

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Monday, May 18, 2009, 5:30PM
Wampanoag Cultural Center,
Aquinnah, Massachusetts**

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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,
Dan Seklecki, Amy Tierney
Principals: Michael Halt, Bob Lane*,
Chilmark Selectmen – Warren Doty
Aquinnah Selectmen – Jim Newman
WTGH(A) Education: Linda Scott,
Heidi Vanderhoop, Julienne Vandehoop,
Martha Vanderhoop,
Aquinnah: Gertrude E. Garvin, Samuel D. Lee,
Recorder: Marni Lipke

*Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item # I.)

The meeting was called to order.

Meeting with Chilmark Head of School Search Committee (Agenda item # II)

Members of the Search Committee reported on the status of the search and the choice of three finalists:

Deborah Hammet - an Island educator, Susan Kliver and Susan Stevens from administrative positions in larger school systems. The Up Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) discussed strengths and drawbacks for the candidates, considering:

- experience in different educational environments,
- willingness to accept the remedial reading teaching duties,
- shifting from previous administrative work to a smaller rural environment.
- Dan Seklecki was commended on his leadership, and professionalism throughout the process.
- Finalists would visit the Chilmark School on Thursday, May 21st and be interviewed in the evening (see below: Meetings). Supt. Weiss would make his decision by the end of May.

Meeting with Tribal Education Committee (Agenda item # III)

Everyone introduced themselves. The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (WTGH(A)) Education Director Heidi Vanderhoop and the Education Committee described their responsibilities;

- Education Committee - advisory group and liaison between WTGH(A) Education Dept. and Tribal community,
- Education Director – manager after school, summer, work-learn and adult education programs, advocate for individual Native American students when requested, manager of all educational finances including grants and budgets.

- There was a discussion on the Tribe's Title 7 grant (~\$25,000) which covered tutoring and advocacy for all Native American K-12 and adult ed. students. The UIRSD and WTGH(A) Ed. Dept. agreed to collaborate on identifying Native American students and appropriate spending projects.
- There was a discussion on various instances of professional development and sensitivity training for MV Public School (MVPS) teachers and staff in the Wampanoag culture and learning style, as well as including more Wampanoag cultural heritage and resources in the MVPS curriculum.
- All present considered the treatment of Tribal students in the MVPS environment, including:
 - the more reticent Native American learning style,
 - parent/school relations particularly receptivity and training of MVPS administrators on difficult race issues,
 - some negative effects of the MV Regional High School (MVRHS) diversity retreat and general racial attitudes towards Native Americans,
 - the critical importance of starting cultural diversity sensitivity in the early grades
- There was a general wish to continue and regularize these meetings (every third UIRSC meeting—see below: Meetings) in order to build solid interpersonal relationships and institutional collaboration, building bridges to strengthen the relationship so that when difficult problems arose everyone could work together towards resolution.
- Thanks were exchanged for the invitation, the attendance and the delicious coconut meringues.

Financial Report (Agenda Item # IV)

At this point about 7% was left in the budget and both sites were expected to finish the Fiscal Year in the black. West Tisbury had turned off the heat despite the occasionally chilly spring.

Minutes Read and Approved (Agenda item # II)

SKIP MANTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 16, 2009 MINUTES AS AMENDED; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- Skip Manter noted that on p.3 of the April minutes after Excess and Deficiency (E&D) certification – money was not *required* to be returned to the towns.
- The summer resort season was beginning and minutes were likely to be delayed.

Superintendent's Report (Agenda Item # V.)

A. Town Meeting Update

All town meetings had reached a positive vote in regards to school budgets and regional inclusion. The UIRSC noted some Aquinnah hearsay on the Statutory versus Regional assessment formulas as well as a possible separate Aquinnah district supported by Federal Impact Aid.

B. ARRA Issues

The Commonwealth was facing a \$418,000,000 shortfall which would reduce the June 2009 UIRSD Chapter 70 payment by about \$88,000. To maintain level funding for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09), Gov. Patrick would use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to cover the shortfall. A grant application was required on short notice and had been completed and submitted by Business Administrator Amy Tierney over the weekend. This move would mean less such funds for FY10 and FY11. ARRA revenue continued to be delayed, reduced and unpredictable.

- FY10 Ch. 71 transportation reimbursement was likely to be at 40-50% (not 70-80%) and a similar reduction was predicted for Circuit Breaker revenue.

Principal's Report (Agenda item # IV.)

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

Principal Diane Gandy sent her apologies for her unavoidable absence.

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

• *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE THIRD ANNUAL WEST TISBURY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE OVERNIGHT AT FELIX NECK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN EDGARTOWN FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2009; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- Ten seventh graders would travel to Cape Cod to attend Non-Traditional Career Day.
- The upper level windows should be removed and repaired rather than caulked. Falmouth Architect Geoffrey Koper would draft specs.
- About 100,000 uninvited student termites had been discovered in the school due to a lack of galvanized steel flashing in the windows. County Pest Control Officer T.J. Hegarty had been very responsive and helpful, and the building was being checked for further infestation.
- The possibility of holding the contractor responsible for the lack of flashing was discussed particularly as the same contractor was currently renovating the West Tisbury Town Hall. The UIRSC considered various other funding sources for the repairs including the Terminix contract (see 3/27/00 Minutes p. 3 & 5/15/00 Minutes p.2-3).

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

A. Chilmark Head of School Process

The schedule and procedure for the final interviews was briefly reviewed. A UIRSC meeting to consider the final choice would be posted for Thursday, May 21st at 6:30PM. There was a brief discussion finding candidates within the MVPS and Marshall Segall quipped that he moved the Martha's Vineyard Public School become a single district.

Personnel

SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF PART-TIME CHILMARK AND WEST TISBURY SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER HOLLY PENNINGTON; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. (Ms. Pennington has been out on family medical leave for two years.)

West Tisbury School Lease

The lease should be signed and renewed each year and was a legal necessity for such things as grants, the wind turbine project, etc. It was proposed that the UIRSC lease the building but that the Town retain the termite.

• *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR MARSHALL SEGALL TO SIGN A LEASE ON BEHALF OF THE UP ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL FOR THE LAST YEAR OF THE EXTENSION; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• Roxanne Ackerman raised the issue of the MVRHS college oriented guidance counseling in regards to Wampanoag students. The UIRSC discussed factors and remediation including the new teacher evaluation process.

• Skip Manter raised a number of points.

- He requested UIRSC members look more closely at warrant bills and expressed discomfort with public perception for bills for refreshments for teacher / school celebrations.

- He protested the lack of West Tisbury representation in the Chilmark Head of School search.

• Tribal Education Director Heidi Vanderhoop was invited to send any Department bulletins to the UIRSD for distribution. In addition the UIRSD offered its assistance in grants and fund raising.

- The UIRSC again expressed their pleasure at the joint meeting and invited the community to attend all other UIRSC meetings.

• The next meetings of the UIRSC:

- 5:00PM Monday, June 29, 2009 at West Tisbury School

- Monday, September 21, 2009 at Aquinnah with WTGH(A) Ed. Community.

• Related Meetings/Events:

West Tisbury School Graduation – 6:30PM Thursday, June 18, at the Agricultural Hall

Chilmark School Graduation – 10:00AM Friday June 19, 2009 at the Chilmark School.

Adjournment

SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:51PM; DAN CABOT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

continued >

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Documents on File:

Agenda 5/18/09

UIRSD Sign In Sheet 5/18/09

UIRSD Expenditure July 1, 2008 to May 17, 2009

Expenditure Report General Fund – FY 2005-2006 (11 p.) 5/15/06

Education Department Newsletter

Ala Cart Lunch Program Fund Balance Report

Chilmark School Principal's Report (2 p.) 5/18/09

 Bell Tower Monthly Notes (2 p.) June 2009

W. Tisb. School Principal's Report 5/18/09

 W. Tisb. School Buildings & Grounds Report (2 p.) 5/18/09

Lease 9/30/08 – Town of West Tisbury (8 p.) 5/17/09

These Minutes approved as amended June 29, 2009.