

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
3:00PM, Monday, January 27, 2025
West Tisbury School and/or By Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Jim Newman, Robert Lionette, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,
Others: Jay Grossman, Recorder: Marni Lipke
Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Mark Friedman, Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Kate Squire, Mary Boyd,
Chilmark Preschool: Caroline Flanders, Rebekah Thomson,
Deb Zetterberg,
Towns: Chilmark: Marie Larsen–Select Board,
West Tisbury: Kate Warner–Energy Com.,
Press: Lynn Fraker–MVTN, Louisa Hufstader–Vineyard Gazette,
*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 at 3:04PM.
(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda item #II)

**A. Including But Not Limited to November 18, 2024, December 5, 2024, and
December 16, 2024**

• ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

- NOVEMBER 18, 2024,
- DECEMBER 5, 2024,
- DECEMBER 16, 2024;

SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS,
ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE ROBERT
LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

**Chilmark Pre-School and Lease Discussion to Include Liability Insurance Policies
on UIRSD Schools** (Agenda Item #VIII)

B. Use of Chilmark School for Preschool and Other Purposes

(See Minutes: 12/16/24 p.4 #VII 1/15/25 p.1 #III.)

- Chilmark School Principal Kate Squire was commended for her amazing collaboration with the Chilmark Select Board (CSB) and Chilmark Community Center (CCC) and Chilmark Library that had coalesced into a true campus concept.
- There was a request from the Chilmark Preschool to extend the availability of their room for another year. Robert Lionette, as the UIRSC authorized representative, proposed this run from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. There followed a long and sometimes passionate discussion on the use of the Chilmark School Building for the CCC Summer Camp.
- CSB member Marie Larsen again explained that Chilmark expected to use the new Preschool building for 2026 summer camp but would like to use the Chilmark School for summer 2025 as

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had been the practice for the past 20 years. This would mean all furniture would be removed from appropriate rooms.

- The Camp was used by many Island parents during their busy summer work season. This was the third meeting at which she had made the request and the timeline was now very tight in terms of camp planning, enrollment and hiring.

- Mr. Lionette reviewed the situation. In 2004 the Town asked for space for a pre-school to which the UIRSC agreed. The Town wrote a Request For Proposal (RFP) with a UIRSC requested stipulation for proper licensure and the RFP was awarded to Friends of Chilmark PreSchool (see Minutes: 7/12/04 p.2-3 #B, & 8/24/04 p.3 #B, & 10/18/04 p.1-2 #VII A, & 5/31/05 p.3-4 #II). Since that time use of the space had evolved appreciably including the use by other organizations without official UIRSC consent.

- There was some UIRSC discussion over whether this was UIRSC purview. Prin. Squire had been consulted as it was the administration that had authority over classroom use. However, recent lease negotiations had brought this forward as a legal issue and UIRSD counsel advised that written permission was needed to cover District liability.

- The UIRSC noted additional issues:

- expanding Chilmark School population and space needs, that triggered the preschool project;

- Camp responsibility for remedial repairs;

- value of the space (even with \$0.00 rent) particularly as the Camp involved significant revenue.

- The Camp was Massachusetts Early Education and Care (EEC) licensed, but there was some confusion over whether this was for the original 20 children 3 hours a day or the current 60 campers 8 hours a day (see Minutes: 6/17/24 p.1 #IIA1, & 10/1/24 p.7).

- The UIRSC considered that relations needed to be formalized and suggested:

- a meeting of all stakeholders (UIRSC, CSB, CCC Board, Friends of Preschool); and

- a new Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 30B RFP (procurement of equipment and extra space) process if needed;

- or an extension of the previous RFP if needed;

- followed by UIRSC approval;

- a long overdue Chilmark School/Town of Chilmark lease.

- Ms. Larsen expressed dismay and frustration by UIRSC bureaucratic requests, delays and lack of clarity and action, on a one-time, two-month, traditional use request. The lengthy RFP process could hinder or prevent the 2025 camp season. Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman explained that, once advertised, an RFP could be completed in 4-6 weeks.

- *ROBERT LIONETTE MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE TOWN OF CHILMARK EXTEND THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL LEASE FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025; MOTION SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JIM NEWMAN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

- *IT WAS THE CONSENSUS IF THE UIRSC THAT:*

- ROBERT LIONETTE BE THE AGENT TO PROVIDE THE CHILMARK SELECT BOARD AND FRIENDS OF THE CHILMARK PRESCHOOL WITH A SPECIFIC SET OF

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REQUIREMENTS TO DEFINITELY GET THE SUMMER PROGRAM IN THE CHILMARK SCHOOL THIS SUMMER; AND

- THAT THE STAKEHOLDERS (UIRSC, CSB, CCC BOARD, FRIENDS OF CHILMARK PRESCHOOL) HOLD A JOINT MEETING WITHIN TWO WEEKS;
- AT WHICH MEETING THE UIRSC COULD VOTE AND THE MATTER COULD BE DEFINITELY RESOLVED.

- Without being presumptuous, Prin. Kate Squire very much wanted the summer to work and requested she be able to attend meetings and negotiations.

A. Discussion of New Preschool Lease

The CSB informed the District that the UIRSD did not have standing on the Chilmark Preschool lease. The UIRSC asked the purpose of this action after the previous elongated conversation (see Minutes: 1/10/24 p.1-2 #2, & 1/18/24 p.1-2 #II, & 2/12/24 p 4 #VII, & 3/18/24 p.1-2 #III B 5, & 4/22/24 p.2-3 #6, 5/20/24 p.1-2 #VI, & 7/15/24 p.3 #IV, & 10/28/24 p.5 #VIII, & 11/18/24 p.4-5 #VIII, 12/16/24 p.4-5 #VII). Mr. Lionette felt the conversations had been amenable.

- The Chilmark owned the grounds and the building. The UIRSD was a tenant without a lease.
- The lease issue was shared use of grounds and infrastructure, i.e. septic, playground, etc., which were outside of the surplus-declared space. The Preschool was working on a separate agreement covering shared uses.
- The Superintendent had a letter from counsel advising why the UIRSD would want to be a party to the lease and further advising against a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would put the UIRSD in jeopardy.
- Ms. Larsen referenced the Preschool's need for a lease in order to proceed, their diligent fundraising, and readiness to break ground. She noted the Chilmark School was designed to be part of the Town campus and used the CCC and Library without legal documentation, lamenting the end of the previous cooperative atmosphere.

Principal's Reports (Agenda Item #III)

A. Kate Squire– Chilmark School

This was the 90th day and official halfway mark of the school year. The School celebrated with silly half and half dressing or appearance, a practice she hoped would become a tradition.

- A community meeting of many generations was held to garner Chilmark traditions and how to carry them forward in a changing world: confidence, community and curriculum. Aquinnah Cultural Center Education and Outreach Coordinator Brad Lopes would work with the staff on culturally responsible education of the traditions. The UIRSC commended the meeting as a great success and staff members were especially inspiring.
- The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored January skating program was great physical activity and encouraged older/younger pairings in learning to skate.
- Donna Swift and the students were working on original improvisations to be performed at 6:30PM, Wednesday, January 29th.

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

Assistant Principal Mary Boyd reported that the WTS was also excited about moving into the second semester.

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- The revitalized PTO was working to build community with events such as the 3:00PM, Sunday, February 2nd family movie in the gym.
- The PTO and School Advisory Committee (SAC) requested a joint meeting to report on School Improvement Plan (SIP) progress.
- Boys and girls basketball teams were in the playoffs in the next couple weeks.

Director of Support Services Update – Tabled (Agenda Item #IV)

Student Support Director Hope MacLeod seldom called MVPS gatherings as staff was very busy, but last week all the Special Education staff came together to talk about new procedures, exemplary lesson plans, and a lively conversation about Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Superintendent's Update – Tabled (Agenda Item #V)

Energy Committee – Kate Warner (Agenda Item #VI)

A. Signature of Zero Policy (See documents on file.)

WT Energy Committee Chair Kate Warner presented a Zero Emissions Vehicle policy which was part of the requirement to be part of the to be part of the State Climate Leaders program. The policy required a commitment on UIRSD stationary that any vehicle replacement or purchase be the most emission free vehicle possible. The policy allowed for flexibility: if the District couldn't buy a vehicle it could lease one, or failing that purchase a used vehicle. The UIRSC owned a single van with low mileage in good shape, that delivered lunch to the Chilmark School.

- The UIRSC asked the Central Office to send or resend the policy.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO SIGN AND/OR AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN THE ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE POLICY WITH CONSIDERATIONS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

- Ms. Warner would ask of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources if the motion's altered language was acceptable.

B. U.S. Department of Energy – School Class (See documents on file.)

Ms. Warner was going to these meeting as one of 60 districts, many of them from Massachusetts. She might institute a WTS energy star analysis.

• Ms. Warner discussed a possible informal meeting with Town on the WTS energy upgrade and feasibility study. She noted or recommended:

- faulty WTS ventilation and hotter summers requiring air conditioning (see 11/18/24 Minutes p.2 & below VII C) and State mandates on school facilities;

- reminding any feasibility contractor of the impressive study already done (see 1/20/22 p.3 #B, & 9/19/22 Minutes p.4-5 #D);

- UIRSD/West Tisbury Town partnership and keeping the WTS energy upgrade on the Capital Improvement Committee's and Select Board's plan after the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) project.

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Finance

(Agenda item #VII)

A. Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Expenditure and Revenue Reports

(See documents on file)

All sites were within line item limits and there were no new variances to report.

B. FY25 Rural Aid Grant and Capital Projects Approval

(See below, & 1/15/25 Minutes p.3 #B.)

The only change would be a possible \$2,500 for further estimate investigation of the Chilmark Bell Tower (see below: # C).

C. Borrowing for Capital Projects

(See documents on file, & Minutes: 12/5/24 p.3, & 1/15/25 Minutes p.3 #B.)

• Mr. Friedman reminded the UIRSC:

- A borrowing on or after July 1, 2025 would not affect the FY26 Budget;
- West Tisbury Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant deadline was February 4th;
- If the borrowing application was timed so ATM votes were within the 60 day notification period, no further Town votes were required (see below: Meeting/Events).
- Central Office had no further capacity for construction projects including feasibility studies so the UIRSD would have to hire or contract for a high-level financial overseer. This cost could not be covered with short-term borrowing. Mr. Friedman recommended hiring an employee (possibly part-time) to better insure UIRSD loyalty/advocacy, and also because having a contractor oversee the already contracted Owners Project Manager (OPM) would be problematic. Among other duties, the job description should include: overseeing procurement, setting up meetings, and communicating with Towns and the building committee.
- The Rural School Grant would fund most of the FY26 capital projects within FY25. The remaining projects were discussed.
- The WTS heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) was estimated at \$72,000.
- After a congenial discussion with Mr. Lionette, the CSB unanimously voted to remove the Chilmark School bell tower in favor of a regular pitched roof estimated at \$130,000 (see 1/15/25 Minutes p.3). However the project warranted further investigation by the UIRSD on-call architect at a cost of ~ \$2,500—which might be found in Rural Aid grant residuals.
- A reasonable price for a WTS feasibility study (see 12/16/24 Minutes p.4) that would encompass some cost estimates and design options to answer many voter questions, was estimated to be \$600-650,000 (5% of design which was 15% overall construction costs). The estimate for the study included building renovation, additions and code upgrades (see 10/17/22 Minutes p.2-3 #III 5).
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UIRSC TO RAISE THE ESTIMATED FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS FROM \$447,000 TO \$600,000.
- Funding options were: short-term bond, operating budget, or Excess & Deficiency (E & D) which was expected to be certified in February 2025.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO PUT A PLACEHOLDER ARTICLE ON ALL THREE TOWN WARRANTS FOR AN UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BORROWING FOR \$900,000; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

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Personnel

(Agenda Item #VIII)

A. Leave of Absence (LOA)

- SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ELIZABETH O'BRIEN FOR ONE AND HALF TO TWO MONTHS; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: JIM NEWMAN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.

B. Resignation – None

C. Retirement – None

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

(Agenda Item #IX)

Ms. Boyd requested the Highway Dept. readjust the WTS road lights/signs.

Meetings/Events

• UIRSC/CSB/PreSchool: TBD

• WT FinCom – 5:00PM, Thursday, January 30, 2025

• Chilmark FinCom – 4:00PM, Monday, February 10, 2025

• UIRSC – 5:30PM, Mondays – Location TBD:

February 17, 2025

May 19, 2025

March 17, 2025

June 16, 2025

April 21, 2025

• AISC – 6:00PM, Thursday, February 20, 2025 – MVRHS Hybrid

• Annual Town Meetings

- West Tisbury, 6:00PM, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – WTS - Warrant article deadline 2/4/25

- Chilmark – TBD, Monday, April 28, 2025 – Chilmark Community Center

- Aquinnah – TBD, Tuesday, May 13, 2021 – Aquinnah Town Hall

Adjournment

- SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:50PM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

Documents on File:

- Agenda (2 p.) 1/27/25
- All Expenditure Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (15 p.) 1/26/25
- Revenue Report – General Fund Fiscal Year 2024-2025 1/26/25
- DOE Announces LEAs Selected for 2024-2025 Energy Class, November 13, 2024 (4 p.)
- Warner cover email re: ZEV Policy and feedback from DOER on suggested clause, 1/30/25
- Appendix A – Up Island Regional School District, Zero-Emission First Vehicle Policy (4 p.)
- Chat: (Jan 27, 2025)
- Kate Warner to Everyone: I'm sorry I need to leave this meeting to reach my boat in time.
Thank you for your time and hard work! 01:02:07
- Mary Boyd to Everyone: Thanks, Kate 01:02:4

Minutes approved 3/5/25