

Tisbury School Committee
8:30AM, Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Tisbury School Conference Room

1

TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton*, Colleen McAndrews, Janet Packer,
Staff: John Custer – Principal, Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent,
Amy Tierney – Business Administrator,
Shannon Carbon, Liz Bradley,
Others: Melinda Loberg – Selectman, Jeff Kristal, Jynell Kristal – FinCom
Siobhan Mullin – PTO, Rachel Orr,
Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late Arrivals or early departures.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 8:31AM.

I. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2019 and March 26, 2019

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. COLLEEN MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. JANET PACKER THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2019 AND MARCH 26, 2019 MEETINGS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

V. Town Meeting

A. Warrant Article 9

(See documents on file & Minutes: 1/14/19 & 3/26/19 & 4/3/19.)

- This article would be reduced on Annual Town Meeting (ATM) floor from \$800,000 to \$400,000. To approve the measure a yes vote was needed on the accompanying Ballot Question 2—which did not specify an amount.
- The change was prompted by the combination of two articles and other late developments. The TSC and Selectmen agreed that any substantial emergency repairs would be handled in other ways. It was decided a position letter would likely only confuse matters.
- Facilities Director Kirk Mettell would address any questions on Article 8j \$122,000 for immediate repairs.
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Co-President Siobhan Mullin would speak to Article 5m \$100,000 for Tisbury School Playground Improvements (see 11/13/18 Minutes p.2 #A), emphasizing the need to serve all students, present as well as future.
- Two other articles could have ramifications for the school:
 - Special Town Meeting (STM) 5 amending the wording of the Building Stabilization Fund to include new construction;
 - ATM Article 14 for \$400,000 to fund Building Stabilization Fund.
- A little later in the meeting it was noted that the Selectmen would discuss the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) action to use Excess & Deficiency (E & D) for track and infield design, and would decide whether the issue warranted a STM (see 3/25/19 MVRHSC Minutes).

- MVRHS Principal Sarah Dingleddy would speak to ATM Article 30 \$297,656 for the MVRHS Feasibility Study article.

B. Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Budget

Principal John Custer would answer any questions at ATM on the FY20 Budget.

III. Facilities Report (See documents on file.)

A. Department of Public Health (DPH) Visit

A representative familiar with the Island was scheduled to survey the School while it was in session on Thursday, April 11th. Rooms would be tested for CO₂, particulates, temperature, relative humidity, etc. and the building would be inspected for evidence of water damage and sources of respiratory irritants. The Report would be sent to the Town and the Superintendent's Office, and if requested, the representative would come to answer questions (see below: Actions).

- The DPH did not advise mold testing and remediation as unreliable and expensive. Instead the recommendation was to address moisture as the root cause.
- The TSC emphasized that this would be another source of information and was not to be viewed as a possible condemned building/school closing. Many remedies could be as simple as opening windows or eliminating scented candles.

• Chair Amy Houghton marked this special day as Colleen McAndrews last TSC meeting, saluting her amazing work and accomplishments for Tisbury and the School. Her commitment went beyond showing up for meetings, including outside advocacy, visiting other schools, and dedication to Town needs. The number of hours spent in School and Town meetings equaled the time it takes to drive across the country five and a half times. The TSC saluted her with flowers, applause and a plaque. A school-wide appreciation ceremony featured written notes from students and showed their attention to TSC actions. Ms. McAndrews thanked everyone and spoke to:

- the honor of serving the Town and the Island,
- the importance of the children;
- the quality of her possible replacement, Mr. Michael Watts.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. All-Island School Committee (AISC) – No new meeting date set.

B. School Choice

As recommended by Superintendent Matt D'Andrea:

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING AS A KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

The TSC praised Supt. Matt D'Andrea excellent 2019 Goals (see 2/19/19 Minutes p.2 #IV), showing passion for his interests despite the comprehensive nature of the process.

IV. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- The School Choice balance was ~ \$242,000.
- Business Administrator Amy Tierney reported that Town Accountant Suzanne Kennedy had returned both the Feasibility/Schematic Design residual, and the Security residual to the Town General Fund. Ms. Kennedy had been informed that the Security residual was reserved for the Synergy emergency kits (see 5/9/17 Minutes p.3 #C & below: Actions).
- The Revolving School Lunch deficit would be covered by State Reimbursements.

B. Donation Receipt Request (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED \$600 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STRIPED BASS DERBY FOR USE FOR THE TISBURY SCHOOL STUDENTS AS SEEN FIT BY THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

VIII. Principal's Report

A. School Events (See documents on file.)

- Students were working hard at the English/Language Arts (E/LA) MCAS tests, which were in progress, with Math MCAS still to come.
- Upcoming events included Parent/Teacher conferences and vocal concerts.
- The Computer Club transitioned into the more specialized Code Club.

B. Personnel (See documents on file.)

The following positions were in the advertising/interview process:

- Vocal Music Teacher,
- Industrial Arts Teacher,
- Health/Wellness Teacher
- Associate Principal

Prin. Custer appreciated staff's early notice, which facilitated the hiring process.

1. Health Teacher Position (See documents on file.)

Attrition of 2.5 Teacher and Education Support Professional (ESP) positions, allowed some budget space, and consequently after researching options and scheduling Prin. Custer decided to change the two half time health teachers (see 11/13/18 Minutes p.3 #IV B) to a stronger full time position. The aggregate saving would be \$17,000 plus a benefit package (~ \$25,000). The position required Massachusetts health teacher certification. All other Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) had health teachers with the exception of the Oak Bluffs School, which might require alternate sources due to budget restrictions.

2. Request to Extend Personal Leave of Absence (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED WITH BEST WISHES A LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION FROM APRIL 13 TO JUNE 30, 2019 FOR LITERACY SUPPORT TEACHER TAMZIN PARTRIDGE.**

Adjournment

- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 9:08AM.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- Tisbury Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday, April 9, 2019
- Tisbury Town Ballot – Tuesday, April 23, 2019
- MVRHSC - 5:00pm, Monday, May 6, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
- **TSC – 8:30am, Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Tisbury School**

Appendix B: Actions

- Prin. Custer/Supt. D’Andrea – send DPH Report link and/or summary in newsletter.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/9/19
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2018-2019 4/8/19
- Tisbury School FY’20 Budget Analysis Draft #5G February 19, 2019
- Tisbury School Events
- Tiger Tales April 2019 (4 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Inc. check 3/8/19
- Partridge/Custer emails re: request to continue leave 3/21/19

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 5/7/19