

Tisbury School Committee
4:00PM, Tuesday, February 14, 2023
Emergency Services Facility and
by Zoom Conference Remote Access

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,

Others: CHA – Michael Owen,

Staff: John Custer – Principal, Asst. Principal – Melissa Ogden,
Superintendent Richie Smith

Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,

Hope MacLeod – Student Support Director, Anne Williamson,

Press: Louisa Hufstader -Vineyard Gazette,

* Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:03PM.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – Tabled

II. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Richie Smith reported a threat received by the Edgartown School, in concert with several other schools across the Commonwealth. Edgartown Police Chief Bruce McNamee deployed officers and the School was locked down and searched, after which classes resumed. All Island schools (including Montessori and Charter schools) and all Island Police Chiefs were informed. Police were present at schools' start and dismissal. A federal investigation was in process for what was likely a hoax. School Committee members would be informed of any further developments.

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

At the next AISC meeting Supt. Smith would solicit input from school committee members (on multiple committee roles, TSC, AISC, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC)) on tangible and intangible programmatic, systemic and other Strengths, Weaknesses and Threats (SWAT) for an analysis to be consolidated into an April report to inform a Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) strategic plan.

B. Shared Services Update (See documents on file.)

This month's newsletter outlined the referral and graduation process for Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Special Education (SpEd) students, with more user-friendly information at the refurbished webpage: www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/sped/eligibility-guide/index.html#/. A clear distinction was made between those struggling to work to grade level and those in need of an individualized program to address physical, developmental, or emotional challenges.

• The TSC asked about the referral timeline. Guidelines were:

- an evaluation within 30 days of referral, and

- a team meeting (including parents) within 45 days of evaluation.

The MVPS Superintendent's (Central) Office had recently been unable to meet the deadlines due to spiking demand after the pandemic and to staffing shortages

especially for the school psychologists—a new hire would start shortly. However as the recommended services were provided during the process, it was felt the delays were not obstructive.

- Most IEP/SpEd referrals happened in the early grades Kindergarten (K), 1st and 2nd. Socio-emotional referrals were more likely to happen in middle and high school grades.

III. Financial Report

Fund Balances

(See documents on file, & below: Actions & 1/10/23 Minutes p. 2 #III B.)

The error in the Circuit Breaker line would be corrected. The TSC asked the Town Accountant to update the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) \$100,000 School Choice commitment.

Grants

The School and the MVPS received the usual Rural Education Assistance Program (REAP) application invitation—with an April deadline. Typically the \$20-30,000 grant augmented: academic support, Professional Development (PD) and staff licensing/certification, particularly in technology remediation for math and literacy. This year the REAP system was undergoing a vendor verification process, which was complicated for the MVPS by the Central Office/MVRHS fiscal agent protocol. A consulting company was hired for \$400 to facilitate the verification.

B. Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) School Budget Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) Review (See Minutes: 12/14/21 p.2 #III B & 1/10/23 p. 2 #III B.)

- The FinCom was supportive and thoughtful but had very few questions on this very basic FY24 School Budget.
- The Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) set health insurance rates at 3% which would reduce the Superintendent's Shared Services budget minimally (see below: Actions).

IV. Principal's Report

A. School Events

- Principal John Custer expressed his gratitude for all the MVPS hospitality in accommodating the Tisbury Junior High volley ball games and practices.
- Last week the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades viewed Rescued by Ruby at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center, a film won at auction and donated. The event was a great success and thanks went as always to the MV Film Center and Mr. Richard Paradise.
- September 2023 Kindergarten registration was in process.
- Teachers instigated an open house tour of the temporary school for parents and community members.

B. American Legion Post #257 School Cafeteria and Kitchen

Prin. Custer thanked Joanne and Brian Murphy for their generous cooperation, Building Inspector Ross Seavey for his oversight and management and all the contractors for their work. Students started eating lunch at the Legion on Monday, January 9th and the kitchen opened a week later. This was a lasting gift for the School and the Legion, including all new equipment and renovations. The kitchen layout and dining space were larger and more efficient than the school's old facilities.

C. US. Coast Guard (USCG) Partnership in Education Program

Over the years the Tisbury School welcomed many Coast Guard family students, usually in 3-year stints, and were sad to lose them as they rotated out. Now, Captain Stephen White and Officer Justin Harris had applied for the formal USCG Partnership in Education Program: Coast Guard volunteers on reading day, tours of the station and other programs that could be requested by teachers. The TSC greatly appreciated the opportunities and thanked the Officers and the Menemsha Coast Guard Station.

V. Tisbury School Building Project Report

B. Project Update (See 2/13/23 Minutes.)

- Chair Amy Houghton related how a visiting student expressed her enthusiasm for the adventure of attending a temporary school and how her Tisbury School friend was excited to take her on an informal tour.
- Ms. Houghton again expressed her appreciation and commendations in working with the professional team: Owners Project Manager (OPM) CHA Projects and the Construction Manager (CMR) W.T Rich, and Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Chair Michael Watts. It was exhilarating to see the almost daily progress.
- A joint TSBC/TSC meeting (see 2/13/23 Minutes) thoroughly discussed roles and responsibilities, as well as exploring maintenance costs for the new school systems and building. It was clear a qualified facilities manager was necessary, and should be trained in the operators manuals and videos provided by the professional team.
- CHA was working hard to protect the Town financial interests. The Project was on schedule and within budget. This week there were two unexpected issues:
 - a stairway wall needing to be properly tied in;
 - rectification of simple shims used on uneven 1929 building metal roof beams.
- The underground oil tank was removed and the soil tested clean.
- The professional team continued to work with the abutters on the rain drainage problems around the temporary school (see 1/23/23 TSBC Minutes p.2).
- The landscape contract was finally signed, almost completing the procurement phase.
- The 1929 building windows would be removed next week.
- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. HOUGHTON AND SECONDED BY MS. JEN CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) APPROVED EXTERIOR MATERIALS RECOMMENDED BY THE TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE:**
 - ADMINISTRATION WING, UNIFIED ARTS WING AND GYMNASIUM; AND
 - GYM VESTIBULE, KALWALL, ROOF EDGES AND WINDOW FRAMES;
- **MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE.**
- Contents for the corner stone time capsule should be decided.

A. Approval of Project Invoices (See documents on file & below: Actions.)

The Eversource bill represented the Tisbury School portion of the additional line.

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. HOUGHTON AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING JANUARY 1 THROUGH 31, 2023 INVOICES TOTALING \$1,871,108.00 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:**
 - CHA DECEMBER 31, 2022 INVOICE FOR \$27,500.00,

- W.T. RICH DECEMBER 31, 2022 INVOICE FOR \$1,793,448.00,
 - TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS DECEMBER 31, 2022 INVOICE FOR \$48,125.00,
 - EVERSOURCE INVOICE FOR \$2,035.00;
- MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.

VI. School Staff Comments

Ms. Anne Williamson praised the TSC and reported how normal it felt in the temporary school with teachers and administrators making every effort to keep the scattered campus (4 trailers, cafeteria, etc.) as one school, including visiting grades, universal scavenger hunts, volley-ball in the green space and shared baked goods. Great activities were planned for Random Acts of Kindness next week.

- The crosswalk to the Town parking lot was now awkwardly situated towards the old school construction site and the parking lot was rather difficult to navigate (see below: Actions). Ms. Williamson thanked the TSC for their care.

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:59PM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- AISC – 6:30PM, Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - MVRHS/Zoom
- TSBC - TBD,
- TSC – TBD, 4:00PM, Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – ESF/Zoom
- TSB Warrant Sign-Off – March 29, 2023
- STM/ATM –Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – MVRHS PAC

Appendix B: Actions

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – print, sign, deliver invoices to Town Hall.

Prin. Custer – email Town Accountant re: \$100,000 School Choice FY23 budget transfer.

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – confirm 2023 Town Meeting dates.

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – contact Town/police re: parking lot/ crosswalk.

Supt. Smith/Mr. Owen – send Ms. Lipke the 2/24/23 TSC Minutes draft.

March Agenda:

- Minutes: 1/10/23, 2/13/23, 2/14/23
- Re-vote FY24 Budget as adjusted for health insurance
- Time Capsule Contents

Appendix C: Documents on File

- Agenda 2/14/23
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year: 2022-2023 2/13/23
- Tisbury Student Support Services Update (2 p.) February 2023
- Bracing for a Tidal Wave of Unnecessary Special Education Referrals (2 p.)
- Tiger Tales February 2023 (8 p.)
- Chat Messages
 - Louisa Hufstader - Vineyard Gazette Senior Writer 19:15 - sounds good thanks
 - iPhone 44:46 - Thank you. Will Share

continued

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 3/14/23