

Tisbury School Committee
4:00PM, Tuesday, May 25, 2021
Tisbury School Conference Room

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,
Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal,
Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent, Richie Smith – Asst. Superintendent,
Mark Friedman – Business Manager, Ruda Stone
Meredith Goldthwait, Anne Williamson,
Town: Moderator Deborah Medders, TSBC – Reade Milne,
Others: Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order 4:03PM. Chair Amy Houghton apologized for the previous meeting’s quorum failure and last minute cancelation.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JEN CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT):**

- MARCH 9, 2021 AND

- APRIL 13, 2021;

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

II. Superintendent Report

A. All Island School Committee (AISC) - was finished meeting for the school year.

B. COVID Testing Program

The program would run through the last week of school. Eliminating vaccinated individuals, the number of tests dropped to about 650 per week and had shifted to focus more on younger students. Testing for summer programs was being considered—funding might be available.

- Graduation guidelines were revised twice. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) graduation would be on June 6th on the varsity baseball field.
- Four of six Town Meetings were completed, with positive support for schools.

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- After the year of universal free lunches, the Revolving School Lunch was in deficit (as anticipated) ~ \$18,000, which would grow slightly for the remainder of the year.
- The School Advisory Committee (SAC) suggested the robust Manter Fund balance be used to purchase new shoes for Tisbury students in need (its original mission) and many families had taken advantage of the opportunity.
- School Choice fund balance was ~ \$366,000.

B. Grant Funding

The School had been the grateful recipient of many State and Federal COVID related grants. Martha’s Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) was monitoring the possible distribution of the third phase of Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) grants.

B. Gift Receipt (See documents on file.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY WITH GRATITUDE ACCEPTED THE \$700 GIFT FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STRIPED BASS AND BLUEFISH DERBY SANCY PACHICO YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

- It would assist students and families in need on field trip costs, summer camps, etc.

V. Special Town Meeting (STM)

A. School Project Warrant Article

Town Moderator Deborah Medders outlined the protocol for Town Meetings.

- Tisbury Town Meetings were not run on Robert's Rules but by a procedural book from the 1600s laying out minimal and simple bylaws giving authority to the citizens (rather than to the Town representatives or officials). Consequently Ms. Medders took her queues from the Town Meeting floor. The elected Moderator position had fairly simple principles:

- to conduct and complete town business in an orderly and fair fashion; and

- to protect the rights of the minority.

- The single Article would be read; the sponsors would speak, followed by a 10 minute informational presentation by resource professionals; Towns people would pose questions/ comments from the microphones, and a 2/3 majority vote would be taken by standing count.

- Without screened visuals the presentation would be difficult and brochures would be important—with regulations on what could be distributed as part of the STM and what could be distributed outside the meeting.

- Agencies, Committees and Boards wanting to go on record as supporting the Project were usually seated as a group in the front of the Meeting.

- Those coming to the mics took it upon themselves to delineate whether they were speaking as individuals or as representing the views of a Town Board or Committee.

- If a representative spoke for a Board but outside that Board or Committee's purview, the Moderator might look to the floor to sense other Committee members or might clarify the issue to the speaker.

- The Moderator expected the debate would include a lot of information, passion, and advocacy. She was not likely to allow any prolonged back-and-forth and would wait to call the vote until emotions were somewhat calmed.

• She advised that those who were knowledgeable from working on the Project for many years, be in line at the microphones to correct any misinformation as promptly as possible. Questions would be referred to Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Chair who could refer it to the professionals if necessary.

- The Article referred only to whether the Town would approve borrowing \$55,000,000 for the Tisbury School Project, and she expected Town Treasurer Jon Snyder to be present as a resource. The article did not include language on design, whether it should be new or renovation/addition, etc. Consequently, although allowing some debate since it was logical for people to want to know how the money was being spent, Ms. Medders was likely to bring focus back to the article.

• Sometimes opinion shifted during the course of a Meeting from heavy support to opposition, and the Moderator, possibly sensing the change might come back to the sponsors for any parting or final words.

- The TSC thanked Ms. Medders and TSBC Representative Reade Milne for their time, patience and information (see below: Actions).

IV. Principal's Report

A. Personnel

1. Resignation

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY WITH GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE AND WITH REGRET ACKNOWLEDGED THE RESIGNATION OF FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE AND MATH TEACHER ERIC GOFF AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

B. Re-Opening Update

Administration and staff agreed it was wonderful to have the School together and back on the master schedule, although students were still in cohort grade levels without much hallway movement, for example lunch was still in the classrooms or outside picnics. Significant space challenges resulted in such things as no access to dedicated unified arts classrooms. Staff considered this one of the easiest transitions in the last 2 years. Students were acclimating well, and it was hoped that further restrictions would be lifted for the 2021-22 school year.

- There were only 4 students left in Cohort D (see 4/14/21 Minutes p.2 #IV B).
- The TSC noted the large number of Island students getting vaccinated.

C. School Events

Prin. Custer and the TSC noticed the pleasure of having school events back on the agenda with increased field trips, community engagement, and other fun events.

- MCAS tests were in progress for third-eighth grades from May 11th to June 11th.
- Although there would not be the traditional March to the Sea there would be an on-campus Memorial Day ceremony on Friday, May 28th.
- The Tabernacle was very graciously hosting several MVPS elementary school graduations.

VI. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Report

There would be a community forum today at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center, which would include Zoom participation and be broadcast on MVTV.

- The TSC was impressed and inspired by walking through the school with TSBC Chair Harold Chapdelaine explaining the project design that used the many transitional spaces and fit a larger school into compact space, preserving a maximum of open space as well as the historic building. The design also skillfully negotiated light not only to get daylight into rooms but also to manage it so as not to obscure computer and white board screens. Other creative innovations with proven efficiency and usefulness included the media-center/library and cafeteria transverse.

VII. Staff Report – Nothing new to report.

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:15PM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- Tisbury School Project Public Forum – 6:30PM, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 – MV Film Center
- MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 7, 2021 – Zoom

continued >

Appendix A: Meetings/Events (cont.):

- TSBC – 5:00PM, Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Zoom
- Tisbury School Graduation – 5:00PM Wednesday, June 9, 2020 - Tabernacle
- STM/ATM – TBD 12:00N June 12, 13, 2021, 4:00PM June 14, 2021
- TSC – 3:00PM, Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – Zoom

Appendix B: Actions

Ms. Houghton/Mr. Custer/Mr. Watts – consider a super-joint School Project meeting before STM.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/25/21
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 5/10/21
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 5/24/21
- Custer/Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, Inc. letter re: Sancy Pachico Youth Scholarship 5/4/21
- Tiger Tales May 2021 (5 p.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 6/15/21