

Tisbury School Committee
8:30 AM, Monday, July 29, 2019
Tisbury School room 308

TSC members present: Chair Amy Houghton, Janet Packer, Michael Watts.

Staff: Catherine Coogan, Nurse; John Custer, Principal;
Matthew D'Andrea, Superintendent; Rita Jeffers, Teacher;
Emily Levett, Teacher; Richard Smith, Assistant Superintendent.

Town: Melinda Loberg, Selectman.

Others: Siobhan Mullin, PTO; Nevette Previd, parent.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 8:34 AM.

Ms. Houghton stated the desire and intention of the TSC to ensure appropriate preparation of the school facility before the return of students in September. She clarified a priority of having testing conducted for asbestos and lead, per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Indoor Air Quality Assessment. She stated that Town Facilities manager Kirk Metell confirmed finding a contractor able and willing to perform the testing, and is hoping to have a date scheduled this week. Mr. Watts offered that it would be important to know the anticipated timeline between conducting testing and the delivery of a report of findings. Ms. Packer suggested that, in the meantime, it is important to consider plans for possible relocation of classrooms, should report findings require remediation work. Mr. Smith agreed that it would be proactive to consider such options at this time. The TSC clarified this exploration as "brainstorming" ideas at this time. Ms. Houghton acknowledged the availability of past reports and information to reference, stating that air quality in the school could be dependent on changing conditions in the facility.

Ms. Houghton suggested a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and TSC to further discuss current conditions, possible needs, and funding such needs. Ms. Loberg stated that she would reach out to other members of the Board of Selectmen to schedule a date for this meeting. [Later, the meeting was scheduled for Tuesday August 6 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.] Ms. Coogan offered that it might be important and helpful for the Tisbury Board of Health to also be involved in such discussions. Mr. Custer clarified that the Board of Health is the agency that he refers to regarding any health and safety issues, and stated that the Board of Health, Building Department, and Fire Department all conduct annual inspections of the school. Ms. Loberg stated the need for the Board of Health to apply existing standards.

Ms. Mullin requested that the TSC and school administration consider communicating to parents an update, following receipt of the DPH report. Mr. Custer stated that he would create a letter and send to TSC members for approval and editing, then send to parents. Ms. Previd reminded the TSC that this work, while guided by the TSC, is the town's responsibility. Ms. Houghton responded that the TSC would enlist the help of Town Hall to consider possible necessary emergency funding, including a Special Town Meeting.

continued >

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted by John Custer.

John Custer – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 8/12/19