS Highlights**

- Increment line actual hire savings vs. budgeted;
- place-holder for non-union salary increases;
- ESSER III funded 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Math and 1.6 FTE Reading Specialists;
- 1 ESP from Contingency and the ESP salary adjustments in one line (see above)—the ESP was a part-time patchwork in order to save funds;

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- water testing increase to hire tester (see 6/20/23 Minutes p.5 #VIII);
- estimated 5% student insurance increase,
- School building insurance estimated at the FY24 actual (already \$20,000 over budget) plus 6%—as a portion of the Town group policy. Steep premium rises were a national trend.
- **Chilmark School Highlights**
 - Increment actual hires vs. budgeting showed savings;
 - place-holder for non-union salary increases;
 - in view of at least 10 rising kindergarteners, with 8 kindergarteners moving to 1st grade, both Contingency funded ESPs would be needed next year.
- **District Highlights**
 - new hire savings in food services (line 626);
 - offset increase;
 - \$1,700 treasurer, audit, and legal based on actual expenses;
 - payroll expense as FY23 actuals plus 3% for FY24 and 3% for FY25;
 - UIRSC insurance premium up 5%;
 - Workmans Comp eliminated the \$50,000 annual increase and added \$8,000 for an additional person, and unemployment insurance also showing savings;
 - Medicare expenses increased interest and principal, Medicaid billing as FY23 actuals with a reduction, and Medicaid reimbursement at FY23 actuals;
 - changes in personnel decreased Dental Insurance;
 - retiree dental and health insurances based on FY23 actual with 3% each for FY24 and FY25;
 - similarly Dukes County Retirement was FY23 actuals plus 6%;
 - pay-go OPEB added 4 new positions, and \$213,000 eliminated as funded with Excess and Deficiency (E & D). Skipper Manter protested Contingency placement in the District Part as well as the 3 ESP expenditures.
 - Total FY24 expenses were \$14,192,457. This Version showed a \$776,865 or 5.22% increase for a total of \$15,669,322 without Central Office or transportation, increases.
 - Student Support Director Hope MacLeod repeated Shared Services projections (see 10/16/23 Minutes p.5 #C):
 - Project Headway – multiple new ESPs, possible additional teacher, new classroom expenses;
 - Bridge Program – FY25 full with staff shift, FY26 additional new classroom and staff.
 - There was a discussion on possible purchase or lease (~\$85,000/month/unit) of the Tisbury School modulars for the additional space, but complications included: cost location, utilities, procurement logistics, etc.
 - Members discussed the following issues.
 - Longevity was based on completed years of unbroken service without limit, allowing only approved breaks (i.e. leaves of absence, medical leave, etc.), with retirees getting a last payment.
 - The WTS space needs study might be considered for this year—the UIRSC was reminded that the Town requested a delay (see Minutes: 10/17/22 p.2 #III 5, & 12/7/22 p.3-4 #IV).
 - Staffing strategies and ongoing shortages might be resolved by regional or shared staff. Mr. Manter asked how they would be assessed.

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- The new Chilmark Principal's salary would be revisited, possibly reconsidering an administrative salary matrix (see 11/21/22 Minutes p.6-8 #D), and taking into account student and staff population size (see 10/19/23 Minutes p.3).
- Whether and where (All Island School Committee—AISC) to revisit universal pre-school (see 8/15/22 Minutes p.3 #4).
- A move forward to fill student and staffing needs after several years of tight budgets.
- The UIRSC requested further information:
 - trending report on previous UIRSC operating and assessed budget increase percentages;
 - explanation of legal expenses;
 - wish lists based on academic progress and aspirations (not just growing populations and practical matters) and tied into Superintendent's goals;
 - a capital plan,
 - rough estimate of pre-school aged children on the Island.

Adjournment

(Agenda item #VI)

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:40PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Meetings/Events

- **AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, November 2, 2023 - MVRHS/Zoom**
- **UIRSC Budget Workshop – 8:00AM, Friday, November 3, 2023 – WTS/Zoom**
- **UIRSC – TBD, Monday, November 20, 2023 – WTS/Zoom**

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/25/23
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY25 General Fund Budget, Version # 1 Level Service 10-25-2023 (11 p.)
- UIRSD FY25 Budget Version #1 (Level Service) 10/25/2023, Changes from FY24 Budget (3 p.)
- UIRSD, FY25 Budget, Personnel Assumptions (6 p.)

Minutes approved 11/20/23