

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Monday, March 9, 2009, 7:00PM
Wampanoag Tribal Administration Building
Aquinnah**

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Present: Chair - Marshall Segall, Roxanne Ackerman,
Dan Cabot, Jeffrey "Skip" Manter, Susan Parker
Others: Superintendent's Office: Jim Weiss, Laura Halt,
Dan Seklecki, Amy Tierney
Principals: Diane Gandy, Michael Halt, Bob Lane
Wampanoag Tribe Education Dept.: Heidi Vanderhoop
Chilmark Board of Selectman – Warren Doty
Press – Janet Hefler - - MV Times
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item # I.)

The meeting was called to order. Tribal Administrator Tobias Vanderhoop welcomed everyone.

Minutes Read and Approved – *June 23 and October 29, 2008; January 26, 2009*
(Agenda item # II)

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 23, 2008 AND OCTOBER 29, 2008 MINUTES; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*
- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE JANUARY 26, 2009 MINUTES AS AMENDED; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Discussion with Tribe (Agenda Item # III)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) and Wampanoag Tribe Education Director Heidi Vanderhoop introduced themselves and discussed the Policies and Procedures (see documents on file).

- All agreed that there should be more meetings as recommended. The issues were:
 - revising the policy to reflect previous history, versus starting on a new footing,
 - UIRSC attempts to meet with the Wampanoag Education Department.
- Heidi Vanderhoop suggested the UIRSC meet with the Title 7 Tribal Education Group which included parents.
 - IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE UIRSC TO MEET WITH THE WAMPANOAG EDUCATION GROUP TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR AND THAT THE FIRST SUCH MEETING BE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 6:00PM MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 AT THE TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

- There was a discussion on staff reports to the Tribal Education Director.
- The UIRSD noted this was the purview of the UIRSD leadership with the UIRSD as an appeal of last resort.
- Student records were often confidential however information could be shared either in a standard form or through meetings with teams of school administrators, guidance, teachers, etc. All school staff kept logs of parent-teacher interactions.
- In general it was agreed that the protocols should be brought to life.
- *DAN CABOT MOVED TO REAFFIRM THE WAMPANOAG TRIBE OF GAY HEAD (AQUINNAH) EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, AND TO SEND IT TO THE TRIBAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COUNCIL; SKIP MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- The UIRSD welcomed input from both the Tribal Education Committee and the Tribal Council on the Policies and Procedures.
- Thanks were exchanged all around.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expense Report (See documents on file.)

- The UIRSD Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) budget was in reasonable shape.
- There was a discussion on whether utilities should be encumbered given the unpredictable market.
- Local and Mass. State revenues were on target with 25% remaining to be collected.

B. Re-Certification FY10 Budget (See documents on file.)

- Business Administrator Amy Tierney discovered and corrected a series of errors in the UIRSD FY10 Certified Budget which resulted in an increase in town assessments.
- The rise in health insurance was set lower than expected at a savings of \$45,000.

The issues were:

- Town reactions and stringent budgeting,
- Federal stimulus moneys as not likely to offset the budget,
- use of the total health care savings or allowance for mid-year changes,
- regional versus statutory assessment formula,
- low UIRSD FY10 budget/assessment increases.
- *DAN CABOT MOVED TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUS UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET AND -TO CERTIFY THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET AS SHOWN ON THE SHEET TITLED "UIRSD FY2010 ASSESSMENT – CERTIFIED 12/8/08 CORRECTED 2/18/09 WITH REDUCTIONS 3/9/09";*
- *SKIP MANTER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY – SKIP MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- Skip Manter voted nay for the same reasons he had voted against the previous FY10 Budget (see 12/8/08 Minutes p.7 #VIIA).
- Roxanne Ackerman objected to the piecemeal way the budget was put together and requested that the process be more holistic.

C. National Economic Crisis Issues (See documents on file.)

- As noted in the previous discussion the MV Public Schools and in general the UIRSD were not likely to receive substantial American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds due to the comparatively stable nature of the Island economy. Funds might be available in enrichment and special education (SpEd) however only for new programs and not for budget offsets.
- Chapter 70 revenue was projected to remain level although a drop was predicted in Chapter 71 (transportation) reimbursements – these was already factored into the FY10 Budget.

D. Impact Aid

- A series of notifications was received regarding 2006, 2007 and 2008 Impact Aid supplemental payments. However after a call to the Indian Affairs Bureau the 2007 and 2008 payments were awaiting clarification.
- Amy Tierney apologized for the FY10 budget errors that had put Chilmark in this difficult position.
- Skip Manter commended Amy Tierney for breaking her vacation to answer questions on the new West Tisbury Town Meeting formats for school budgets.
- This format included assessment worksheets comparable to FY09, the URISD Budget FY10 Analysis and a listing of all employees and their estimated FY09 salaries including some of the Superintendent's and Shared Services Office staff.

Principal's Report (Agenda item # V.)

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

- After paying flood related invoices not covered by insurance, enough was left over to paint a classroom. A carpenter was coming in to for a repair punch list.
- The collection of used/broken cell phones, lithium batteries, ink cartridges, etc. was still producing money for student activities.

B. Michael Halt – West Tisbury (See documents on file.)

- WTS Principal Michael Halt pointed out highlights from his Principal's report.
- In communicating with other island schools all over the world, one of the multiage classrooms was working with a sister school in the Scottish Isles. A video of West Tisbury School (WTS) students dancing the Scottish White Sargent could be seen on the web.
- WTS Assistant Principal Bob Lane reviewed the Building and Grounds report.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # VI.)

A. Update on Chilmark School Search (See documents on file.)

Eighteen applications were received and the Search Committee would meet tomorrow for orientation.

- At the end of the meeting the UIRSC scheduled an executive session interview with the candidates for 6:00PM Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Superintendent's Office.

B. Enrollment Projections (See documents on file.)

The New England School Development Council (NESDEC) UIRSD enrollment projections were fairly flat for the next five years.

C. Preparation for Town Meeting (See documents on file.)

- Annual Town Meetings were scheduled for:
West Tisbury - Tuesday, April 14th simultaneously with the three down Island towns.
Chilmark – Monday, April 27th,
Aquinnah – Tuesday, May 12th.
- Amy Tierney and Assistant Superintendent Laurie Halt put together an excellent hand out explaining the school budgets, how they were set, what they were, and where the money was spent including student achievement and school results. The UIRSC loved the work and commended the staff.

Personnel (Agenda Item # VII.)

A. Resignation

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESIGNATION OF WEST TISBURY SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL ERICA MAY; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
The WTS Administration expressed their regret.

B. Return of Leave of Absence

- West Tisbury Guidance Counselor Molly Cabral would return for the next school year.

Other (Agenda Item # VIII.)

- There was a brief discussion on relations and open communications with the Vineyard Transit Authority.
- The UIRSC thanked Heidi Vanderhoop for her participation and for hosting the meeting in this beautiful facility. It was hoped this would be the first in a series of UIRSC/Tribal Education joint meetings.
- The next meetings of the UIRSC were tentatively scheduled:
 - 6:00PM Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Superintendent's Office – UIRSC Executive Session / Search Committee.
 - Thursday, April 16, 2009 at a time and place to be announced - Regular UIRSC Meeting and Finalist Interviews
 - 6:00PM Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Tribal Administration Building – Regular UIRSC Meeting and Joint meeting with Tribal Education Committee.
- *Related Committee Meetings:*
 - 7:00PM Monday, April 6, 2009 at the MV Regional High School – *MV Regional High School Committee Meeting.*
 - 7:00PM Thursday, May 7, 2009 at the MV Regional High School – *All Island School Committee Meeting.*

continued

Adjournment

SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:08PM, DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Documents on File:

Agenda 3/9/09

Sign In Sheet 3/9/09

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Education Dept. Draft of Indian Policies and Procedures for the Application of Impact Aid January 2008 (5 p.) 12/20/07 - 1/16/08

UIRSD Expenditure July 1, 2008 to March 9, 2009

UIRSD FY2010 Assessment – Certified 12/8/08 (Corrected 2/18/09)

UIRSD FY2010 Assessment – Certified 12/8/08 (Corrected 2/18/09 with Reductions 3/9/09)

Chilmark School Principal's Report 3/9/09

Bell Tower Monthly Notes (2 p.) February 2009

Bell Tower Monthly Notes (2 p.) March 2009

W. Tisb. School Principal's Report 3/9/09

W. Tisb. School Buildings & Grounds Report 3/9/09

Guide to the Up Island Regional School District Budget (6 p.)

These Minutes approved as amended April 16, 2009.