

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:00PM, Wednesday, January 10, 2024
By Zoom or at the West Tisbury School**

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Present: Acting Chair – Alex Salop, Roxanne Ackerman, Robert Lionette,
Skipper Manter*,

Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman,
Hope MacLeod, Richard Labrie—MVRHS Transportation,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Chilmark Preschool: Alicia Knight, Rebekah Thomson, Deb Zetterberg,
Chilmark – Select Board – Marie Larsen,
Town Administrator Tim Carroll,
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*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.

Approval of Minutes (Agenda item #II)

**A. Including But Not Limited To: November 20, December 5 (amended p.2),
December 20, 2023**

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:*

- *NOVEMBER 20, 2023,*

- *DECEMBER 5, 2023 MINUTES AS AMENDED,*

- *DECEMBER 20, 2023;*

*ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS,
0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN
—AYE.*

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)

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

1. Chilmark School 5 Year Look Facilities Report

The first item, gutter repair (refastening to building, sealing joints, straightening channels) for \$6,200 was going forward—repair turned out to be significantly less expensive than replacement.

2. Chilmark Preschool Request for Proposal (RFP) (See documents on file &
Minutes: 8/15/22 p.1-2 # III A 2, & 10/19/22 p.1#III A1, & 4/13/23 p.4.)

* During this conversation Skipper Manter entered the meeting at 6:12PM.

Current and rising demand and the Chilmark School space crunch, lead to the decision to construct a preschool on Town campus, expanding Preschool capacity and freeing up the School classroom. The RFP produced a single bid from Friends of Chilmark Preschool. The location was chosen as the safest, (furthest from roads) and least disruptive to the campus while sharing playgrounds and other resources. Many details were still being worked out but in order to meet a January 22nd deadline for a substantial grant, the Friends requested 2 UIRSC votes needed to complete an application.

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- to surplus UIRSD utilized land; and
- authorization for a 30 year lease-in-concept now being worked on by Town Counsel—the current lease being signed by the Town, the Superintendent, and the UIRSC.

° They also requested a list of concerns to be addressed in the lease.

- The UIRSC favored this solution and liked that the Preschool would still share space and programs with the School. Initial concerns included:

- parking and traffic patterns;
- cost of playground disruption (100% included in RFP bid);
- School space disruption during construction.

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO DECLARE SURPLUS 2,500 SQARE FEET OF UP ISLAND REGIONAL DISTRICT USED LAND NEAR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL CAMPUS; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

The draft lease should be ready for the February UIRSC meeting. The UIRSC set a special meeting to consider a list of concerns (see below: Meetings/Events).

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TOWN OF CHILMARK WILL ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION WITHDRAWN.*

• *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO LEASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TOWN OF CHILMARK AND THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

• Acting Chair Alex Salop emphasized that this timeframe did not coincide with the universal preschool initiative and that any such larger concerns could not be addressed in this project.

3. Resignation

• *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF CHILMARK EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL PAM THOMAS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE.*

4. Update on Heat Project

Contractors were very busy over the Holiday break so the project was almost complete. The system was up and running although 2 classrooms were still being balancing. Remaining work for the February break included: soffits, additional ceiling insulation, exposed conduit, painting, etc. The only extended work was the emergency generator installation—powering all requested items: water pump, emergency lighting, etc. The UIRSC discussed maintenance costs of using the current boilers (one of which was only 6-7 yrs. old) as backup heat—removal of the boilers was not included in the RFP bid.

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- The UIRSC acknowledged the imminent conclusion of this long arduous process and expressed their gratitude and appreciation for everyone involved, particularly Chilmark Energy Committee Chair Rob Hannemann.

5. Out of State Travel (See 11/20/23 Minutes p.2 #2.)

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR TWO CHILMARK SCHOOL STAFF TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, JANUARY 23-26, 2024;*
- *WITH A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ALSO AUTHORIZE THE SKI TRIP TO SUGAR LOAF, MAINE FEBRUARY 12-16, 2024 FOR THE FIFTH GRADE AND TWO STAFF;*
- ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Finance (Agenda Item #IV)

B. Clean Bus Grant

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) continued the drive to electrify its bus fleet. The highly competitive Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus Program grant third round (application deadline January 31st) was considering only priority districts—of which the UIRSD was one due to its Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah/Gay Head population proportion (but not the MVRHSD). Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman proposed the UIRSD apply for and own 5 buses; however failing any UIRSD transportation support infrastructure and staff, the buses would be MVRHS operated and maintained.

- The grant was for \$345,000 per bus, including charger station equipment (but not installation).
- Anderson Motors Co. out of Providence, RI offered this as a total inclusive price per bus and station. (The application would legally be part of the Anderson Motors Co. client pool.)
- The proposal would require extra steps such as
 - an inter-municipal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UIRSD and the MVRHSD;
 - route schedules alteration so UIRSD students were served by UIRSD buses;
 - an Eversource letter of awareness and support.
- Although MVPS would prefer level 3 (or fast) charging stations, level 2 stations were adequate. (Previous MVRHS charging station installation cost was \$20,000 for 2 stations, however it included some utility ground work that might serve for future stations.)
- The EPA School Bus grant could be partnered with a Massachusetts Clean Energy Center/Commission (CEC) grant for station installation costs. It was unclear if charging installation cost would be MVRHS or UIRSD responsibility.
- The following issues were raised.
 - The buses could be stored in the West Tisbury School (WTS) parking lot, however that would require utility installation for the chargers.
 - Electric vehicles had a history of minimal maintenance costs, and very rare battery replacement

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- The UIRSC would receive Ch. 71 reimbursement for depreciation value.
- A member raised a previous problem when other Towns refused to pay deductible costs on UIRSD bus liability insurance (see Minutes: 3/18/13 p. 5, & 5/20/13 p.4 #B).
- There was disagreement as to whether details should be worked out before the application submission. MVRHS Transportation Director Richard Labrie reported:
 - ° the application could be withdrawn anytime before the award,
 - ° the UIRSC had to vote to accept the award, and
 - ° bus lead time was 8-10 months, giving time to finalize inter-governmental issues.
- The UIRSC acknowledged an award valued at a couple million dollars that promoted clean energy and state-of-the-art buses for MVPS students.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPLY FOR THE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS GRANT AND A MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER GRANT; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT ON MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND INDEMNIFICATION OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTRIC BUSES: ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

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

The Budget sites had no concerning issues. A Health Insurance overage could be covered by other residuals.

Principals' Report (Agenda Item #III)

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

1. Principal's Report

This grant would allow the School to work with Brandeis School of Social Policy and Management to engage and partner with diverse families. The funds would go directly into the UIRSD account, but the Superintendent's Office Grant Coordinator would manage paperwork.

- The UIRSC requested "Grants" as a standing agenda item.
- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE \$10,000 WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SHARE OF THE STRENGTHENING FAMILY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP GRANT: ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS; SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

2. West Tisbury School Solar Energy Proposal (See documents on file.)

Now that roof replacement/repairs were complete, Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reached out to a local company for a no-cost report to pursue the WTS net zero energy goal. The WTS unusually large roof provided a high potential for solar energy savings. This was a good time for such a project since the Federal Government was offering a 30% tax credit for up front savings

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(~ \$166,000 of the \$500,000 project cost). It should provide 201,178 of the WTS's 279,640 average kw/yr needs for \$40-50,000/yr in operating savings (resulting in a 7-8 yr. payback). If the UIRSC approved, the matter would revert to the School Advisory Council (SAC).

- The UIRSC requested the West Tisbury Energy Committee be consulted and the shingle and rubber roof guarantees be investigated for compatibility. (Standard roof guarantees were for 20 years, about the same as solar panel lifespans.)
- Soft costs (design, Owners Project Manager, contingency, etc.) would have to be included.
- Timeframe could be this year or if necessary next year for all 3 UIRSD Town Annual Town Meeting warrants.
- There was a question about redundant costs after any future renovations.
- This was a capital expense that affected operating expenses.

Superintendent's Report

(Agenda Item #V)

A. Enrollment Projections (See documents on file.)

The New England School Development Council (NESDEC) projections for the October 1st census were fairly accurate up to 5 years; 10 year projections were less reliable.

- The WTS showed fairly stable enrollment with a slight increase to 330 students in 2028-29, and a possible larger increase (349 students) in 2033-34.
- Chilmark School was steady for a couple years and then continued to grow to 82 students in 2027-28, after which it returned to current levels for 2033-34.

B. Chilmark Principal Search Update (See documents on file.)

Superintendent Richie Smith reported the Search Committee met last night for the first time. The the advertisement, posting locations, skill set and Committee membership were reviewed.

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVE TO APPOINT ROBERT LIONETTE TO THE CHILMARK SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SEARCH COMMITTEE; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION; SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*
- The search was at cost although there might be some additional expenses during negotiations.
- Current Head of School Susan Stevens had a background in Special Education (SpEd) and Guidance and most MVPS principals had some double duties.
- Applications were due January 16th for a projected start day of July 1st. The first round of interviews was likely to be very short (half an hour each) after which the field would be narrowed to 5-6 candidates for more thorough interviews and then to 3 finalists. The Search Committee would interview the finalists in person, and the candidates would then tour the School meeting with staff and students, explore the community, meet with the UIRSC, the MVPS Cabinet, and parents. If a decision was still unclear, the Search Committee might visit the candidates' home districts.

C. Student Support Services Update – Tabled

School Choice Policy 3rd Reading

(Agenda Item #VI)

Skipper Manter proposed further limiting incoming School Choice students to preserve student/

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teacher ratio and save the Town \$5,000 tuition expense. Alex Salop spoke strongly against any actions that might be construed as divisive by other MVPS. It was an honor that UIRSD remained a preferred District.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED THE THIRD 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; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED;*

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO AMEND THE POLICY SUCH THAT THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOT ACCEPT MORE SCHOOL CHOICE STUDENTS THAN WERE CHOOSING TO LEAVE THE DISTRICT; THERE WAS NO SECOND.*

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.

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

The UIRSC attorney delivered their legal opinion on capital warrant articles (see documents on file, & 10/16/23 Minutes p.2). Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 71 strongly mandated that the School Board/Committee had jurisdiction over the line item details of a District budget but any budget article vote was on a lump sum; transferring something out of the budget to a different place compromised this jurisdiction. After a brief, confusing discussion the matter was tabled to next week's meeting.

- *IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UP ISLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM THE RELEASE OF THE LEGAL OPINION.*

Public Comment (Agenda Item #VII)

Although not on the MVRHSC, Alex Salop had been a long witness, and now expressed his disgust and frustration with its divisiveness and focus on the artificial turf field litigation instead of education. He was so sick of it he proposed calling for the MVRHSC to be disbanded and re-appointed and/or that MVRHSC members be determined in a separate election.

Meetings/Events

• ~~UIRSC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – ? Zoom~~

• UIRSC – 6:30PM, Thursday, January 18, 2024 – WTS/Zoom

• UIRSC – 5:30PM, Monday, February 12, 2024 – WTS/Zoom

Adjournment (Agenda Item #VIII)

• *ROXANNE ACKERMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE.*

continued

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Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/10/24
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (15 p.) 1/10/24
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2023-2024 1/10/24
- EPA 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates Program, School Board Awareness Certification, September 2023
- Energylogik 11/16/23 (2 p.)
- RFP 2023 – 03 Response Form Chilmark Preschool Land-Lease (18 p) 1/1/24
- Lease (21 p.) (Town of Chilmark, Up Island Regional School District, Martha's Vineyard Office of the Superintendent of Schools) (21 p.)
- Town of Chilmark Request for Proposals RFP 2023-03, Disposal of Surplus Real Property – LAND LEASE “Preschool” (7 p.)
- Town of Chilmark, Preschool RFP 2023-03, Evaluation Committee Report Memorandum (3 p.) 2/2/24
- Chilmark Preschool Board of Directors Memo re: Chilmark Preschool Building Project (2 p.) 1/10/24
- Chilmark School – Built in 1999, 5 Year Capital Plan 11/17/23
- Thomas, *letter of resignation* 10/18/23
- NESDEC, West Tisbury, MA, 2022-2023 Enrollment Projection Report (14 p.)
- NESDEC, Chilmark MA, 2023-2024 Enrollment Projection Report (14 p.)
- The Chilmark Principal Search Committee
- NESDEC, Executive Opportunity, An Invitation to Apply for the Position of Principal, Chilmark School, Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, Massachusetts (2 p.)
- MLM Attorneys at Law letter re: Use of Individual Warrant Articles for budgets of Regional School Districts (3 p.) 1/8/23

Minutes approved 2/12/24