

**Tisbury School Committee /  
Tisbury School Advisory Council  
8:30AM, Tuesday, February 19, 2019  
Tisbury School Teachers Conference Room**

1

**TSC Members Present:** Chair Amy Houghton, Colleen McAndrews, Janet Packer,  
**SAC Members Present:** Jennifer Cutrer, Mary Gosselin, Rita Jeffers, Jim Norton,  
Krista Riley, Alice Robinson, Ashley Tarter,  
**Staff:** John Custer – Principal, Sean Mulvey – Assoc. Principal;  
Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent, Richie Smith – Asst. Supt.  
Natalie Krauthamer,  
**Others:** Melinda Loberg – Selectman, Jeff Kristal, Jynell Kristal - FinCom  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

\* Late Arrivals or early departures.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) and the Tisbury School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings were called to order at 8:38AM.

I. Approval of School Committee Minutes 12/10/2018, 1/8/2019, 1/14/2019, 1/28/2019

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. COLLEEN MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. JANET PACKER THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**
  - DECEMBER 10, 2018,
  - JANUARY 14, 2019, AND
  - JANUARY 28, 2019.

II. Approval of School Advisory Council Minutes 1/29/2019,

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 29, 2019 TISBURY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING WERE APPROVED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 8 ABSTENTIONS.**

III. Superintendent’s Report

A. Legislative Bulletin (See documents on file.)

The Governor’s Budget proposed: 1.5% Chapter 70 increase, altered Charter School reimbursement, slight Circuit Breaker increase, level funded Chapter 71 Transportation. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) would lobby for higher reimbursement rates.

B. All-Island School Committee (AISC) (See below: #IV.)

The March 25th meeting would focus on Superintendent goals for 2019.

#### IV. Superintendent's Evaluation (See below: Meetings/Events & Actions.)

- This year's evaluation was available on MVTV.
- Procedure was altered in keeping with the most recent MASC training.
- The AISC and AISC Personnel Subcommittee performed the evaluation. Ms. McAndrews was the Tisbury representative and Ms. Houghton was the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) representative.
- Instead of four elements Superintendent Matt D'Andrea would be evaluated on all 50.
- The AISC changed the timeline to January/December.
- Local/Regional districts were asked to propose three goals for the AISC to consolidate.
- The current goals focused on:
  - Special Education (Shillinglaw MVRHS recommendations, Project Headway, Shared Services, and building based education);
  - Security (Tisbury School initiative that resulted in Martha's Vineyard Public Schools' (MVPS) contracting with Synergy)
  - Health/Wellness (MedStar Report and implementation of recommendations).
- The TSC considered the **special education** goal should be continued for at least one more year, both to: solidify the programs, and to hear/respond to the February audit.
- Similarly the **health/wellness** goal was just starting to be implemented.
- There was general agreement that the security focus should be shifted to **facilities**. Supt. D'Andrea agreed noting a number of current and imminent projects: MVRHS, Tisbury School, MVRHS athletic campus, and other local projects.
- Supt. D'Andrea requested an academic goal and **enrichment** such as science/technology/art/math (STEAM) was suggested.

#### V. Facilities Report

- The Martha's Vineyard Educators Association (MVEA) working with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) had lodged a mold/mildew concern. The MTA consultant toured the building for four hours and gave the following account to be followed by a formal report.
  - The state of the building made testing futile and remediation unfeasible. A comprehensive rebuild or renovation (not just sealing the building envelope) was necessary to counteract the moisture and rectify ventilation. This was in agreement with other knowledgeable or expert opinions: Nauset Engineering, Turowski Two Architects (T2) and Tisbury Facilities Director Kirk Metell.
  - She also noted other serious health and/or safety issues. She had only seen one other school in such poor shape and it no longer existed.
  - She would contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).
- The TSC and SAC discussed the issue at some length.
  - The report along with DPH involvement would be a further incentive for a swift comprehensive School Project timeline; although there was also some apprehension regarding MTA and DPH action.
  - Under the circumstances the \$410,000 mold/mildew article should be withdrawn.
  - The next step was to move forward with the completion of possible renovation/addition feasibility, design and Owner's Project Manager.
  - Finance Committee (FinCom) Chair Jeff Kristal reported there were a number of borrowing articles on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant. One of which was a

building stabilization fund to accumulate capital for large projects.

- The \$122,000 article for gym/wall, front entrance and classroom floor repairs was necessary, even in a short timeframe, and should remain.
- T2 had considered ~ \$400,000 sufficient for completion of a renovation/addition feasibility study and Mr. Kristal thought that Town Administrator Jay Grande had been in touch with them.
- The original \$800,000 Feasibility article had a \$70,000 balance and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursement was \$340,000.
- There was a discussion on the politics of the article regarding:
  - requesting a large amount of money for an as yet undefined project;
  - various article options and ballot implications;
  - requesting repeat/additional feasibility moneys for the Tisbury School project,
  - urgency and practicable timeframes.
- Selectman Melinda Loberg stated she was informed she could not attend TSC meetings in any official capacity but could report back to the Selectmen.
- It was agreed the Union representatives and TSC would meet with the Selectmen at their next meeting and a tentative alternate TSC meeting date was set in case it was needed (see below: Actions & Meetings/Events)
- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY WITHDREW THE \$410,000 MOLD/MILDEW REMEDIATION ARTICLE AND INCREASED THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ARTICLE TO \$810,000; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

## VI. Financial Report

### A. Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Budget (See documents on file.)

This draft showed the health insurance rate reduction for the Supt. Shared Services Office and the vote to cancel the \$100,000 School Choice Fund commitment. The FinCom requested the TSC reconsider the School Choice Fund commitment.

- The TSC expressed their disappointment regarding the recent confusion and communications breakdown over the facilities budget (see 2/4/19 Minutes) and exhibited some trepidation regarding Town communications reliability.
- School Choice enrollment and therefore revenue was at its lowest point in eight years, and was unpredictable. The current Fund balance was \$340,000 of which \$100,000 was committed to the FY19 budget.
- The School Project was at least two to three years away, Town vote on renovation/addition was unknown and in the meantime repair/maintenance draws were likely to be heavy (see below: #C).
- In addition a reserve was needed for other large unexpected costs such as residential placements.
- The TSC could commit some School Choice funds as an act of good of good faith towards the Town.
- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE-APPROVED THE TISBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AT \$7,158,555.22 AS PER DRAFT #5G INCLUDING \$50,000 COMMITMENT FROM SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS: 2 AYES, 1 NAY—MS. HOUGHTON, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Later in the meeting, the Crossing Guard line was questioned (see 11/13/18 Minutes p.3 #IV B & below: Actions).

B. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

C. Maintenance Budget

Maintenances lines were currently \$20,000 in deficit.

D. Donations Receipt (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED A \$500 DONATION FROM FAIRWINDS MARINE LLC, FOR TISBURY SCHOOL LIBRARY PLAYAWAY BOOKS; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—JANET PACKER due to conflict of interest.**

## VII. Personnel

A. Leave of Absence (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MS. LAURA BERNARD STARTING FEBRUARY 11, 2019 AND ENDING APRIL 12, 2019; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) WITH SADNESS AND BEST WISHES THE RESIGNATIONS OF:**

- VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER EMILY ANDERSON,

- INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER JAMES HICKEY;

**AT THE END OF THE 2018-2019 CONTRACTED SCHOOL YEAR.**

- Apologizing for being slower than the Island rumor mill, Associate Principal Sean Mulvey announced his intention to accept a MVRHS Guidance Counselor position. He expressed his sadness at leaving the School and a job where he loved coming to work each day, and stressed how much he would miss the people he worked with.

## VIII. Principal's Report

A. School Events (See documents on file.)

This was Random Acts of Kindness week. MCAS testing would start April 2nd.

B. Correspondence (See documents on file.)

- Principal John Custer sent a letter of thanks to Dan Tritle of WCAI for his visit.
- Assistant Supt. Richie Smith had been researching the reasons for the drop in Tisbury School Title One grant—FY20 funding would be less than half FY19 funding. It seems the grant was dependent on the percentage of response to a random American Community Survey (see below: Actions). He and Tisbury School Financial Administrative Support Professional Rachel Hickey had been advocating strongly for reconsideration.

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 10:21AM.**

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- TSC/BOS – 5:00pm, Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – Town Hall
- FinCom – 6:30pm, Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the EMS Bldg.
- TSC – 8:30am, Friday, February 22, 2019 at the Tisbury School
- MVRHSC - 5:00pm, Monday, March 4, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
- **TSC – 8:30am, Monday, March 12, 2019 at the Tisbury School**
- AISC Personnel Subc. – Tuesday, March 19, 2019
- AISC - 5:00pm, Monday, March 25, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
- SAC - 8:30am, Tuesday, March 26, 2019

**Appendix B: Actions**

- All – contact Ms. McAndrews or Ms. Houghton with any Supt. evaluation input.
- Prin. Custer/Chair Houghton – contact Selectmen re: tomorrow’s meeting.
- Prin. Custer – research protocol and if possible post emergency meeting
- Prin. Custer – contact Police Chief re: Crossing Guard expenses.
- Prin. Custer – educate parents and inform MVPS cabinet re: Title One American Community Survey

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 2/19/19
- Tiger Tales February 2019 (5 p.)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2018-2019 2/14/19
- Tisbury School Site Budget Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (4 p.) 2/14/19
- Tisbury School Events
- Burke letter to WCAI Dan Tritle 2/12/19
- Anderson letter of resignation
- American Community Survey
- Town of Tisbury, Town Clerk memo re: ATM (4/9/19) Non-Appropriating, STM (4/9/19) (3 p.) 2/22/19
- Legislative Bulletin re: Governor’s FY2020 Budget Proposals: H1 (2 p.) 1/24/19
- MVEA Health and Safety Committee has heard back...
- Tisbury School FY’20 Budget Analysis Draft #5F February 19, 2019
- Laura Bernard Leave of Absence request email. 2/7/19
- Hickey letter of resignation 2/13/19
- Anderson letter of resignation 2/13/19

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

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Marni Lipke – Recorder

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Date

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Amy Houghton – TSC Chair  
*Minutes approved as amended 3/12/19*

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Date