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Tisbury School Committee 8:30AM, Wednesday, July 15, 2020 By Zoom Conferencing

TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,

Staff: MVPS/Tis. John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal;

Matt D'Andrea – Superintendent, Richie Smith – Asst. Supt.

Mark Friedman – Interim Business Manager, Nancy Dugan - Student Support Co-Director,

Meredith Goldthwait, Rita Jeffers, Natalie Krauthamer,

PTO - Siobhan Mullin,

Town: Town Administrator Jay Grande, Planning Bd. - Ben Robinson,

Others: Colleen McAndrews, Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late arrivals or early departures of TSC members

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 8:35AM. (Recorder's note: some discussions are summarized and re-grouped for clarity and brevity.)

II. School Committee Membership

A. Welcome New Member

The TSC welcomed newly elected member Ms. Jen Cutrer.

- At the end of the meeting the TSC welcomed former TSC member and former TSBC Chair Ms. Colleen McAndrews.

III. Superintendent's Report

B. Re-Opening Task Force (See documents on file.)

Superintendent Matt D'Andrea reported on State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) guidelines for September 2020 school year opening. To accommodate any possible changes during the year three plans were requested by July 31st:

- all in-person learning;
- all remote learning at home;
- hybrid learning, students in buildings and at home in shifts.

In order to promote consistency across the State, the Commissioner of Education requested school districts refrain from early commitment to a plan. Further guidelines, changes and flexibility were expected. Legal counsel and the Attorney General's Office had been consulted. The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) had formed a Task Force which was broken up into working groups that included wider community experts, parents and/or students:

- Teaching/learning, Social /emotional,
- Special Education/English Language Learners (ELL),Health/wellness,Technology,
- Food service, Transportation.

Supt. D'Andrea rather liked the MTA phased approach:

- Phase 1 teachers in classrooms learning new building routines and schedules, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), etc.
- Phase 2 teachers reaching out to individual families regarding: learning expectations,
 PPE use, etc.
- Phase 3 all or partial students return to the building for a six week trials, getting students comfortable with new routines;
- Phase 4 evaluation and ramp up of academics.

This model would require some contract and legal modification since the first two phases could not be counted as part of the '180 days in learning'.

- Letters would be sent to parents throughout the process and there would be weekly open Zoom forums for family questions, however the MVPS was being very careful not to share misleading speculation.
- The Town, TSC and Administrators had been consulting on space needs assessment to accommodate social distancing requirements and had determined the building could not accommodate 290 students at the minimum 3 ft. intervals (actually an Islandwide problem). Various models were being discussed including trailers (which had a substantial lead time).

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) - An early August meeting was planned. A policy statement on the Black Lives Matter movement had been in discussion and would be on next AISC agenda.

IV. Financial Report (See documents on file.)

A. Donation Receipt Requests

Mr. Ernie Boch Jr. generously donated \$10,000 to the MVPS lunch program, and Island Grown Initiative (IGI) was also very generous in their support.

- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) AND WITH MUCH APPRECIATION ACCEPTED INTO THE REVOLVING LUNCH ACCOUNT
- \$2,000 FROM ERNIE BOCH JR. AND
- \$3,200 FROM ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE;

MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED \$100 FROM BARBARA ARMSTRONG FOR ANTI-RACIST CHILDREN'S BOOKS; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

MVPS Interim Business Manager Mr. Mark Friedman thanked Tisbury School Administrative Support Professional (ASP) Rachel Hickey for her support and documents. This was the deadline for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) activity. There would be an approximate \$72,000 savings at year end, with some additional residual from the Superintendent's Shared Services assessment.

- There was very little activity in the first two weeks of FY21.
- The Tisbury School received \$44,000 in Federal CARES Act funding, further State funding for Covid expenses was in process but unknown.

- This was a very busy time for grants. The Supt. Shared Services was transitioning to new Grants Coordinator Ms. Cheryl Taylor at 0.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE). Oak Bluffs School (OBS) financial ASP Ms. Denitsa Alton would oversee the MVPS CARES Act funding.
- The TSC and Principal John Custer discussed purchasing supplies for the coming school year. Some PPE had been ordered, however desks and furniture presented a complex problem, that hinged on which model was actually implemented. For example: rooms would have to be largely emptied of current furniture and re-configured for social distancing;
- in-classroom accessible spaces would have to be found for materials and PPE storage;
- the School had no space to store any un-used student and/or teacher desks, tables, etc. The TSC strongly recommended proactive ordering whatever was needed before they became unavailable (storage containers, tents, supplies, trailers, etc.).
- Commendations went to School Nurse Ms. Catherine Coogan who was very helpful, and to Prin. Custer and Assistant Principal Melissa Ogden for yeoman's work in the current unpredictable situation as well as through the difficult year starting last August.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

A. April 14, 2020

B. June 23, 2020

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2020 MEETING AS WRITTEN AND JUNE 23, 2020 MEETING AS AMENDED FOR A TYPO; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—ABSTAIN, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE. Ms. Cutrer was not a member at that time.

II. School Committee Membership

B. Sub-Committee Assignments

After a brief discussion of its members:

- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND ASSIGNMENTS:
- MS. HOUGHTON AS CHAIR;
- MS. HOUGHTON AND MR. WATTS AS MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES;
- MR. WATTS AS TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE;

MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

V. Maintenance

A. Update on Project

In partnership with Tisbury Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Mr. Kirk Metell, new Head Custodian Mr. Kenny Ponte, Tisbury Building Inspector Ross Seavey, and Board of Health Agent Maura Valley, the following projects were noted:
- exterior painting – completed,

- front steps completed,
- re-grading the Williams St. side in planning process,
- custodian survey and interior painting/repair work in process,
- drywall repair interior investigations for the school building project in process;
- annual service on unit ventilators in planning;
- main building roof repair in planning.

The TSC expressed their appreciation for the Town participation.

VI. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Report (See website: http://www.tisbury-school-project.com.)

- There was confusion and a bureaucratic glitch in TSBC appointments. Town Administrator Jay Grande explained the original appointment slips signed by the Select Board had a June 30, 2020 expiration date. At yesterday's July 14, 2020 meeting the Board administratively extended the appointment to allow a 60 day window to coordinate and make final decisions on any changes in the terms or appointments; and he asked the TSC as co-sponsors to affirm the extension. The TSC suggested extending the term to the completion of the project, however the TSBC composition might change as the project entered different phases.
- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO FOLLOW THE SELECT BOARD'S LEAD AND EXTEND THE CURRENT TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 60 DAYS WHILE THE SELECT BOARD AND TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFERRED ON THE TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.
- The TSBC looked at initial pricing (\$51,000,000 and \$54,000,000) for two of the three basic concepts, both of which preserved the historic building and met the Education Plan. In view of:
- reduced massing on Spring St.,
- the prominence of the Historic Williams St. facade,
- better internal traffic flow, and
- sinking the gym to the parking lot level,

the TSBC voted to endorse Concept 3, the more expensive of the two designs. The TSBC made this decision so the architect could move forward in refining the design and price, which could not be done while considering three competing concepts.

- The TSC discussed the implications of Covid-19 changes in education spacing. The new project posited an average class size of 18 students (see 5/12/20 Minutes p.4 #A), and the current range was 11 to 22 students per section. In addition the design would provide flexible media/library/common as well as small group hallway spaces that could be used to accommodate some overflow.
- Prin. Custer was seriously concerned and focused on safely and appropriately educating Tisbury students during the construction phase of the project.
- TSBC was working to surmount significant Covid-19 obstacles to public input and forums. For example, members were holding conversations with Town residents (rather than surveys) to get a better flavor of taxpayer opinions.

Adjournment

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 9:36AM: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- TSBC 5:00PM, Monday, July 27, 2020 Zoom
- MVRHSC TBD 5:00PM, Monday, August 3, 2020 Zoom
- TSC TBD

Appendix B: Actions

Prin. Custer/Mr. Grande – consider pro-active ordering of storage, furniture, etc.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 7/15/20
- Island Grown Initiative check 6/24/20
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School check 6/29/20
- Armstrong note and check 6/17/20
- D'Andrea letter re: MVPS fall school re-opening (4 p.) 7/15/20
- News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education On the Desktop – June 10, 2020 (2 p.)
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Fall Reopening Frequently Asked Questions, as of July 10, 2020 (5 p.)
- Tisbury School Expenditure Řeport Fiscal Ŷear 2019-2020 (8 p.) 6/18/20

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.	
Marni Lipke – Recorder	Date
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair	Date