

Tisbury School Committee
3:00PM, Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Tisbury School Outdoor Space

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,
Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Assoc. Principal;
Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent,
Richie Smith – Asst. Superintendent
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,
Student Support – Nancy Dugan,
SAC: Wiet Bacheller, John Custer, Sean DeBettencourt,
Meredith Goldthwait, Mary Gosselin*, Kelly Hayes, Rita Jeffers,
Emily Levitt, Nicole Shirley, Jane Taylor,
Others: Marni Lipke

* Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC or SAC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order 3:14PM. Chair Amy Houghton welcomed everyone and especially the School Advisory Council (SAC) to this first in-person meeting and thanked all who made it possible.

- The SAC did not achieve quorum.

I. Approval of Past Tisbury School Committee (TSC) Meeting Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JEN CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 25, 2021 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

II. Approval of Past Meeting School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes – Tabled

Staff Report

- Staff/SAC members spoke of the 2020-21 school year (SY20/21), in particular, after April 26th when the entire school returned to in-person, full day learning (see 4/13/21 Minutes p.2 #IV B), when instruction was able to travel in a fairly dense timeframe. Staff and students were challenged by changing classrooms, resource re-location, etc. but staff had prepared for the push and students were very receptive so the School was able to maximize the situation. For example a teacher used lunch time to show science videos. Students were encouraged to do their best on MCAS tests and staff worked to prepare them for the move to the next grade.
- SAC and TSC discussed possible scenarios and continued summer meetings, if the coming ballot vote for the new school passed. Temporary school status was still undecided:
 - professionals currently projected a January 2022 move-in date;
 - the West Williams St. site presented some difficulties and cost increases;
 - extent of the space and accommodations would be cost dependent;
 - use of residual funds from the 2019 article was being debated (see 2/9/21 Minutes p.4).

III. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Matt D’Andrea congratulated the TSC on the first Martha’s Vineyard Public School (MVPS) in-person meeting.

C. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Guidance

Current DESE guidance was for SY21/22 to be in-person without any restrictions.

B. COVID Testing Program

This was the last week of student testing with the exception of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) sports teams.

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

An individual land purchase in West Tisbury included negotiations for MVPS staff housing—in partnership with Island Housing Trust (IHT). The issue would go before the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and an AISC meeting might be necessary in the near future.

- New AISC Chair Kate DeVane was working with Supt. D'Andrea on coming together in a positive supportive way.

D. Non-Union Personnel FY2022 Salary Recommendations (See documents on file.)

As these individuals received no FY21 raises due to pandemic financial uncertainties the current 4.5% request constituted 2 years of increases. The TSC commended all administration and staff as more than deserving.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TISBURY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AS PROPOSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- The revised Fund Balances showed the latest School Choice deposit for a healthy \$245,600.

- Circuit Breaker and the Manter Fund also showed good balances.

- Revolving Lunch was currently \$17,822 in deficit (see below: B. Transfers).

- The General Fund was expected to finish the year with a surplus.

- The \$366,000 residual in the 2019 Special Town Meeting (STM) Article (see above: Staff Report) might be used for the temporary school, or for other school projects pending the ballot vote. Sometimes the Town repurposed Article account residuals.

B. Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget Line Transfers (See documents on file.)

The unique pandemic year left substantial balances in some lines (e.g. off-Island field trips) and unexpected deficits in others (e.g. nurse's supplies). Thanks went to MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED \$281,025.79 TOTAL END-OF-YEAR BUDGET TRANSFERS FROM THE DELINEATED RESIDUAL LINES TO THE DELINEATED DEFICIT LINES AS LISTED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TRANSFER UP TO \$20,000 FROM THE TISBURY SCHOOL GENERAL FUND TO COVER STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNT/REVOLVING LUNCH FUND DEFICITS AS FINAL EXPENSES AND REVENUES INDICATED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

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 ACKNOWLEDGED WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER MR. RAY FALLON AS OF JUNE 30, 2021; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

The position was advertised however Mr. Fallon accepted a MVRHS post and three other MVPS elementary schools were advertising for instrumental music teachers. The schools were communicating with each other but each hiring process was unique.

2. Anticipated New Position(s) in School Year 2021-22

Principal John Custer proposed one-year-only Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funded positions: 1 classroom teacher and 4 education support professionals (ESPs).

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED CREATION OF APPROPRIATE POSITIONS CONTINGENT ON RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDING; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

3. Hiring Announcement

• SY20/21 was a hard hiring year and candidate pools continued to be significantly fewer than previously (see above: Resignations).

• Two positions were filled:

- Ms. Dulcie Rutherford for the 1,400 hr. Administrative Support Professional (ASP)—Ms. Esther Teves and Ms. Rachel Hickey shared the duties during SY20/21.

- Ms. Jen Demire as the new English Language Learner (ELL), formerly of Oak Bluffs School.

- Later, in her final TSC meeting, everyone acknowledged Student Support Co-Director Nancy Wigglesworth Dugan's retirement with best wishes, personal thanks and applause.

B. School Events (See below: Actions.)

- Prin. Custer was happy to be able to report in-person events: local field trips, a day at the beach, the Strings Concert, student project presentations, etc.

- Students, parents and staff had a wonderful time at Eighth Grade Graduation at the Tabernacle—which Prin. Custer found he preferred to the School gym. The Campground Association were welcoming, responsive hosts (see documents on file).

• After a fragmented year of constantly differing conditions, Administration and staff were glad to be inching back to standard practice and were looking forward to the summer break.

VI. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Report

- The STM presentation addressed questions and issues raised by the community during many TSBC public forums.

- The TSBC would hold one more public forum (see below: Meetings/Events).

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.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

• Tisbury School Project Public Forum – 6:00PM, Wednesday, June 16, 2021

• MVRHSC – 5:00PM, Monday, June 21, 2021

• Ballot/Election - 8:30AM-4:30PM Thursday, June 17, 2021 & 7:00AM-8:00PM Tuesday, June 22, 2021

• TSC – TBD

continued >

Appendix B: Actions

Mr. Custer – send thank you letter to Campground Association (see documents on file).
Ms. Houghton – contact other MVPS school committee chairs re: letter gratitude for support.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/15/21
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 6/11/21
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2020-2021 6/15/21
- Tisbury School FY21 Year End Requested Year-End Budget Transfers & Actual Cafeteria Transfer, June 15, 2021
- D’Andrea/ Superintendent of Schools memo re: Management and Non-Union Salary Adjustments 6/15/19
- Custer thank you letter re: Graduation hosting 6/14/21

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 9/14/21