

**Tisbury School Committee**  
**4:00PM, Tuesday, May 9, 2023**  
**American Legion Post # 257**

1

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

**Others:** CHA Projects – Aditya Modi, Michael Owen,  
Tappé Architects – Chris Blessen, Toby Zaltsman,  
W.T. Rich – Evan Moore, Recorder - Marni Lipke

**Town:** Select Board – Abbe Burt,

**Staff:** John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal,  
Richie Smith – Superintendent,  
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,

Student Support – Hope McCleod, Meredith Goldthwait,  
Shannon Carbon, Natalie Krauthammer, Nicole Shirley,

**Press:** Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette,

\* TSC/TSBC members late arrivals or early departures

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:10PM. Chair Amy Houghton thanked everyone for their patience with technical difficulties.

- At the end of the meeting Ms. Houghton thanked the education community and Town for their support of her daughter, who had just graduated with a Masters in Public Health and was offered a position in her field.

II. Superintendent's Report (See below: Meeting/Events.)

B. Student Support Services Update

There was no newsletter this month as the Department was busy with the triennial Coordinated Program Review (CPR) audit focusing this year on Special Education (SpEd) and Civil Rights. The visiting delegation was impressed and inspired by the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) programs, including the Tisbury School despite its temporary quarters.

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

- Tonight's Aquinnah Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was the last of the season. Although the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District (MVRHSD) Regional Agreement Amendment and Feasibility Study had been passed, the MVRHSD Budget was still in play.

- Non-union salary adjustments based on previously discussed criteria (see 11/7/22 p.6-7 #X C), would be addressed in Executive Session at local June school committee meetings. The TSC asked for comprehensive information before the meeting (see below: Actions).

VII. Principal's Report

A. School Events (See documents on file & below: Meetings/Events.)

Students and staff were very busy with on- and off-Island trips, in-School presentations and end-of-year activities such as:

- incoming kindergarten parents meeting and tour of the temporary school,

- Wellness/Safety week with bike/rollerblade/walk to school, (drivers please be aware),
- traditional Memorial Day March to the Sea, and
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation at the Oak Bluffs Tabernacle—special thanks to the Campground Association.
- MCAS testing was just finishing, and teachers were asked to make recommendations for summer school.

## B. Personnel

### 1. Resignations

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JEN CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS AT THE END OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR:**
- **FIFTH/SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MR. COLE MACIEL-WINGATE, AND**
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MS. MONICA CAROLL.**

### 2. Hiring Update

- Administration was working on filling a number of positions from an applicant pool larger than last year.
- Current staff member Ms. Sarah DeBettencourt was hired as a full time permanent 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy Support Teacher to start next school year—the position had been vacant since December 2022.
- Other position interviews included:
- Instrument Music,
- one-year-only (OYO) 5<sup>th</sup> Grade English/Language Arts (E/LA) teacher,
- two OYO academic support teachers—one early elementary and one middle school,
- at least 2 Education Support Professionals (ESPs).

## IV. Financial Report

### A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

There were no concerns and the utility bills had stabilized (see 4/11/23 Minutes p.2 #IV A). There might be some residual to return to the Town at the end of the fiscal year.

- Principal John Custer expressed his appreciation for the Manter Fund, its donor Tim Manter, TSC permission to sell the land, and Town Financial Directors Tim McLean and Jonathan Snyder for investment oversight. This year funds covered lots of shoes and winter coats for students in need, as well as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington—families had not been able to fundraise.

### B. Grants – Nothing to report.

## II. School Building Project Report

Construction Manager Assistant Superintendent John Stevens was knowledgeable and funny on a tour of the old school with members of the press—who were intrigued by everything and took many pictures.

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

Owners Project Manager (OPM) CHA Consulting/Daedalus had thoroughly vetted all invoices.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE FOLLOWING MARCH 1 THROUGH 31, 2023 INVOICES TOTALING \$2,437,011.92 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:

- CHA INVOICE FOR \$45,000.00,
- W.T. RICH INVOICE FOR \$2,335,529.00,
- TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS INVOICE FOR \$48,125.00,
- BRIGGS ENGINEERING INVOICE FOR \$8,357.92.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE FOLLOWING APRIL 1 THROUGH 30, 2023 INVOICES TOTALING \$1,914,661.02 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:

- CHA INVOICE FOR \$45,000.00,
- CHA COMMISSIONING SERVICES INVOICE FOR \$4,650.24,
- W.T. RICH INVOICE FOR \$1,757,731.00,
- TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS INVOICE FOR \$97,625.00,
- KENNEY'S FOUNDATION (DRYWELLS) INVOICE FOR \$1,000.00:
- BRIGGS ENGINEERING INVOICE FOR \$8,654.78.

B. Project Update (See documents on file.)

• Including the above approved invoices, construction spending was 20% complete, OPM spending 40% and architect spending 65% complete, for a total 23% spending status (\$19,211,686 of \$77,000,000).

• OPM Mr. Michael Owen praised the great construction team, which was tracking its timeframe well.

- Project architect Ms. Toby Zaltsman was leaving Tappé Architects for a career in baking. She would be replaced by one of the original designers with Mr. Chris Blessen to provide continuity.

• The bulk of the work was on structural foundations and reinforcement for the footings and underpinnings of the existing building and the new gym wing. Steel was scheduled to start in early July.

- The 1929 building was being brought up to code including reinforcing floors and joists, roof work, and exterior lintel replacement on existing window openings. Insulation spraying would start in June.

• Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) Chair Michael Watts gave a big shout out to Mr. John Averill, Mr. Denver Maciel and Vineyard Cash & Carry for daily deliveries to the kitchen (due to lack of storage space at the American Legion Post).

• Ms. Houghton, Mr. Blessen, Town Administrator Jay Grande and Mr. Chris Andre discussed two directions of solar options.

- Town purchased array including installation, batteries, and maintenance (operational) costs would result in all savings and profit going back to the Town including any energy residuals sold back to the grid. However capital expenses (purchase, installation,

etc.) should be from an alternate funding source—without going back to ATM and Tisbury taxpayers.

- The Town could partner with third parties such as Vineyard Wind/Vineyard Power which would pay all up-front (capital) costs. The third party would own the array (possibly allowing for a 10-year Town buy-out) and get the profits, selling the energy back to the Town at a discounted rate. Vineyard Wind would pull power from batteries (paying for battery maintenance and replacement) and use fossil fuels if the batteries were exhausted.
- It might be possible to link with the Senior Center roof solar project.

C. Discussion and Possible Vote to Create Friends of Tisbury School 501(c)(3)  
(See 4/11/23 Minutes p.2-3 #V) – No progress to report (see below: Actions).

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (See below: Actions.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE APRIL 11, 2023 MINUTES: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**

Adjournment (TSC)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:58PM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events:**

- **Tisbury Ballot – Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – ESF Building**
- **TSC – TBD, 4:00PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2023 – TBD ESF-Hybrid**
- **Eighth Grade Graduation – 5:00PM, Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – OB Tabernacle**

**Appendix B: Actions**

Ms. Houghton/Supt. Office – research Friends of Tisbury School 501(c)(3).

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – send motion and invoices to Town Hall for payment.

Supt. Smith/Office – before June meeting send TSC non-union salary information on:

- Islandwide comparisons,
- number of staff Principals supervise,
- total compensation in figures & percentages for the past 3 years.

June TSC Agenda:

- Minutes: 5/9/23
- Report on Friends of Tisbury School 501(c)(3)
- Tisbury School Project – Solar Discussion and Possible Vote
- Executive Session – Non-Union/Contract Salaries
- Time Capsule Contents

Long term:

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – consider support teachers for FY25 budget

**Appendix C: Documents on File**

- Agenda 5/9/23
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year: 2022-2023 5/3/23

continued

**Appendix C: Documents on File (cont.)**

- Tisbury School Events (May 2023)
- Tisbury School, School Committee Meeting May 9, 2023 (4 p.)
- Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoices, For Period: March 01, 2023, – March 31, 2023
- Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoices, For Period: April 01, 2023, – April 30, 2023
- Tiger Tales May 2023 (9 p.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes approved 6/20/23