

Tisbury School Committee
4:30PM, Tuesday, November 10, 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,
Sue Adamo, Laura Bernard, Julie Brand, Emily Crossland,
Sean DeBettencourt, Arik Goff, Meredith Goldthwait,
Kelley Hayes, Rachel Hickey, Natalie Krauthamer, Kari Leal,
Emily Levett, Mollee Lewis, Maria Metters, John Mode,
Nicole Shirley, Ashley Tartar, Jane Taylor, Esther Teves,
Laura Weisman, Anne Williamson, MVEA – Nedine Cunningham,
PTO - Siobhan Mullin,
Town: Selectman – Jeff Kristal, Town Administrator – Jay Grande,
DPW Director – Kirk Metell, FinCom – Jynell Kristal,
Press: MV Times – George Brennan,
Others: Cathryn Bernard, Maia Coleman, Jessie Merriam, Marco’s,
Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late arrivals or early departures of TSC members

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:35PM. Chair Amy Houghton thanked the staff for working with smiles through difficult times.

II. Superintendent’s Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

(See documents on file & 11/5/20 AISC Minutes p.2-3 #III A.)

- The AISC approved a new testing protocol and Administration was working on a contract and fundraising.
- Positive Covid-19 tests were at the Tisbury and Edgartown schools and at Project Headway, however Administration was confident that the cases were contracted outside of school with no in-school spread, due to careful compliance with all guidelines. Reopening timeframes had been slightly adjusted and the situation was being closely monitored.

B. Mask Policy - 2nd Reading

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE SECOND 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.**

C. Student Census (See documents on file.)

MVPS enrollment was 2,151 down 20 students from last year, with the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School up about 30 students to 701, while most

elementary/middle schools were down for a total of 1,450; Tisbury was down to 272 from 288.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. JEN CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 AND OCTOBER 20, 2020 MEETINGS: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

V. Principal's Report

A. In Person Expansion for Grades 5-8

In consultation with the Health/Safety Committee the Principal John Custer proposed expanding the re-opening plan starting November 30th as follows: Grades 5 and 6 would alternate with Grades 7 and 8 attending 5 days a week from 8:15AM to 2:40PM, one week in person and one week remote learning.

- The TWC asked about the start date timing, which was set by number of factors:

- necessity of moving fixtures and preparing rooms now in use by other classes;
- staff feedback;
- end of the first marking period and partial/full weeks/holiday breaks.

- Originally Cohort D (full remote) contained about 10-11 students, however in the last two weeks staffing problems had developed, some of which could be solved with livestream technology.

- The one-week-on-one-week-off schedule advantages were; full week consistent instruction and minimizing classroom changeovers from one class to the next.

- The School did not survey parents as to family needs but the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) transportation survey included a question on switching cohorts with the expanded opening. A significant uptick in Cohort D was not expected, although this might change if infection rates continued to rise.

- Health/Safety Committee and School Nurse Catherine Coogan endorsed the re-opening noting the week to week switch off was easier for cleaning/disinfecting.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE TISBURY SCHOOL EXPANDED REOPENING PLAN AS PRESENTED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.

A. Modular/Supplemental Space

The primary reason for the alternating weeks was that the school could not accommodate 271 students plus staff at 6 ft. distance, and consequently Principal John Custer asked that the TSC consider modulars as a middle school alternate (minimum 4 classrooms) if the Covid-19 situation continued. Experience from September 2019 was that modulars had a 9 months to 1 year order/install timeframe and were expensive.

C. Capital Planning (See 10/13/20 Minutes p.3 #V C.)

A rudimentary plan was submitted to Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Kirk Metell and Town Administrator Jay Grande. All items were reflected in the

Existing Conditions Report so Mr. Metell and Building Inspector Ross Seavey struggled with what could be remediated that would not be “undone” in the larger school project.

- Existing estimates on the renovation/addition project did not separate work on the original building, but the TSC greatly increased the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) maintenance budget, and the Town was holding the September 2019 environmental relocation article residual (see 9/18/19 Minutes)—which included funds for modulars.

III. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Report

(See below: Meetings/Events & Actions.)

The TSBC was working on public and governmental outreach. A joint meeting was planned with the Finance Committee on November 18th and another was being discussed with the Planning Bd. They were looking at two public informational sessions (hopefully with MVTV taping) on a Monday or Tuesday at the MV Film Center (which already had spacing and technical equipment set up). Videos and virtual tours were being prepared to be widely posted showing the flow of how people moved through the building and why various choices were made.

IV. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

Balances had been rolled over from FY20.

- The FY21 **General Fund** had not changed much from the previous report (see 10/20/20 Minutes p.2 #IV B). The projected Cohort D teacher overage might be covered by one or two other teacher salary vacancies.
- The tent was rented through June 30th. Side flaps were installed (see below: Actions).
- The **Revolving Lunch** deficit was due to delayed State/Federal reimbursements. The Fund began FY21 with a \$9,000 rollover balance.
- \$29,668 in **Circuit Breaker** funds was held in reserve. So far there were no expected Residential Placements.
- There were no recent draws on the \$187,129 in **School Choice**—which would have to cover any unforeseen expenses as there was no contingency reserve.
- Later in the meeting: **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BYMS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE WITHDRAWAL OF \$19,899 FROM SCHOOL CHOICE AS THE TISBURY SCHOOL SHARE OF THE TESTING PROGRAM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. AMY HOUGHTON—AYE.**

B. Grant Funding Update

The School received CARES Act funds as follows: ~ \$44,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER), ~ \$92,000 in School Reopening, plus technology.

C. Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Draft Budget

(See documents on file & below: Actions.)

As a “people-driven” budget this level serviced first draft dialed forward current (October 2020) enrollment and staff for a \$177,206 or 2.31% increase: contractual 2.25%-2.75% negotiated raises, steps, lane changes, longevity (slight decrease), etc. It did not include: the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office budget, transportation or maintenance changes, as all were still unknown.

- The School received about \$130,000 in Covid related grants which were not likely to continue into FY22.
 - The Town was looking for level serviced budgets with only emergency increases and had asked for Department FY22 drafts by December 21st.
 - With so many unknowns the School would not be able to dedicate School Choice funds to reducing it's budget (see 2/2/19 Minutes p.1 #I).
- The TSC comprehensively thanked not only the staff but Prin. Custer and Assistant Prin. Melissa Ogden for their amazing work over the last months and recent school reopening, expressing pride (but not surprise) at their dedication and life modeling. Thanks also went to the Tisbury families for their patience and cooperation.
 - Ms. Houghton suggested that the school review its communications to increase methods and account for various literacy levels.

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:54PM: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- TSBC/FinCom – 6:30PM, Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, December 7, 2020
- TSC – 4:30PM, Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – Zoom

Appendix B: Actions

- Prin. Custer/Mr. Friedman – report what line item includes tent rentals.
- Prin. Custer – consider parent survey on expanded reopening.
- Prin. Custer/Mr. Watts – coordinate early modular exploration with TSBC.
- Mr. Watts – include finances with all TSBC presentations on the school project.
- Prin. Custer/Mr. Friedman – identify what FY22 budget areas need adjustments
- with a separate list of Covid-19 related expenses.
- Prin. Custer – consult Ms. Leah Palmer on school communications.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/10/20
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Face Coverings/Masks Policy (2 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Enrollment Census Worksheet
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 11/10/20
- Tisbury School – Expenditure Report Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (11 p.) 11/10/20
- Friedman cover email re: Finance Materials – Tisbury School Committee Meeting 11-10-20
- Tisbury School FY'22 Budget Analysis #1.0 Draft 11/12/20
- Tisbury School Budget for 2021/2022 Draft #1 November 10, 2020 (Shared Services vote on XX XX XXXX) (6 p.)

continued

Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.):

- Tisbury School Employee List for 2021-2022 Proposed Budget (3 p.)
- Amount, Description, Vendor, Category, Budget Line, Source, MVYPS...

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 12/8/20