

To: Bill Rossi, Warren Doty, Jim Malkin
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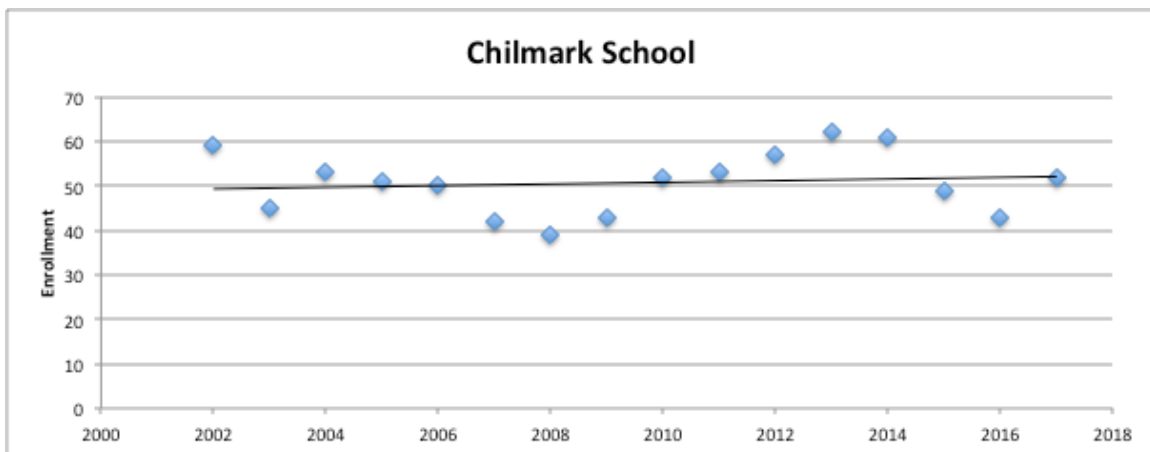
November 17, 2017

UIRSD Funding Formula Proposal

In thinking about a potential change to the current funding formula for the UIRSD, we start with two key assumptions:

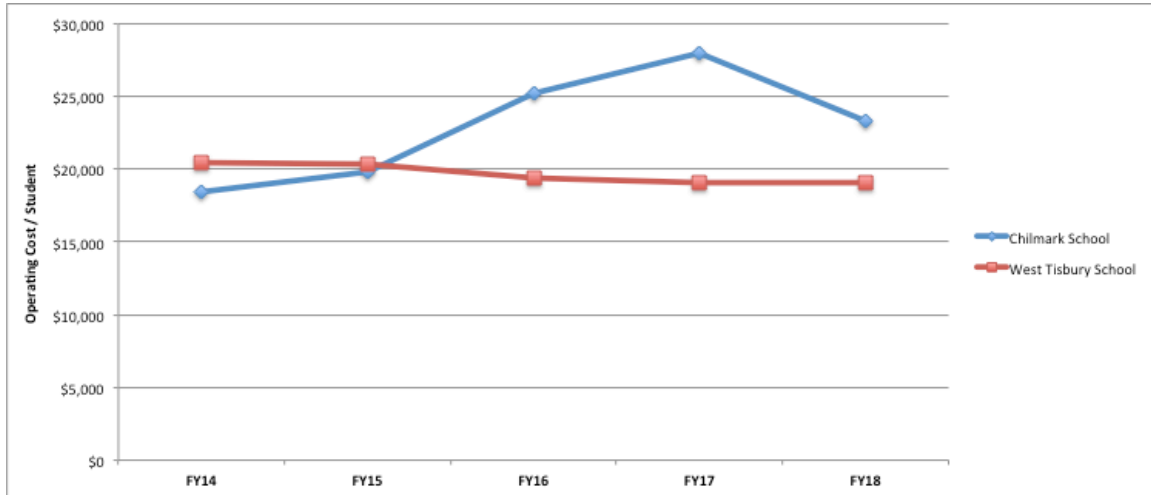
- As stated by Mr. Doty at the October meeting, the intent at the inception of the UIRSD was that the cost per student for the operation of each school would be essentially identical; and
- Any formula change to address a deviation from this cost equivalence should be as simple as possible.

As might be expected, enrollment at both schools has varied over the past decade. The number of students at the Chilmark School has varied from a low of 43 to a high of 62, but on average has been remarkably steady, as seen in the chart below:



Over the past 5 years, the operating cost per student at each school has also varied. Note that the operating cost per student for the Chilmark School has been higher than at the West Tisbury School for three of the last five years, and lower for two of the last five. During this period, operating costs have risen 6.1% for the Chilmark school and 18.4% for the West Tisbury school, reflecting the increasing student population of the UIRSD along with rising costs. This is shown in the chart on the next page.

		FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	
Chilmark School	Operating Cost (\$)	\$1,141,117	\$1,210,038	\$1,238,389	\$1,203,513	\$1,210,617	6.1%
	Students	62	61	49	43	52	
	Cost/Student	\$18,405	\$19,837	\$25,273	\$27,989	\$23,281	
WT School	Operating Cost (\$)	\$5,591,860	\$5,912,187	\$6,180,923	\$6,475,738	\$6,622,816	18.4%
	Students	274	290	318	339	348	
	Cost/Student	\$20,408	\$20,387	\$19,437	\$19,102	\$19,031	



Note that the difference in cost is not insignificant, and if it persisted, the first assumption we listed at the outset would be violated.

In keeping with the second assumption, we therefore propose that to alleviate ongoing concerns about the funding formula we do the following:

- In any year that the Chilmark School operating cost per student exceeds that of the West Tisbury School, Chilmark would absorb the additional cost (to be paid in the following fiscal year);
- Similarly, if the West Tisbury School operating cost exceeds that of the Chilmark School, West Tisbury (and Aquinnah?) would absorb the excess cost.

As a corollary to this proposal: the “appropriate” enrollment at the Chilmark School is ~60 students. The superintendent of schools should establish a program or programs that will achieve this result in partnership with the UIRSD. Most likely, such programs would not be simply incremental, but need to represent not-business-as-usual.