

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:30PM, Monday, July 15, 2024
By Zoom Cloud Conference**

Page 1 of 4

Present: Acting Chair – Alex Salop, Jim Newman, Roxanne Ackerman*,
Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter,
Others: Susan Stevens,
Supt's Shared Services Office: Richard Smith, Mark Friedman,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Kate Squire, Mary Boyd,
Towns: Greg Orcutt – WT FinCom,
Chilmark Preschool – Deb Zetterberg, Keith Fenner,
Press: Shavanáe Anderson – MVTV, Daniel Green – MV Times,
Recorder: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item #II)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order. Jim Newman conceded to Alex Salop as Acting Chair.

(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda item #II)

A. Including But Not Limited to June 17, 2024

• ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2024 MINUTES; JIM NEWMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—ABSTAIN because they were not included with the agenda, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

Principal's Reports (Agenda Item #III)

A. Kate Squire– Chilmark School

The UIRSC welcomed Principal Kate Squire to her first School Committee meeting and looked forward to working with her.

1. Principal's Update

Prin. Squire had been on the Island for about 3 weeks, visited the general store, police station, Post Office and Library. She was familiarizing herself with the building, working with West Tisbury School Administrators Donna Lowell-Bettencourt and Mary Boyd and interviewing Chilmark School staff on their priorities and visions.

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

1. Principal's Update

The summer was flying by. Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt was meeting with Prin. Squire and making sure the building and staff were in good shape for the coming school year.

- Staffing interviews were in progress, with some positions filled contingent on final negotiations, but there were still vacancies in kitchen staff and Education Support Professionals (ESPs)—many of whom gained certification and experience and were moving up into Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) teacher positions.

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
July 15, 2024

Page 2 of 4

- Summer School was going very well in its 3rd week. It included some Chilmark students and there were asks from many other MVPS and Charter School families.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item #IV)

(See documents on file & Minutes: 4/22/24 p.1 #III B1, & 6/17/24 p.2-3 #IV A.)

After some refinement of the position, a candidate was found to fill the Chilmark School 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Information Technology (IT) technologist vacancy. The current \$39,622 salary line did not include the year's market correction (\$5,000) and 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), which Superintendent Richard Smith now requested permission to use for flexibility during contract negotiations. Funding was available in the Chilmark Site Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) non-union adjustment lines. Prin. Squire recommended the hire to service the over 100 devices in the School. The UIRSC raised the following issues.

- The candidate was a technologist only. Depending on future developments they might acquire technology teacher certification or be covered under a waiver.
- In addition to his other MVPS work, WTS Technologist David Crawford had covered the transition from Rebecca Barca-Tinnus' retirement until a candidate was found—including coordinating the WTS and Chilmark School systems.
- Streamlining the systems and sharing IT positions was a goal for regional economies of scale.
- *JIM NEWMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD SMITH TO NEGOTIATE UP TO \$6,000 ABOVE THE AMOUNT ALLOTTED IN THE TECHNOLOGIST SALARY LINE USING FISCAL YEAR 2025 STRUCTURAL AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT LINES; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Finance (Agenda item #V)

A. Grants/Donations (See documents on file.)

* During this conversation Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 5:58PM.

The UIRSD was officially notified of a \$25,000 Summer School grant to reimburse staffing costs—the funds would be used to pay existing staff, not to expand the program.

- The grant process had changed from previous years and was now complex and highly competitive with awards spread among many Commonwealth schools and youth organizations.
- The UIRSC budgeted the full \$90,000 summer school cost in case no grant was received (see 5/20/24 Minutes p.3 #B1) and recently voted to use part of the \$25,000 now available in the general fund to cover non-union FY25 salary adjustments (see 6/17/24 Minutes p.2-3 #IV A).
- *JIM NEWMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE \$25,000 MASSACHUSETTS AFTER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP GRANT FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL STAFFING; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE. ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
July 15, 2024

Page 3 of 4

B. Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget Transfers—Separation Costs

- \$22,985.70 in separation costs (accrued vacation, sick leave, etc.) for 2 Chilmark School retirees was not specifically discussed during end-of-year budget transfers (see 6/17/24 Minutes p.3-4 #V D). Coverage was available in the Chilmark School site budget: \$22,956.25 in Health Insurance and \$29.45 in Custodial Overtime.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE END-OF-YEAR FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET TRANSFERS AS PROPOSED; ROXANNE ACKERMAN AND ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Chilmark Preschool Building Committee (Agenda item #VI)

(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, & 1/10/24 p.1-2 #2, & 1/18/24 p.1-2 # III, & 2/12/24 p.4 #VIII, & 3/18/24 p.1-2 #III B 5, 4/22/24 p.2-3 #6, & 5/20/24 p.1-2 #VI.)

- Roxanne Ackerman reported she had attended a meeting on the Preschool lease. The lease was expanded from 17 to 27 pages. Ms. Ackerman considered the parties to be the Town of Chilmark and the Friends of the Chilmark Preschool. The UIRSC tabled further discussion.
- The Chilmark Select Board (CSB) approved the Chilmark Preschool preliminary plans at their July 2, 2024 meeting. Music Street Architects had modified it according to licensing regulations (classroom size, shelter in place space, increased back play area, etc.) and plans were now with Energylogik engineers. The overall size was expanded from 2,425 sq. ft. to 2,665 sq. ft.
 - Septic had ample capacity for the additional facility. Last year's inspections noted a problem with the pipe from the tank to the Chilmark School, but not with the system as a whole.
 - The Friends of Chilmark Preschool would return all Chilmark School facilities disturbed during construction (access road, playground equipment, shed, etc.) to their original status, with some possible relocation of the swings and disability access.
 - The proposal was for 2 classrooms of 20 children each. Currently the Preschool had 19 students from 2.9 to 5 years old but there was a waiting list and a need for toddler care (from 15 months).
 - Currently priority was given to Chilmark and Aquinnah residents (possibly for geographic access reasons) and then to Up Island residents. A Preschool representative would report back to the UIRSC on the reasons for and possible modification of priorities.
- After some debate on protocol;
IT WAS THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONSENSUS THAT:
 - THEY APPRECIATED THE UPDATE AND TRANSPARENCY AND
 - THAT THE PRELIMINARY PLANS WERE SO MUCH IN CHARACTER WITH THE SCHOOL CAMPUS, AND
 - THE FRIENDS OF THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL WERE DOING A GREAT JOB,
 - AND THE PRESCHOOL WOULD BE AN AMAZING RESOURCE.

UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
July 15, 2024

Page 4 of 4

Meetings/Events

- AISC MASC School Committee Training – Saturday, July 20, 2024
- UIRSC – TBD – 5:30PM, Monday, August 19, 2024

Adjournment

• *JIM NEWMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:38PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ROXANNE ACKERMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANter—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Documents on File:

- Agenda/Revised Agendas (3 p.) 7/15/24
- McElligott/Stanton email re: Request for Proposal (RFP) for ASOST-S Award
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY25 General Fund Budget, Version #7, 12-20-2023
Re-Certified p.#7
- Knight cover email re: Chilmark Preschool Plans 7/11/24
- Chilmark Preschool, Select Board Meeting 7/2/2024 (13 p.)

Minutes approved 11/18/24