

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
1:30PM, Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
West Tisbury School**

**Page 1 of 3**

Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Skipper J. Manter, Jessica Mason\*, Alex Salop,  
Marsha Shufrin,  
Others: Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Superintendent Richie Smith,  
Business Administrator Mark Friedman,  
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Kate Squire,  
Towns: Chilmark – FinCom Vicki Divoli,  
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.  
(*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

**Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget – Discussion** (Agenda Item #II)

(See documents on file.)

- The FY27 Operating Budget increase was 7.51% for an assessed increase of 8.61%.
- Version #2C level service budget had some slight corrections from the one distributed at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The current Version #2D included increases as follows:
  - Principal noted changes,
  - a 5% placeholder for the Superintendent's Shared Services (Central) Office budget—dependent on Shared Services enrollment and other unknown factors,
  - a 13% placeholder for Health Insurance and 3% for Dental Insurance,
  - a 10% placeholder for student and building insurances,
  - the \$50,000 increase to the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) contribution.
  - a pool for non-union Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and structural increases.
- As previously requested (see 11/3/23 Minutes p.1 #II) the non-union increases were divided into COLA and structural increases.
  - The UIRSC asked why the 6 UIRSD increases weren't tied to specific salary lines for better transparency. Administration argued that there were a number of unknowns, including new hires and COLAs vs. structural changes. The increases were specifically voted at the end of each fiscal year so that transparency was not an issue.
  - The Teacher's Union contract was for a 3.5% COLA. The UIRSC noted a pattern of unions referencing non-union increases, and non-union contracts referencing the union increases. Instead it was proposed that COLAs be tied to a consistent indicator such as the Northeast Urban Consumer Price Index/Economic Data.
- At the end of the meeting there was a brief debate on keeping or eliminating the \$50,000 OPEB increase, as the UIRSD had been well over the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) for some years (see 11/16/20 Minutes p.2).
  - Further pay down information would require additional actuarial expenses.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**October 28, 2025**

**Page 2 of 3**

Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reviewed changes to the **West Tisbury School (WTS) site.**

- A 110 hrs./yr. increase (\$5,613) was proposed for a secretarial position whose job description had grown exponentially—business, staffing, compliance, procurement, etc.
- Data Management had been increasing steadily. There was a single PowerSchool contract for the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) that was divided among the Districts. The UIRSD received a District price that was then divided between the 2 schools by building enrollment (WTS-82%, Chilmark 18%). There was a discussion about moving this item to the District Site.
- School Choice numbers were down, which was reflected in a \$44,000 revenue loss. There was an objection to the School Choice budget offset being listed as part of WTS site changes.
- Renegotiated Appendix A stipends could result in an increase for the Music/Drama Advisor.
- Island Grown Initiative (IGI) requested schools support IGI staff at 50% (see 10/29/18 Minutes p.2). \$8,379 would reach that goal.
- Internet Security costs were not yet determined.
- A \$3,135 Guidance increase would cover 15 days of a second summer counselor.
- \$250 was added to Health Supplies which had been consistently overspent. All MVPS health supplies were purchased from the State website.
- As part of environmental teaching the WTS was working hard to decrease power use, so close monitoring suggested Fuel could be reduced by \$5,000 and Power/Light by \$4,000.
- Water collection responsibility was added to WTS water testing costs when it shifted from the Town Health Agent to the School (see 6/20/23 Minutes p.5 #VIII). Collection cost was hard to predict and additional samples were needed for unexpected issues.
- The UIRSD discussed adding language to the WTS/Town lease that the Town bear financial responsibility for any catastrophic contaminations. However, as the lease had already been voted (see 10/20/25 Minutes p.7 #III C) there was a lack of clarity.
  - The UIRSD maintained the parking lot, fields, basketball court, etc.
  - Water was considered a school utility which was regulated by State law.
  - All other MVPS were on municipal water systems.
- Landfill charges had been trending up so ~\$9,000 should cover the growing overage. As with environmental concerns about light/power, students and staff were working to reduce waste.
- \* Jessica Mason left the meeting at 2:30PM.
- Administration projected retirements/resignations to estimate a pool of \$16,000 for separation costs (sick time buyout, etc.)
- A \$250 increase was proposed for the single non-staff Crossing Guard.

Principal Kate Squire reviewed changes to the **Chilmark School site.**

- An additional \$3,000 in stipends was needed to cover extra work for teachers moving classrooms, furniture, supplies, setup, etc. after the Preschool moved out.
- The addition of the classroom would fit into the custodian's hours.
- Additional equipment costs for setting up the new classroom would be most technology equipment such as white boards and a projector.
- As the School used the Chilmark Community Center for a gym, it also paid for a cleaning—hopefully from the School custodian. Day cleaning of the School fell to Prin. Squire.
- The Artist in Residence funding was shifted into the Enrichment Program.

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD**  
**October 28, 2025**

**Page 3 of 3**

- In keeping with IGI request and like the WTS, Chilmark increased IGI staff salary by \$530.
- In line with spending trends Field Trips were reduced and the difference shifted to other lines.
- Summer Special Education Tutoring Salaries would be covered by Title One funds.
- Projected absences (personal days, medical leave, etc.) required occasional outside custodial services. This might also encompass CCC cleanings if it exceeded the School custodian's time.
  - This was more efficient than previously when the School paid the Town who paid the service.
- A \$3,000 Custodial Supplies increase was based on actual spending and increased work.
- Power & Light \$5,800 increase reflected FY25 actuals at current fuel prices, the first full year of the new system.
  - Boiler fuel was backup heating for very cold days or emergencies and could be reduced.
- In view of the next year's projects, Painting costs could be reduced \$10,000—especially as the new custodian was an expert painter.
- Bottled water costs (see 10/20/25 Minutes p.2-3 #IV A 2) were likely to be FY26 costs.
- The UIRSC requested:
  - placeholders for Transportation and Information Technology Security, and
  - a 2-3 year look back at school choice trends.

**Adjournment**

(Agenda Item #XI)

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 2:54PM; ROBERT LIONETTE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE ALEX SALOP—AYE.*

Meetings/Events

- **UIRSC Budget Workshop – 1:30PM, Monday, November 10, 2025 – TBD**
- **UIRSC – 5:00PM, Monday, November 17, 2025 – Aquinnah Cultural Center**
- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, November 20, 2025 – MVRHS/Zoom
- **UIRSC Budget Workshop – 1:30PM, Monday, November 24, 2025 – WTS**
- **UIRSC/Public Hearing – 5:00PM, Monday, December 15, 2025 – TBD**

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 10/28/25
- Friedman cover email re: UIRSD Budget – Version #2 10/27/25
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY26 General Fund Budget, Version # 2C, Proposed Level Service 10-28-2025 (13 p.)
- UIRSD, FY27 Budget Version #2C Proposed 10/28/2025, Changes from FY26 Budget (3 p.)
- UIRSD FY2027 Assessment – V#2C Proposed 10/28/25
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY26 General Fund Budget, Version # 2D, Proposed Level Service 10-28-2025 (13 p.)
- UIRSD, FY27 Budget Version #2D Proposed 10/28/2025, Changes from FY26 Budget (3 p.)
- UIRSD FY2027 Assessment – V#2D Proposed 10/28/25
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Enrollment Census Worksheet, 10/1/25

**Minutes approved 11/17/25**