

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
6:00PM, Monday, May 20, 2024
By Zoom or at the West Tisbury School**

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

Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke, Murphy Lamere Murphy – Peter Sumner, McCarron, Murphy & Vukota – Marilyn Vukota,
Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Richie Smith, Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Susan Stevens,
Towns: Chilmark Select Board – Jim Malkin,
Chilmark Preschool – Alicia Knight, Anne Mayhew, Rebekah Thomson,
Press: Louisa Hufstader – Gazette, Julie Soikkeli – MVTV

*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 5:35.

Chilmark Lease Discussion (Agenda Item #VI)

(See Minutes: 3/18/24 p.1-2 #III B 5, & 4/22/24 p.2-3 #6.)

* During this conversation Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:44PM and Skipper Manter at 5:57PM towards the end of the discussion.

- After hearing from Superintendent Richie Smith and UIRSD Counsel Peter Sumner on options and attorney-client privilege:
- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO ALLOW THE DRAFT CHILMARK PRESCHOOL LEASE AND COMMENTS TO BE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*
- The lease draft was revised to be more specific to the situation.
 - Particular parties were named instead of the term “lessor”.
 - A clause stating that nothing should interfere with the operation of the Chilmark School.
- The UIRSC requested the following:
 - A typo correction in Clause 14 I Parking, to: “lessee” would notify the lessor as soon as...
 - Playground equipment be reset to meet State standards; Counsel suggested language “in accordance with applicable standards”.
 - The UIRSC asked about requiring 100% funding before start of work and about guarantees for restoration of access road, etc. Peter Sumner advised against too much financial involvement to prevent inadvertently imposing municipal regulations on a private project.
 - The lease was written in general terms to accommodate the many unknowns, however it could be amended as needed, which would be preferable to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Universal preschool issues (see 8/15/22 Minutes p.3 #4) were not relevant to this discussion.

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- It was agreed that in language acceptable to Counsel the following changes would be instituted:
 - establishment of an escrow account for completion of restoration work;
 - specification that the playground will meet State standards;
 - submission of a plan to restore the access road and outdoor structure (storage shed).
- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL LEASE AS AMENDED; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSTENTION: ALEX SALOP—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—NAY, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—ABSTAIN.*
- Next steps were to distribute the revised lease to the Chilmark Select Board (CSB) and the Friends of the Chilmark Preschool in a timely manner.

Approval of Minutes (Agenda Item #II)

A. Including But Not Limited to February 12, 16, March 18, and April 22, 2024

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:*
 - *FEBRUARY 12, 2024, FEBRUARY 16, 2024,*
 - *MARCH 18, 2024,*
 - *APRIL 22, 2024;*
- *ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

Principal's Reports (Agenda Item #III)

A. Susan Stevens – Chilmark School

Later in the meeting Head of School Susan Stevens reported the generator was installed as were 4 very large propane tanks to provide sufficient fuel to service the School in case of delivery interruptions during emergencies. Ms. Stevens was looking at other options as there were still some funds remaining. The heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) project had only small items remaining e.g. spot painting, thermostat labeling, etc.

- At \$400,000 solar installation was considered too expensive.

1. Co-Teacher Funding Revote (See documents on file.)

(See Minutes: 7/12/23.1-2 #III, & 11/3/23 p.3, & 3/18/24 p.3-4 #B3.)

As previously reported, a grant revision to only half (\$54,055) the \$90,000 salary and an unforeseen post-budget change of regulations eliminating fiscal year rollover, left the Chilmark School site with a co-teaching position deficit. The UIRSC chose not to take action until the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) had passed all 3 Annual Town Meetings (ATMs).

- Skipper Manter repeated his objections to Chilmark School use of the Districtwide contingency.
- Co-teaching was again noted as one of Superintendent Richie Smith's goals.
- There was strong confidence the position would be filled.
- FY25 Excess and Deficiency (E & D) would not be certified until January 2025 and FY24 E & D was now beyond the 45 day waiting period / Town Meeting deadline.
- Contingency spending should be closely monitored as a balance between not over-burdening taxpayers and budgeting wisely enough not to overdraw the reserve.

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• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE USE OF UP TO \$48,606 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 CONTINGENCY TO FUND ANY RESIDUAL NEEDED FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL CO-TEACHER SALARY THE REMAINDER BEING GRANT FUNDED; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, ALEX SALOP—AYE ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE.*

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

1. Principal Report (See documents on file.)

- English Language Learners (ELL) Director Leah Palmer congratulated the WTS on an unprecedented 100% of its students making progress on the ACCESS tests—State ELL standards on listening, speaking, reading and writing English. A shout-out went to WTS ELL staff and students. Administration had been developing ELL/staff relationships and fine tuning multiple scheduling and options, including a half-hour/day co-teaching session in kindergarten (K). There were 20-30 ELL students distributed unevenly throughout the grades.
- After revamping the Spanish curriculum (see Minutes: 11/14/13 p. 2, & 11/18/13 p. 4, & 12/16/13 p. 4, & 1/27/14 p.3-4, 10/20/14 p.4, & 1/20/15 p.3-4 #V C, 11/16/15 p.3 #B) Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reported all UIRSD students passed out of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Spanish 1, with placements including: 1 in pre-Advanced Placement (AP), 22 in Spanish II Honors, and 4 in Spanish II C 1.
- All Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) were looking at multiple language expansion, especially Portuguese—in the UIRSD possibly in 5-6 week enrichment blocks. The MVPS Cabinet had several discussions on the Portuguese vs. Spanish and a Task Force was triggered by the Tisbury School difficulty in replacing Spanish language staff. The issue was closely related to staff and student diversity, wishes and in-class familiarity (“how do you say that in Portuguese”). Other languages such as Wampanoag were also requested.
- The Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT) declared the WTS a unique school in advocacy of non-vehicular ways to get to school and would lend the Town assistance in expanding crosswalks, bike paths, etc.
- Congratulations went to WTS student athletes and coaches who once again were dominating Island volley ball. Interest was high with almost 40 students on varsity and alternate teams.
- The previous year’s summer school grant was not available (see Minutes: 5/23/22 p.2 #B, & 1/17/23 p.1 #III A, & 11/3/23 p.2) however the WTS was awarded \$25,000 in a highly competitive After School State grant.

Finance (Agenda Item #IV)

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

- Overall, finances were quite stable.
- Due to sporadic vacancies the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office FY24 budget currently showed a \$458,000 balance. The final end-of-year residual would be returned to MVPS districts, which in the case of the UIRSD would add to FY25 E & D. Revenue sources like this made it very difficult to exactly assign E & D to UIRSD sites. FY24 E & D was \$181,590 which could be rolled over—pending any revenue shortfall (see 4/22/24 Minutes p.5 #IV A).

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- The WTS site showed ~ \$273,000 in unencumbered funds out of ~ \$8,000,000 budget. Further encumbrances were expected but this was considered a healthy end-of-year balance.
- The Chilmark School site had a few variances but ~ \$149,000 balance out of ~ \$2,100,000 budget. There were still maintenance issues, but again a healthy end-of-year balance.
- The Districtwide site \$600,000 balance would be considerably reduced due to timed items.
- \$200-300,000 in debt service (MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman continued to work with the Town of Chilmark on the School HVAC debt);
- \$100-150,000 for the second half of FY24 transportation expenses;
- higher than expected audit expenses—FY25 budget line was increased \$10,000.
- Charter School Revenues (see 4/22/24 Minutes p.5 #IV A) would be available before the UIRSC June meeting.

B. Grants Donations – See above p.3 # B1.

Student Support Services Update (See documents on file.) (Agenda Item #V)

- The Basic Rights forum was presented Wednesday, May 15th, and at parents request there would be an on-line Question and Answer (Q&A) opportunity Wednesday May 22nd and in-person Q&A on the new Individual Education Plan (IEP) protocol on Wednesday May 29th.
- IEPs were reviewed annually on the date that each student’s IEP started.

Personnel – Tabled (Agenda Item #VII)

A. Leave of Absence

B. Resignation

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

- The following items were requested on future agendas:
 - Yondr technology pouches;
 - Chilmark and West Tisbury Schools leases. Signing new leases for both UIRSD Schools would involve challenges due to unresolved issues such as completion of construction debt to lease or lease-to-buy facilities.
- Everyone was invited to the West Tisbury Annual Picnic (see below: Meetings/Events). The Town was looking for an interpreter.

Meetings/Events

- West Tisbury Annual Town Picnic – 12:00N-3:00PM, Sunday, June 2, 2024 – Grange Hall
- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, June 6, 2024 – Zoom
- UIRSC – TBD – 5:30PM, Monday, June 17, 2024

Adjournment

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:52PM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

continued

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Documents on File:

- Agenda/Revised Agenda (2 p.) 5/20/24
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (15 p.) 5/17/24
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2023-2024 5/17/24
- Special Education Parent Events in May
- Lease (Town of West Tisbury and Up Island Regional School District) 12/19/14
- Chat

17:32:30 From Mary Boyd: Robert – 5:32.

17:35:10 From Mary Boyd: Alex S – 5:35

17:44:26 From Mary Boyd: Roxanne – 5:44 arrival

18:00:48 From Mary Boyd: Alicia, Ann, and Jim M left 6:00pm

18:46:41 From Mary Boyd: Yondr

Minutes approved 6/17/24