

Tisbury School Committee
4:30PM, Tuesday, October 13, 2020
By Zoom Conferencing

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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,
Student Support Co-Chair– Nancy Dugan,
Deb Conroy, Natalie Krauthamer, Nicole Shirley,
MVEA – Anne Davey, PTO - Siobhan Mullin,
Town: FinCom – Jynell Kristal,
Others: Tony Peake, Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late arrivals or early departures of TSC members

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:37PM.
(Recorder’s note: some discussions are summarized and re-grouped for clarity and brevity.)

- While expressing their thrill at seeing students back in school, the TSC strongly acknowledged how much work, effort, patience and care went into making the reopening as smooth and safe as possible.
 - In response to many questions about in-person TSC meetings, Chair Amy Houghton explained that steady efforts were underway to find space and technology for public access meetings—the School itself being no longer feasible due to Covid-19 restrictions on visitors and space needs.
- See also below: Actions.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JEN CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING AS WRITTEN: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

II. Superintendent’s Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The previously scheduled AISC meeting was delayed for a week to allow for further work on testing, reopening next steps, etc. As infection rates continued to be low, Administration was meeting with the Cabinet and Health/Safety Committee on expanding in-person learning.

- Ms. Houghton emphasized that contrary to press reports the AISC was very supportive and vested in regular MVPS Covid testing and the Testing Advisory Committee was working hard to get the logistic details in order (see documents on file & 10/8/20 AISC Minutes p.1-2 #IV A)

B. Policy

1. Mask Policy - 1st Reading (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE FIRST READING OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL FACE COVERINGS/MASKS POLICY; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

IV. Financial Report (See documents on file.)

A. Fund Balances

Although this report reflected the Town had not yet rolled over Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) balances, there were funds in accounts such as:

- ~ \$89,000 in the Manter fund,
- ~ \$183,000 in School Choice, and
- just under \$3,000 in Revolving Lunch.

B. Grant Funding

Negative line items showed spending from the General Fund pending grant reimbursement (see 8/19/20 Minutes p.3). Tisbury shares of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) CARES Act grants were:

- \$44,052 Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) of which \$22,735 was spent on personal protective equipment (PPE), \$15,000 on additional cleaning/cleaning supplies, and other miscellaneous overheads.
- \$92,250 School Reopening of which \$48,944 went to ordering Chromebooks, iPads, and maybe Hotspots; other spending on Nurse's office reconfiguration and an indirect covid position.
- the competitive Remote/Tech went to ordering 23 Chromebooks for a School total of 119—although orders were nationally backlogged. Credit went to School Technician Sue Leonard for her hard work preparing devices and coordinating with families. All students had devices and need diminished as students returned to in-person learning.

- Interim MVPS Business Manager reviewed the FY21 Budget status.
- A \$14,000 Computer Software overage was probably Covid-related.
- Teachers Salary Increments showed the results of a Tisbury, Edgartown and Oak Bluffs Schools Cohort D consolidation/collaboration to engage one teacher for each grade level, of which Oak Bluffs and Edgartown were covering three, Shared Service one, and Tisbury agreed to cover one—which required an outside hire. The TSC asked about the contract whether it was one-year-only, extendable three-month or temporary, and if no longer needed if it could be terminated.
- Bus cleaning costs would be allocated to local shares (see MVRHSC 10/5/20 Minutes p. 4 #F).
- Transfers and resources were being determined to maximize grant funding.

C. School Choice Funding Request

This was the easiest way to pay FY20 Front Line Education translation service invoices.

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE WITHDRAWAL OF \$703.60 FROM SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS TO PAY FRONT LINE EDUCATION INVOICES; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

D. Student Activities Fund Transfer Request (See below: Actions.)

As usual there had been extensive fundraising for the eighth grade class trip to Washington, DC, which was canceled due to the pandemic. Some had been spent on celebrating the eighth grade class and graduation. MVPS sought legal advice and found wide latitude for use of such funds. Parents supported this transfer of the remainder (including \$1,200 gifted from the previous eighth grade class).

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE TRANSFER OF \$10,168.44 FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT FOR THE CLASS OF 2020 TO THE EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT FOR THE CLASS OF 2021; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE TRANSFER OF \$17.16 FROM THE SEVENTH GRADE CLASS ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT TO THE EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

E. COVID Testing Program Funding - Tabled

V. C. Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) Capital Planning

A Town cabinet meeting of Department Heads raised some FY22 budget issues.

- Treasurer Jon Snyder considered the Town to be in fairly good financial standing with reasonable real estate tax collection rates—although Meals and Lodging revenue was not yet reported.

- Town staff might be asked to forego salary increases.

- Prin. Custer was consulting with Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Director Kirk Metell, Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Mr. Richard Marks and Town Administrator Jay Grande on prioritizing projects and funding needed to be good stewards of the building. For example, Mr. Alan Fortes was researching new technology to improve ventilation. The sliding door was functioning adequately. There was a brief discussion on use of Town Capital Improvement Stabilization funds.

- Department draft budgets deadline was December 21st for a somewhat condensed budget process. Principal John Custer would meet with Mr. Friedman next week.

III. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Report (See below: Meetings/Events.)

• Thanks went to Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) President Siobhan Mullin for her hard work on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) application. The joint PTO/TSC playground improvements application for \$300,000 would reduce the overall cost of the school project (see documents on file). Two previous awards totaling \$200,000 were not spent due to 2019-20 complications: August 2019 lead issue, Covid-19 pandemic and the continuing school project; so it was hoped the money could be banked beyond the three year CPC limit.

• After many iterations and concepts and many tweaks and revisions the TSBC voted to move to the Design Development phase which would allow for firmer cost estimates. The current concept:

- added an Administrative wing on the south side with secure entrances;
- maintained the current front entrance;
- demolished the existing gym to bring a new gym/auditorium down to the parking lot level for easy access and lower massing along Spring St.
 - The public was invited to a joint TSBC/TSC/Selectmen/Finance Committee meeting on a presentation of the project and the cost estimate, after which a number of public forums were planned. Community outreach/engagement was very hard to implement due to covid restrictions on public gatherings and remote technology accessibility issues. The TSC discussed a three dimensional model and alternatives that might reduce cost (and time) better spent on other project aspects.
 - Prin. Custer contacted the TSBC, Town and Superintendent, on the paramount issue of temporary school housing for 300 students and 75 staff during 18 months to 2 years of construction since the extent of the renovation prohibited occupation.
- Neither the High School nor Tisbury School were willing to repeat the previous split.
- Although some students would enjoy the construction project, the best solution would be to move to a different site, allowing both the School and the project greater autonomy, efficiency, safety and flexibility.

V. Principal's Report

A. Re-Opening Report

Prin. Custer praised the staff for their continued work and adaptability as the successful reopening continued. It felt good to have students in the building again although everything was very different—even sharpening pencils had to be re-imagined. Students had been adaptable and happy.

- However there was an ongoing struggle with inadequate space and it would not be possible to put 300 students in the building at 6 ft. distancing. The gym had already been reconfigured into a first grade classroom.
- So far about 15 students were consistently using the buses—much lower than normal. Parents were encouraged to continue with alternate transportation.
- Tisbury School had 27 Cohort C students and 21 in Cohort D—although Prin. Custer advocated all 10 of the Cohort D middle school students to remain with their classes—counting non-attendance on the one in-person day per week as an excused absence.

B. Enrollment was constantly changing but currently at 300 students.

Adjournment

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 6:05PM: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- TSBC – 5:00PM, Monday, October 19, 2020 – Zoom
- TSC/TSBC/Select Board/FinCom – 5:30PM, Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – Zoom

continued

Appendix A: Meetings/Events (cont.)

- AISC – 5:00PM, Thursday, October 22, 2020 - Zoom
- MVRHSC – TBD - 5:00PM, Monday, November 2, 2020 – Zoom
- TSC – 4:30PM, Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – TBD

Appendix B: Actions

Ms. Houghton/Ms. Kristal – request a Selectmen attendance at TSC meetings.
 Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – invite Mr. Metell and Mr. Grande to next TSC meeting.
 Prin. Custer – send capital repair project list to TSC.
 Ms. Kristal – research spending from Town Capital Improvement Stabilization.
 Prin. Custer – transparency and/or forbearance in fundraising businesses for the 2021
 8th Grade trip.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/13/20
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Coverings/Masks Policy (2 p.)
- Vineyard Gazette article: All-Island School Committee Scraps Testing Plan (3 p.)
10/9/20
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 10/13/20
- Tisbury School – Expenditure Report Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (11 p.) 10/13/20
- Amount, Description, Vendor, Category, Budget Line....
- Final Application – Town of Tisbury Community Preservation Committee, Tisbury
School PTO (4 p.) October 2020
- Frontline Invoice (3 p.) 6/1/20
- Snyder email re: Capital Planning for FY2022 (2 p.) 10/2/20

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

 Marni Lipke – Recorder

 Date

 Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

 Date

Minutes approved 11/10/20