

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Monday, January 26, 2009
Aquinnah Town Hall, 5:00PM**

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Present: Chair - Marshall Segall, Roxanne Ackerman*,
Dan Cabot, Susan Parker
Others: Superintendent's Office: Jim Weiss, Amy Tierney
Principals: Diane Gandy, Bob Lane
Aquinnah: Jim Newman
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item # I.)

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes Read and Approved – *December 4 and 8* (Agenda item # II)

- *DAN CABOT MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 4, 2008 MINUTES; MARSHALL SEGALL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – SUSAN PARKER* due to absence.
- *DAN CABOT MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8, 2008 MINUTES; MARSHALL SEGALL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Financial Report (Agenda Item # III)

A. Expenditure Report (See documents on file.)

- December Mass. State Chapter 70 were \$18,000 more than was budgeted and the Charter School reimbursement had been received. However the December Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement had not yet been received and there were fearw that both Ch. 71 and Circuit Breaker funds could be reduced. Interest income was down about \$40,000.
- With the usual encumbrances 15% remained in the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) Budget.
- The US Dept. of Education had granted the Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD) \$9,100.76 as the first and major payment of Impact Aid. The UIRSC would consider the matter after receiving the second payment.

Principal's Report (Agenda item # IV.)

B. Robert Lane on Behalf of Michael Halt – West Tisbury

- January 16th Professional Development Day was a success garnering good staff feedback.
- Bob Aldrin and West Tisbury School (WTS) Assistant Principal Bob Lane were taking the lead in coordinating the British Exchange program.
- A January 30th party for primary school teacher Elaine Barnett marked her retirement after 36 years of teaching.
- Elementary School Report Cards would go out February 6th.
- Also on February 6th the Harlem Rockets would be visiting Island schools.

C. Robert Lane – West Tisbury Building and Grounds Report

(See documents on file.)

- Seekonk will be at the WTS to look at Boiler #2.
- The UIRSC discussed timing and solutions to roof leaks brought on by slowly rising nails.
- The Administration and School Advisory Council (SAC) were commended for having 3-5 year maintenance plan as part of their School Improvement Plan (SIP).

A. Diane Gandy – Chilmark (See documents on file.)

- The Caribbean Night fund raiser was a great success.
- Chilmark Principal Diane Gandy spoke about her trip to Washington, D.C. during an electrifying Inauguration week especially her visit to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V.)

A. State Funding Issues (See above: Agenda Item #III A.)

FY09 and FY10 Mass. Governor's Office budget figures were expected within the week.

B. Emergency Management Training

The UIRSD took part in a two day Islandwide emergency management training with the police, emergency, fire, and medical personnel. Aside from crucial exercises and planning the training offered a continuing opportunity to strengthen ties with other municipal agencies.

C. Oil Bid (See documents on file.)

At the urging of School Business Administrator Amy Tierney, Dukes County was able to renegotiate its fuel contract with Ralph Packer who generously agreed to a floating spot rack price from January 1, to June 30, 2009 – a considerable savings for the Island taxpayers.

D. Turbine Update (See documents on file.)

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted a permit for a 236 ft. wind turbine tower, however the feasibility study grant application was rejected (see 11/13/07 Minutes p. 3 #3). The UIRSC expressed its regret at the passing of Energy Committee Chair Sheldon Banks.
- The Farm to School Committee had been granted moneys for a feasibility study for a wind turbine, possibly at another location. A slight change in legislation would allow schools to share in the energy credit. It was suggested that this might be a better solution, allowing schools to reap the benefits of alternative energy without having to go into the business.

Personnel (Agenda Item # VI.)

A. Retirement (See documents on file.)

DAN CABOT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHILMARK SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DIANE GANDY EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2009 WITH PROFOUND REGRET AND THANKS FOR SERVICE OVER THE YEARS,; MARSHALL SEGALL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Old / New / Other Business (Agenda Item # VII.)

A. Chilmark Leadership Search Discussion (See documents on file.)

- The documents were reviewed.
- The posting had been modified to include Chilmark staff and parent input. The Chilmark School website would be referenced.
- The timetable was corrected and the UIRSC discussed the April announcement date.
- Dan Cabot would represent the UIRSC on the Search Committee. The Wampanoag Tribe would be asked if they wished to be represented.
- Some advertising rates had been negotiated and reduced. In keeping with Supt. Weiss's recommendation ads would be placed in the Island press, the Cape Cod Times and Education Week – as well as all the relevant free listings.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UIRSC TO ACCEPT THE POSTING, TIMETABLE, SEARCH COMMITTEE AND ADVERTISING PLAN FOR THE CHILMARK HEAD OF SCHOOL AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

B. Chilmark Energy Project

- The Town had presented the Chilmark School Energy project (see 12/8/08 Minutes p. 3 #VI C) as a shovel ready project for the new federal Stimulus Package.

C. Financial Records Proposal (See documents on file.)

- The UIRSD financial records in the Supt. Office were in great disarray. The proposal to hire a consultant to dispose of, organize, and/or archive the records was debated at some length:
 - how much skill was required,
 - availability of Supt. Of. staff and possible stipend for extra work on the records,
 - staff training going forward,
 - financial and legal benefits of archiving records,
 - confidentiality issues.

Supt. Weiss would proceed with the \$16,500 voted by the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC).

D. GASB 45 Legislation (See documents on file.)

- *DAN CABOT MOVED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE A VOLUNTARY ISLANDWIDE POOLED TRUST FUND FOR POST EMPLOYMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE DUKES COUNTY TREASURER: MARSHALL SEAGALL AND SUSAN PARKER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

F. Other

- As reported in the press the Mr. Johnson, a part-time WTS Industrial Arts teacher, was involved in a legal matter and, as advised by MV Public Schools (MVPS) Counsel, was on paid administrative leave. The UIRSC discussed the situation including:
 - legal and employment status and restrictions,
 - case history and the ongoing investigation as reported in the press,
 - student at risk statistics as codified by the Youth Task Force,
 - staff/student boundaries and the unique culture of a small town/Island,
 - press coverage and community reaction.

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- Emphasis was placed on preventive measures such as future changes in, and implementation of, the Staff Conduct Policy. It was emphasized that the UIRSC had no jurisdiction over the situation as they had no authority in hiring and firing of MVPS staff with the exception of the post of Superintendent.
- The UIRSD 2008 essay was due for the Annual Town Reports.
- Due to the usual difficulties of the February school and holiday calendar the next meeting of the UIRSC was scheduled for 7:00PM Monday, March 9, 2009 at the West Tisbury School.

Adjournment

*SUSAN PARKER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:10PM; DAN CABOT SECONDED;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Documents on File:

Agenda 1/26/09

UIRSD Expenditure July 1, 2008 to January 26, 2009

W. Tisb. School Buildings & Grounds Report (2 p.) 1/26/09

Chilmark School Principal's Report 1/26/09

Bell Tower Monthly Notes January, 2009 (2 p.)

Gandy Letter of Resignation 1/5/08

MVPS Invites qualified Candidates...

Chilmark Head of School Search Timeline

Chilmark Head of School 2009 Search Committee Volunteers

Chilmark Head of School Advertisement Pricing

Dukes County Treasurer letter re: supporting legislation 1/7/09

Background 1/8/09

An Act Authorizing the Government Employers in the County of Dukes County to

Establish a Pooled Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund. 1/8/09

MVPS Supt. Memo re: Financial Records (2 p.) 12/29/08