UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
5:30PM, Monday, July 20, 2026
Tribal Administration Building, Aquinnah and by Zoom Cloud Conference

Present: Chair – Robert Lionette, Skipper J. Manter, Jessica Mason, Alex Salop*, Marsha Shufrin,

Others: Supt.'s Shared Services Office: Superintendent Jaime Curley,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Kate Squire,
WTGH(A) Education Manager – Brad Lopes,

*Late arrivals or early departures of UIRSC Members

Call to Order and Chair Comments (Agenda Item #I)

• The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order at 5:34PM.
• Chair Robert Lionette thanked Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (WTGH(A)) Education Manager Brad Lopes for hosting the meeting. This was the first time the UIRSC was able to achieve the goal of at least two meetings a year with the WTGH(A) Education Department—with the mutual hope of many more to come.
• He noted the sometimes presumptuous UIRSC attitude that matters were taken care of by staff and asked other UIRSC members to help with appropriate tasks.
• The UIRSC welcomed new Superintendent Jaime Curley.

Public Comment – None (Agenda Item #II)

Approval of Minutes (Agenda Item #III)

A. Including But Not Limited to June 15 and June 24, 2026

• The June 15th Minutes had been amended and were tabled.
• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 24, 2026 MINUTES: MARSHA SHUFRIN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION —JESSICA MASON* due to absence.

District (Agenda Item #IV)

A. Brad Lopes – Report Out on Collaborative Planning Meeting with Principals and Monthly Share

* During this discussion Alex Salop entered the meeting around 5:57PM but Zoom audio was unclear.

• The meeting with Principals Donna Lowell-Bettencourt and Kate Squire focused on students and children rather than Impact Aid. Department staff were working on some great ideas including participation and additions to after-school as well as in-school enrichment block programs. Strong relations with the local education agency (LEA) were very important as there was no tribal school. Transportation was being facilitated. Ideas included:
- aligning curriculums with such things as Cranberry Day,
- tribal offerings and food for the regional lunch program with a guest chef and the cooperation of Island Grown Initiative (IGI),
- Tribal chaperones on the whale watching field trips, and
- being involved in both Back-to-School Nights (see below: Meetings/Events).

• A Tower Foundation grant at $75,000 a year for 2 years would focus on substance use and building cultural awareness. Mr. Lopes hoped to rebuild the library that Nan Doty started for scholarly access. He offered UIRSC member copies of the book *Reconnections.*

• Working with the Circle on civic instruction research for professional development (PD) at (but not part of) Tufts University, the Tribe could offer stipends for 7-12 teachers on such topics as what is a Wampanoag citizen and how this relates to US schools.

- It was hoped that civics would become part of the UIRSD and Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) curricula.

B. Chilmark School Lease Discussion (See Minutes: 6/15/26 p.4 #B.)

Robert Lionette, Jessica Mason, Chilmark Select Board (CSB) member Matt Poole and Chilmark Community Advisory Council (CCAC) member Linda Coutinho had a very positive meeting on the Chilmark School lease. The Town understood the need and urgency for a lease as well as the unique relationship with overall campus.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A CHILMARK SCHOOL LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CHILMARK AND THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT; JESSICA MASON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE.* Attorneys were not attending sessions but would review and advise on the lease draft.

Mr. Lionette reported and sometimes requested guidance on a number of issues.

• The lease would codify the use of 2 parcels built by the District being the parking lot, school, playground and land between the school and the playground. Authority would rest with the building leader (e.g. principal) and the Town and consequently would not necessarily involve the UIRSC—although UIRSC authority would come into play for 3rd party vendors which were currently the preschool and the winner of the summer school Request for Proposal (RFP).

• Prin. Squire and Linda Coutinho were working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Town and School use of the spaces outside school campus: basketball and tennis courts, Chilmark Library, Chilmark Community Center, etc. to be an addendum to the lease.

• There was consensus for costs and sharing, for example after busy summer use the playground wood-chips would need to be replenished/replaced. The UIRSC noted previous solutions during the Pre-school planning (see 3/17/25 Minutes p.1-2 #VI & VII) but <u>otherwise felt such general use/maintenance as wood-chips could be a School expense, not worth the trouble of negotiating and billing</u>.

- The Preschool had its own playground and would now house the summer camp program.

- <u>The UIRSC was more concerned about how to apportion larger capital expenses</u>.

• The parking lot was a complex issue as there would be not only Preschool use, but long-standing informal arrangements allowing summer overflow for the Chilmark Store and Tavern Restaurant—which posed a problem during shoulder season school hours. Policing only made further difficulties because it resulted in fire and bus lane parking as there was not enough parking space in Chilmark center. <u>The UIRSC considered this was a matter for the building administrator and Town but suggested signage restricting parking to staff during school hours</u>.

- Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt reported her relations with the Town on use and maintenance sharing of WTS playing fields, parking lots, etc. including summer sports and book fairs.

C. Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD) Clerk (Secretary) Replacement – Vote (See 6/15/26 Minutes p.4 #C.)

Supt. Curley agreed to be Clerk/Secretary, duties being mostly bond signatory and election certification.

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO APPOINT SUPERINTENDENT JAIME CURLEY AS THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK/SECRETARY; JESSICA MASON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ALEX SALOP —AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

• At the end of the meeting the UIRSC asked about candidates for the coming elections, but no papers had been pulled.

D. Workforce Housing – Update and Discussion

(See 5/18/26 Minutes p.2-3 #IV A & & 6/15/26 p.3 #D.)

The last Housing Committee meeting focused on a second small lot not previously noted between the Island Childrens School and the baseball field. However Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt reported that previous experience showed: moth habitat restrictions, WTS water well location, and neighborhood buffering issues that would make development difficult.

Principal's Reports (Agenda Item #V)

A. Kate Squire – Chilmark School

1. Principal's Report (See also below: Meetings/Events.)

• Summer tutoring was in session 3 mornings a week.

• The Bell Tower was removed and work was in progress on the ground level bell housing foundation—completion goal August 7th (see Minutes: 1/27/25 p.5 #VII C, & 3/5/25 p.4 #B, & 6/23/25 p.5 #VIII).

• The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) granted license certification for the polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) filter system (see 10/20/25 Minutes p.2 #IV A 2). The system was ordered and installation on track (plumbing, testing, etc.) to be ready for the start of School.

• The beautiful Preschool and its playground were finished, certified and inspected including the bonus of a handicapped accessible swing. Fencing was still in place.

• A Community Forum on the change from multi-age classes (see Minutes: 5/18/26 p.4, & 6/15/26 p. 2 #II) was attended by about 20-25 people including ~ 10 staff, whose comments helped parents understand the situation.

2. Out of State Travel

Protective helmets would be worn and transportation provided.

• *JESSICA MASON MOVED TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR THE CHILMARK SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENT CHAPERONES SKI FIELD TRIP TO SUGAR LOAF, MAINE FEBRUARY 1-5, 2027; SKIPPER MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE*

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

1. Principal's Report

Administration was busy hiring for the new year—doing well with Education Support Professional (ESP) positions. State reporting (an increasingly massive chore) was completed. Building summer cleaning and turnover were on target. First through fifth grade class lists would be sent out the first week of August; grades 6-8 were less important as middle school students lists would only involve homerooms.

3. Summer School

Summer school was in full gear from 7:30AM to 2:00PM, for 60-90 students (depending on family travels or work schedules). The cafeteria had served over 1,000 meals taking advantage of local produce: lettuce, cucumbers, squash, bokchoi, etc. With the exception of one glitch, transportation had been phenomenal. Children loved the program and were learning a lot. The UIRSC acknowledged the additional administration and staff hours needed to manage this 5th year of the program. Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt thanked Prin. Squire for her support and the UIRSC for their appreciation and for their vote to fund the program after the 3 year grant.

2. Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) (See documents on file.)

Prin. Lowell-Bettencourt now met summers with the PTO to set the activity calendar, scheduling some traditional and some new events: Open House, bingo, family movie nights, child care during parent/teacher conferences, etc.

- The Partnership in Reading program was being expanded, working with the library, sponsoring holiday reading incentives and recruiting volunteers to read to students.
- Working with the Student Council the PTO was facilitating non-sport, non-club Middle School ideas for family activities, reviving the coffee house, dances, games, older to younger student mentoring, hosting Kindergarten parent/grandparent evenings.

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

A. Rural School Aid Supplement Grant – Acceptance (See documents on file.)

This additional $39,862 Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) could be spent in FY27. Administrators proposed landscaping, purchasing furniture, bulletin boards, etc.

SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RURAL SCHOOL AID SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT AND APPROVE SPENDING AS PROPOSED; JESSICA MASON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER —AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.

Superintendent Update – Jaime Curley, Ed. D., Superintendent (Agenda Item #VII)

• Supt. Curley thanked everyone for their warm welcome. She was attending many meetings: Tribal Education Manager, union representatives, Town Administrators and Finance Committees, MVPS Cabinet Retreat…

• New Assistant Superintendent of Operations Ashley Lopes was currently on Island although her official start date was August 3rd. Supt. Curley looked forward to working with her again.

• UIRSD and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District (MVRHSD) 30 year Treasurer Mary Lee Schroeder gave notice of her retirement. The job description included responsibility for signing all checks and borrowing documents.

- The UIRSD position was 0.29 Full Time Equivalent (FTE), but when combined with the MVRHSD came to 1.0 FTE. After some discussion on logistics of advertising and hiring:

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO EDIT THE TREASURER ADVERTISEMENT TO OFFER A COMBINED POSITION PENDING MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL APPROVAL; JESSICA MASON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

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

The August 17th date was set at the Chilmark School (the UIRSC could view the campus changes) but might be postponed until September pending sufficient agenda items.

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

Adjournment (Agenda Item #X)

• *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:57PM; JESSICA MASON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: SKIPPER MANTER—AYE, JESSICA MASON—AYE, MARSHA SHUFRIN—AYE, ALEX SALOP—AYE, ROBERT LIONETTE—AYE.*

Meetings/Events

• AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday July 23, 2026 – MVRHS/Zoom
• UIRSC – TBD – 5:30PM, Monday, August 17, 2026 – Chilmark
• AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday August 27, 2026 – MVRHS/Zoom
• Back to School Nights:
- Chilmark School – Thursday, September 24, 2026
- WTS – 5:30 – 6:30PM, Thursday, September 17, 2026

Documents on File:

• Agenda (2 p.) 7/20/26
• O'Donnell email re: FY2026 supplemental Rural School Aid funds (2 p.) 7/1/26
• FY26 Supplemental Rural Aid to be spent in FY27
• West Tisbury PTO Meeting – Wednesday, July 15th 2026 (2 p.)
• Department of Environmental Protection/McLaughlin letter re: PFAS treatment system installation, (5 p.) 7/9/26

Minutes approved 9/28/26