

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Thursday, April 16, 2009
West Tisbury School, 7:00PM**

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Present: Chair - Marshall Segall, Roxanne Ackerman,
Dan Cabot, Skipper J. Manter, Susan Parker
Others: Superintendent's Office: Jim Weiss, Laurie Halt,
Amy Tierney, Dan Seklecki,
Principals: Michael Halt, Bob Lane, Diane Gandy
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item # I.)

The meeting was called to order.

Principal's Report (Agenda item # IV.)

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

Prin. Diane Gandy sent a comprehensive report and left early with everyone's wishes for a speedy recovery.

- As the Chilmark School had already had an energy survey (see 10/15/07 Minutes p.2 #V B. III) there was some hope for available grant money.

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

Prin. Michael Halt reviewed his report particularly kindergarten enrollment currently at 25.

- Next year Parent-Teacher conferences would be scheduled in some other month than busy April.

- The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) commended Prin. Halt for his response to difficult Town Meeting questions on Special Education (SpEd) School Choice students.

- The UIRSC and Administration expressed great gratitude for the generosity of the Town citizens in their support of the schools.

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE OVERNIGHT TRIP TO CAMP ALTON JONES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND IN SEPTEMBER 2009; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- MCAS test attendance was generally good and make up tests or waivers were in process.

Minutes Read and Approved (March 9 and 23, 2009) (Agenda item # II)

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 17, 2008 AND MARCH 9, 2009 MINUTES AS AMENDED AND THE MARCH 9, 2009 MINUTES AS WRITTEN; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.*

- The September and October 2007 minutes and their background documents were missing from the permanent file. The UIRSC discussed:
 - reconstituting the missing records,
 - public access in terms of copies only, all originals to remain in the files,
 - electronic records.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V.)

- Supt. Weiss thanked the School Principals for their advocacy at the West Tisbury Town Meeting. It was hoped that the April 27th Chilmark Town Meeting and May 14th Aquinnah Town Meeting would be equally supportive.
- The MV Regional High School District (MVRHSD) Budget had passed three towns and was now officially approved.
- Supt. Weiss met with the Aquinnah Selectmen and Finance Committee over the UIRSD Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Budget as well as Impact Aid dedication to the Aquinnah assessment; the major issue being the regional versus statutory assessment formulas (see below: # III).

The Public Broadcasting System was showing a history of the early United States as seen from the Native American perspective including a segment on Wampanoag history. This was an important event for the Tribe and UIRSC members were encouraged to view the program.

A. Update on Chilmark Head of School Search

The process was on track and Dan Cabot was commended for his organizational skills.

B. Discussion Payment for Candidates

The UIRSC discussed covering travel costs for the final Chilmark candidates. The issues were:

- attracting and retaining high quality staff – a goal set by the All Island School Committee,
- inserting a line item in the budget to cover costs of travel to the Vineyard,
- voluntarily offered lodgings and on-Island transportation,
- which costs would be covered: the current finalists, semi finalists, teaching candidates, etc.
- There was a general agreement to cover finalist expenses although Mr. Manter had a different opinion.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

A. Expense Report (See documents on file.)

- The West Tisbury School (WTS) FY09 site budget had been updated with journal transfers as appropriate. Deficits were expected in:
 - Special Education Expenses,
 - Custodial Salaries – due to an injury requiring a long term substitute,
 - retiree expenses,
 - In addition the fuel line was very low.
 - There were some lines (Health and Dental Insurance) which were expecting residuals, and Undistributed Supplies had been frozen, but Prin. Halt feared the WTS FY09 Budget would be a very tight squeeze.
- A separate meter had been installed for the power used in school buses which would now be billed to Transportation.
 - Timers were being investigated to conserve fuel for overnight bus heaters.

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- The Chilmark School site was not showing substantial deficits at this time.
- The District-wide part of the budget was similarly in reasonable shape.
- Revenue for FY09 was on target but FY10 revenue was expected to drop significantly.
- There was a brief discussion on family economic status, the scholarship fund and the current more open attitude toward financial need.
- Excess and Deficiency (E & D) was certified (see documents on file). No money would be returned to the towns and Business Administrator Amy Tierney strongly advised that the funds be conserved.
- Statutory formula assessment figures were available in response to a written request (see documents on file). The use of the regional formula had to be voted by all three towns with Chilmark and Aquinnah still to vote. If one of the towns voted nay, the other two town assessments would be revised, with the heavier burden falling on West Tisbury. Mr. Manter maintained that if this came to pass there were a number of options available.

A. Impact Aid (See documents on file.)

Due to the size and complexity of the Impact Aid program grant calculation and awards ran a year or two in arrears. Over the years UIRSD had received \$44,514 which it had voted towards reducing the Aquinnah assessment. Another \$28,264 was expected this year.

• *SKIP MANTER MOVED AS IN THE PAST TO ASSIGN ALL PENDING IMPACT AID PAYMENTS TO AQUINNAH; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

B. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update

The UIRSD was not expected to receive any ARRA funds except possibly some SpEd funds which were still unknown.

Other Business (Agenda Item # VI.)

- There was a brief explanation of the procedures for lost or re-issued checks.
- The wording of any flyers or advertisement for the Italian Night Shenandoah trip fundraiser had to be clear as to its being a private (non-school sponsored) event – with the exception of Chilmark School all Shenandoah trips were now private events.
- The next meetings of the UIRSC:
 - 6:00PM Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Tribal Administration Building – Regular UIRSC Meeting
and Joint meeting with Tribal Education Committee.
 - *Related Meetings/Events:*
 - Saturday, May 2nd at the Grange Hall - 5th Grade Italian Night Shenandoah Fund Raiser.
 - 7:00PM Monday, May 4, 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.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM.

Documents on File:

Agenda 4/16/09

Chilmark School Principal's Report

Chilmark Times (12 p.) Winter

Bell Tower Monthly Notes (3 p.) April 2009

W. Tisb. School Principal's Report 4/16/09

W. Tisb. School Buildings & Grounds Report 4/15/09

UIRSD Expenditure Report General Fund – Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (11 p.) 4/16/09

UIRSD School Committee Impact Aid History 2006-2009 4/16/09

Mass. Dept. of Revenue letter re: Excess and Deficiency funds (2 p.) 3/30/09

Draft UIRSD An Example of FY10 Assessments Using the Department of Education's Statutory
Assessment Methodology (10 p.) 4/7/09

These Minutes approved as amended May 18, 2009.