

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:00PM, Monday, April 13, 2026
Tribal Administration Building, Aquinnah and by Zoom Cloud Conference**

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Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Skipper J. Manter, Jessica Mason*, Alex Salop, Marsha Shufrin,
Others: Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Superintendent Richard Smith, Business Administrator Mark Friedman, Student Support Director – Hope MacLeod,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Kate Squire, Mary Boyd,
Towns: Jeffrey DuBard, WTGH(A): Education Manager – Brad Lopes,
Press: Louisa Hufstader,
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 at 5:01PM. The UIRSC thanked WTGH(A) Education Manager Brad Lopes for facilitating the meeting. (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda item #II)

* Skipper Manter entered the meeting at 5:14PM.

A. Including But Not Limited to March 16, 2026

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 16, 2026 MINUTES: ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

Update from Brad Lopes, Education Manager, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (WTGH(A)) (Agenda item #III)

WTGH(A) Education Manager Brad Lopes thanked everyone for their attendance. He grounded the meeting in the season, it being April when new life and seasonal relatives came back home and people were beginning to spend more healthy time outside.

- Superintendent Richard Smith praised Mr. Lopes as very active and keeping pace with Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) programs and Professional Development (PD). Mr. Lopes gave a long list of Education Dept. programs and youth activities including those mentioned below.
- As part of the Wampanoag Food Ways tradition (finding it, cooking it, monitoring it and food waste) children were watching the Creek for spring herring, checking out areas for healthy plantings during traditional moon phases and digging sassafras root for tea.
- The After-School Program had moved into the Tribal Administration Building while the Cultural Center was undergoing renovations.
- Turtle Summer school for 5-12 yr. olds was being planned and like many on the Island the Tribe was struggling to hire staff and find space. The UIRSC offered Mr. Lopes summer space.

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- There would also be a summer Youth Group for 13-24 yr. olds at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) with Native counselors and activities.
- This year 13-15 yr. olds could join the Mashpee Wampanoags in a wonderful Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) program.
 - In addition to after-school and summer programs, Mr. Lopes was interested in in-school programs working with students and staff; for example having a Tribal mentor eat lunch with the students and model behavior.
 - Young people were looking forward to the Pow-Wow Trail coming up in May often combined with a college tour of University of Massachusetts Boston campus.
- The Department was also working at scholarship opportunities. Many Ivy League colleges were sending Native American representatives around to the tribes. And there was also college access through the Mashantucket Wampanoag.
 - Work/career programs were also available.
 - Mr. Lopes was applying for funding work arounds after the radical changes in the Federal grant landscape—transferring tribal matters from the Department of Education to the Dept. of Interior. He had applied for an Environmental Protection Agency grant but didn't know if it would be successful. The Tribe was open to any collaborative grant programs.
- As a self-governing Tribe WTGH(A) had some contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and received some Compact and some Title 6 funds.
 - The Tribal Council was briefed on Impact Aid, and was aware of the ongoing conversations in the community.
 - All were invited to:
 - the Star Party with indigenous star stories and other events, (rescheduled after the February storm postponement) to the afternoon/evening of April 22 on the Community Center lawn.
 - End-Of-Year celebration for graduates of all ages from any point in life, on Saturday, June 20th.
 - The UIRSC thanked Mr. Lopes and suggested he present to the All Island School Committee (AISC).

District (Agenda item #IV)

A. Election of School Committee Members – Discussion

(See 3/16/26 Minutes p. 1 #III, & below: Meetings/Events.)

Pre-election presentations to the Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) on UIRSC membership parameters and responsibilities would be posted as joint meetings.

- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had a great synopsis of the differences between PTOs, School Advisory Councils (SACs) and School Committees/Boards.

Principal's Reports (Agenda Item #V)

A. Kate Squire – Chilmark School

1. Principal's Report

- Chilmark School Principal Kate Squire thanked Brad Lopes and the UIRSC for the meeting.
- It was a busy time of year. 3rd and 4th graders participated in the English/Language Arts (E/LA) MCAS tests last week, and the 5th Grade would be tested tomorrow.

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- Students were working hard on the traditional May Pole dance (all were invited to the May Day Celebration (see below: Meetings/Events).
- The staff got a tour of the new Preschool. It was a beautiful space and the School was excited about their new neighbors. Construction was right on schedule; next steps were paths and playground adjustments.
- The new flagpole would be installed over Spring Break and Prin. Squire would coordinate with Mr. Lopes on the WTGH(A) flag raising ceremony (see 10/20/25 Minutes p.1-2 #III A-B).
- The engineer submitted the PFAS remediation system plans to the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) (see 10/20/25 Minutes p.2 #IV A 2) and was awaiting a response.
- A custodian had been out on medical leave and receiving Worker's Compensation since January 1st. Their duties were being filled by a substitute and some contractual hours, so there could be a small budget line increase.
- On a lovely and unexpected note, the Bunch of Grapes donated the proceeds from their "gumball type" machine.
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF \$175 WORTH OF BOOKS FROM THE BUNCH OF GRAPES; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

2. Retirement (See documents on file.)

After 16 years, School Receptionist and Secretary Mary Ambulos was retiring. Prin. Squire praised her invaluable support and assistance during Prin. Squire's first years at the School.

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GREAT REGRET THE RETIREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MARY KUH AMBULOS; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

1. Principal's Report (See documents on file.)

- Like Chilmark, students were working on MCAS E/LA testing; next month would be Math, Science and Social Studies tests. In a successful and popular move to reduce the scheduling disruptions MCAS testing was combined into only 2 days.
- The WTS volleyball team was in the play-offs. Thanks went to Asst. Prin. Mary Boyd for coordinating the Islandwide school sports, (see 2/9/26 Minutes p.5).
- As part of the WTS SAC literacy goal (see 2/9/26 Minutes p.4 #IV B 4) they were sponsoring an April vacation reading program, for every 25 minutes of reading a student would fill out a ticket to a prize drawing.

2. Out of State Travel

In keeping with the United Kingdom (UK) exchange tradition, UK students would visit West Tisbury in October 2026.

- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR:*

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- THE 8TH GRADE TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN LATE MAY – EARLY JUNE 2027,
- AND THE SEVENTH GRADE SKI TRIP TO GUNSTOCK MOUNTAIN, GILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE FEBRUARY 3-5, 2027;

SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

3. Resignation

• SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL CUSTODIAN LEIDIANE RODRIGUES AS OF APRIL 17, 2026; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

• SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR WEST TISBURY SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL KRISTEN JACKSON FROM APRIL 7, 2026 TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

- Ms. Jackson would be filling in for a teacher on medical leave.

• Without asking for additional money or incurring further benefits, WTS Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt requested expanded hours for two Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs). Costs to be covered by transfers as follows:

- \$3,278 from the summer program line for administrative summer camp work without having to re-advertise and hire; and

- \$3,758 from the Revolving Lunch Fund to cover administrative food service reporting.

• The UIRSC asked about a number of issues.

- Currently the ASPs worked 35 hrs/wk during the school year and 20 hrs/wk during the summer. Salary levels were also reviewed.

- During COVID when the State reimbursed all food expenses, reporting/administration was streamlined but it had steadily returned to pre-pandemic complexity.

- There was no need to shift funds into future budget increases.

° The Summer program source was a simple transfer.

° The Revolving Lunch fund was very robust and needed to be balanced with appropriate expenditure. (WTS served 8,123 breakfasts and 40,077 lunches, as well as adding 1,495 Chilmark breakfasts to their service.)

- It was suggested that if the UIRSC was serious about budget overhaul it should be done in the quiet season as a comprehensive line-by-line project. To over-question school leaders on such minor changes was to make their jobs harder.

• ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFERS AND EXPANDED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL HOURS AS OUTLINED; MARSHA SHUFRIN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

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Finance—Mark A. Friedman, School Business Administrator (Agenda Item #VI)

B. Donations: Martha's Vineyard (MV) Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, Donorschoose and Ahold Delhaize (Stop and Shop) (See documents on file.)

A little earlier in the meeting:

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT:*
- *\$909.23 FROM AHOLD DELHAIZE (STOP AND SHOP), AND*
- *SUPPLIES FOR SOCIALLY SKILLED STUDENTS PROGRAM BY WEST TISBURY SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUZY COSGRAVE, AND*
- *\$800 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STRIPED BASS AND BLUE FISH DERBY SANCY PACHICO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS,*

ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE. Skipper Manter asked by what formula scholarship funds were distributed.

A. School Credit Card Confirmation Vote

- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE AN UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CREDIT CARD; SECONDED BY ALEX SALOP: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

Shared Services Update—Hope T. MacLeod, M.Ed, BCBA, Director Student Support
(Agenda Item #VII)

- April was Autism Awareness Month. Student Support Director Hope MacLeod and the schools were busy with spring activities and summer planning including Extended School Year (ESY) transportation, systems, space and hiring—always an exciting challenge.
- In response to a constituent letter Ms. MacLeod and the UIRSC discussed technological devices to accommodate student disabilities. These were individually chosen by each student's team as needed; screens with larger fonts, hearing compensation, word prediction, pen readers, etc. Ms. MacLeod favored Google Reads as a universal aid for all students but she also acknowledged a grey area: when was technology a support and when did it cross over into cheating. It was difficult set solid policy in such a constantly changing medium. She felt this was a topic to be explored in a broader setting.

Superintendent Update—Richard M. Smith, Ed. D., Superintendent
(Agenda Item #VIII)

- * During this conversation Jessica Mason entered the meeting.
- UIRSD Administrators and Business Administrator Mark Friedman would attend the West Tisbury Annual Town Meeting (see below: Meetings/Events) to answer any budget questions.
- There had been some confusion over communication details to both the UIRSC and the community over a WTS incident. In future, Administration would provide more information so that the UIRSC could respond to constituent questions and the community would be fully informed. There was a necessary balance to inform accurately while honoring confidentiality.

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District (Agenda item #IV)

B. Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget Recertification – Vote

(See documents on file & 2/9/26 Minutes p.3 #V C.)

This version incorporated Superintendent Shared Services Office health insurance rate decrease.

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET RE-CERTIFIED ON FEBRUARY 9, 2026; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO RE-CERTIFY THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET VERSION #7 AS PRESENTED FOR*

- A TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET OF \$19,468,720.97 OR 9.5% INCREASE, AND

- A TOTAL ASSESSED BUDGET OF \$18,992,401.52 OR 8.62% INCREASE;

MARSHA SHUFRIN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—NAY, JESSICA MASON—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair – None (Agenda Item #X)

Chair Robert Lionette apologized to West Tisbury Affordable Housing representative Jeffrey DuBard for not putting the issue on the Agenda. It would be on the May agenda and the UIRSC was pleased to have the issue resurface (see 5/23/22 Minutes p.2 #VI A).

Next Meeting Date (See below: Meetings/Events.) (Agenda Item #IX)

- Tomorrow's meeting was now canceled as unnecessary.
- The May meeting would be on the standard date at the Chilmark School.
- The UIRSC requested meetings be shifted to 5:30 to accommodate some members' work hours.
- The School Committee looked forward to their next meeting in Aquinnah.

Adjournment (Agenda Item #XI)

• *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:34PM; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ALEX SALOP—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE.*

Meetings/Events

• WTGH(A) Star Party – 7:45PM, Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – Community Center lawn

• AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, April 30, 2026 – MVRHS/Zoom

• Chilmark May Day – 9:00AM, Friday, May 1, 2026 – Chilmark School

• **UIRSC – 5:30PM, Monday, May 18, 2026 – Chilmark School**

• MVRHS Vote – 11:00AM – 7:00PM June 2, 2026

• **UIRSC – 5:30PM, Monday, June 15, 2026 – TBD**

continued

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Meetings/Events (cont.)

- WTGH(A) End-of-Year Party – Saturday, June 20, 2026

Town Meetings:

West Tisbury 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – WTS

Chilmark – 7:00PM, Monday April 27, 2026 – Chilmark Community Center

Aquinnah – 7:00PM, Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – Aquinnah Town Hall

PTO Meetings:

8:15AM, Friday, May 8, 2026 – Chilmark School or Library

8:30AM, Wednesday, May 20, 2026 – WTS Cafeteria

Documents on File:

- Agenda/Revised Agenda/Revision #2 (2 p. each) 4/13/26
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) – Education Department TED Agenda 4/13/26
- Friedman email re: School Choice and School Committee 3/17/26
- Friedman cover email re: UIRSD FY27 Budget Version #6 – 3/19/26
- UIRSD FY2027 Assessment – V#6 Certified 3/19/2026
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY27 General Fund Budget, Version # 6, Revised 3-19-26 (12 p.)
- Friedman cover email re: UIRSD FY27 Revised Budget 4/5/26
- Up-Island Regional School District, FY27 General Fund Budget, Version # 7, Certified 4-06-26 (12 p.)
- Friedman cover email re: Materials for UIRSD Meeting – 3/16/26
- UIRSD FY2027 Assessment – V#5 Certified 2/09/2026
- Kuh/Ambulos letter of resignation 3/17/26
- DonorsChoose memo re: Ms. Cosgrove got funding for her classroom (2 p.) 3/21/26
- Custer/Derby Committee letter re: Francis “Sancy” Pachico Scholarship 3/10/26

Minutes approved 5/18/26