

Tisbury School Committee
4:30PM, Tuesday, December 8, 2020
By Zoom Conferencing

1

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, Natalie Krauthamer,
Laura Bernard, Meredith Goldthwait, Rachel Hickey, Emily Levett,
Mollee Lewis, Nicole Shirley, Jane Taylor, Anne Williamson,
PTO - Siobhan Mullin, SAC – Melissa Larsen,
Town: FinCom – Jynell Kristal,
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 regretted not being able to send out holiday cookies like former TSC Chair Colleen McAndrews.

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 NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

II. Superintendent’s Report

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

• The next meeting would cover the Superintendent’s Shared Services Office Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget, as well as updates on reopening and testing status.

C. COVID Testing Program

The program was progressing well, obtaining funding, and continuing negotiations with Miramus for asymptomatic testing. The Martha’s Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) were awarded 2,400 Federal/State Dept. of Education (DOE) BinaxNow 15-minute result symptomatic tests for use by school nurses, and training was in progress.

B. Mask Policy - 3rd Reading

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

V. Principal's Report

A. Personnel

1. Maternity Leave Extension Request (See 6/23/20 Minutes p.2 #IV A.)

Ms. Cutrer disclosed Ms. Kavanaugh was her niece.

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGED EXTENSION OF MEDICAL LEAVE UNANIMOUSLY FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MS. EVAN KAVANAUGH TO JUNE 30, 2021; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

B. Re-Opening Plan Adjustment

After much reflection, space preparation, schedule adjustments, staff dedication and reconfiguration, the original phased reopening for grades kindergarten (K) through 4 moved fairly smoothly. The November 30th phase for in-person middle schoolers requiring the same space, schedule and staff preparations was paused when Island Covid-19 infection rates spiked. In addition the middle school in-person one day a week attendance dropped and was discontinued in consultation with staff, leaving grades 5 through 8 students fully remote. Principal John Custer fully acknowledged the disappointment and frustrations as well as the burden on families.

- Superintendent Matt D'Andrea reviewed other MVPS status—paused part way into middle school reopening—with grades 5 and 6 in-person full or partial weeks. Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) President Siobhan Mullin spoke for parents about the frustration with this inconsistency, especially when added to a second year of multiple Tisbury School disruptions—demonstrating Town failure to support its students.

- Fourth Grade Teacher Meredith Goldthwait reported the Tisbury School 6 ft. distancing was both very tight and very tricky to manage, pleading for the health and safety of the staff. As infection numbers rose, class attendance dropped. Social distancing also curtailed student and staff collaboration, socializing and teamwork.

• The TSC suggested that a reopening target date (such as January 11th) might be helpful to parents/family. The discussion ranged over a number of issues:

- continuing space restrictions making middle school reopening difficult;
- testing progress to assure staff and families but not to reduce Health/Safety

Committee commitment to consistent MVPS 6 ft. social distancing;

- pursuit of temporary space—noting expense, location and months of lead time for modularity, problems of splitting the school again, etc.;

- contact tracing demonstrating lack of in-school spread;

- remarkable complexity of each decision with constantly changing factors and so many unknowns;

- pride in the quality of the remote learning;

- continuing discussions and search among administrators and with the Town for Tisbury School solutions.

IV. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances

(See documents on file.)

• A ~ \$29,000 Circuit Breaker balance was higher than usual.

• School Choice funds (~ \$191,000) were used in place of contingency lines in other MVPS budgets—often spent on facility issues, residential placements, etc.

- The Tisbury School Building Committee put in a request for funds to cover outreach and other budgeting (see below: Actions). The TSC referred the request to the Town.

B. Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Draft Budget

(See documents on file, 11/10/20 Minutes p.3-4 #IV C & below: Actions.)

The TSC and Administration thanked Administrative Support Professional (ASP) Rachel Hickey and Interim MVPS Business Manager Mark Friedman for their work during this high-pressured time. The following were noted as building off the previous level service draft.

- There were no additional staffing modifications (with the additional School Nurse included from FY21).
- Transportation budgeting was based on pre-pandemic scheduling.
- Other small adjustments included: recorder costs for more meetings, custodial supplies, nurse substitutes, technology, etc.
- Low enrollment at 272 students (although somewhat volatile) would result in a decrease in the Tisbury assessment of the FY22 Supt. Shared Services Office budget—even with substantial increases needed to address Office deficiencies.
- The Shared Services negative assessment balanced the 2.3% contractual raise for Draft #2.0 of \$124 or 0.0% budget increase.
 - Possible further expenditures (none very significant) might be:
 - \$9,000 for student data management software;
 - instructional supplies (different spending timing this year, some already having exceeded their budget);
 - Covid resources.
 - The TSC and staff highlighted the lean educational budget and advised caution.
 - The maintenance line was needed for aging building issues—for example so far there were no new leaks in the repaired roof after the heavy rains.

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

- The TSBC met once. Discussion continued around the temporary school;
 - clearly heard reluctance, stress and liabilities of a split school;
 - negotiations for the Educomp building with the temporary school on Veterans field;
 - financial consultant advice to bond temporary school cost separately and to spread out construction costs.
- The TSBC was scheduling meetings with other Town Boards: Planning Board, Finance Committee (FinCom), and Historic Commission.
- Outreach was difficult with the current infection spike restricting indoor gatherings. 2-4 minute videos were being prepared for continual access including 3 dimensional walk-throughs of the new design, how scope and costs were reduced, etc. There was some disinformation being aired that needed to be countered.
- The PTO Community Preservation Committee (CPC) application granted another \$100,000 to be banked towards new playground/landscape costs.

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 6:02PM: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

continued >

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, December 10, 2020
- TSBC – 5:30PM, Monday, December 14, 2020 – Zoom
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, January 4, 2021
- MVRHSC Public Hearing – 7:00PM, Tuesday, December 22, 2021
- TSC – 4:30PM, Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – Zoom

Appendix B: Actions

Mr. Watts/Prin. Custer/Mr. Friedman – confer re: TSBC funding.
 Prin. Custer/Mr. Friedman – add modest Covid-19 FY22 budget placeholder re: half year additional nurse, cleaning, technology, tent rental, etc.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/8/20
- Tiger Tales November 2020 (7 p.)
- Tisbury School FY'21 Budget Analysis Draft #2 12/10/19
- Friedman cover email re: Tisbury FY22 Budget Materials – Version #2 12/7/20
- Tisbury School FY'22 Budget Analysis #2.0 Draft 12/8/20
- Tisbury School Employee List for 2021-2022 Proposed Budget (3 p.)
- Tisbury School Budget for 2021/2022 Draft #2 November 10, 2020 (Shared Services vote on XX XX XXXX) (6 p.)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 12/7/20
- Tisbury School – Site Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (4 p.) 11/7/20

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

 Marni Lipke – Recorder

 Date

 Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

 Date

Minutes approved 1/12/21