

Tisbury School Committee
4:00PM, Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Emergencies Services Building Conference Room

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,
Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal;
Richie Smith – Superintendent, John Stevens – Asst. Superintendent
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator, Kate Harding,
Town: Louise Clough – FinCom,
Others: Michael Owen – Daedalus/CHA, Steven Brenner – W.T. Rich
Marni Lipke – Recorder,
Press: Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette,

* Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:09PM. Chair Amy Houghton welcomed everyone.

VI. Tisbury School Building Project Report

B. Project Update (See documents on file.)

- Mr. Mike Owen of Daedalus/CHA Owners Project Manager (OPM) reported Tappé architect Mr. Chris Blessen toured the project and agreed all was going well. Furniture Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) was close to complete and the Team was working to get a meeting with Information Technology (IT) staff.
- Mr. Steve Brenner of W.T. Rich outlined the construction progress.
 - Exterior masonry was complete and windows were on site and being installed. Sheathing and framing for the administrative wing was complete and roofing was expected to be finished by the end of January.
 - The Interior 2nd and 3rd floors were being drywalled and taped. Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) was complete. Metal framing was in process on the 1st floor and ceiling painting had started. The ground floor electrical/mechanical slab was complete. Long lead items such as the boilers and switch gear were delivered and placed—elevator and crew were not expected until February. Painters would be on site this week and flooring would start February 1st. All 1929 ceilings would be exposed for an industrial look.
 - The new gym superstructure masonry veneer was almost complete, and slabs were in process as were the MEP roughs. Stair #3 from the ground floor to the roof was on site and being installed. The kitchen/cafeteria metal framing was almost complete—natural light would come from curtain walls and skylights. The new full sized gym was lighted with a kalwall and regular windows.
 - Site work included completed west and south side drainage, and all utilities on site—communication lines were brought across Spring St. during holiday break.
 - Variable weather and ferry cancellations could effect deliveries but the building had temporary heat so interior work continued.
- The Project had minimal neighborhood complaints and CHA and W.T. Rich did an excellent job when an abutter objected to the Spring St. closure.
- At 56% complete, the owner's contingency was still untouched and total allowances were about 2/3 spent (see 3/4/23 Minutes p.3 #V B). Total spending was at ~ \$40,000,000 with \$30,000,000 to go.

- As previously reported (see 12/12/23 Minutes p.2), the Team was saving enough for previously cut elements (such as motorized bleachers) could be returned to the project.
- The TSC stressed that choosing the Construction Manager At Risk (CMR) process was one of the Town's best moves, allowing more flexibility and opportunity through OPM/Architect/CMR teamwork and avoiding the entrepreneurial low bid process where companies strategized more for low bid than for quality.

III. 4:15PM PUBLIC HEARING

A. Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Tisbury School Budget Discussion and Possible Vote to Certify

(See documents on file & Minutes: 11/14/23 p.5 #C1, & 12/12/23 Minutes p.4-6 #V C.)

- Chair Amy Houghton opened the Public Hearing at 4:30PM.
- Version #3 came in at \$9,249,866, a \$ 938,946 or 11.3% increase.
- Driven by special needs population growth requiring mandated services, the Superintendent's Shared Service Budget accounted for ~ \$310,000 or 3.73% of the raise.
- Contractual increases (Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), steps, lanes, longevity) accounted for another ~ 5% and a 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Facilities Manager/Engineer and an additional 1.0 FTE custodian brought this to 6.20%.
- The remaining 0.16% were insurance costs, Island Grown Schools (see 10/10/23 Minutes p.2 #III C), and refuse disposal. Transportation cost decreased.
- Preventive Maintenance was raised \$1,200 for filters, etc., but maintenance would remain fairly level while facility guarantees were still in place. Utilities were similarly unknown and had a very small cushion.
- Chapter 70 State reimbursement income was noted, particularly additional Student Opportunity Act (SOA) funds (see below; Actions).
- The meeting discussed educational needs.
- Enrollment had decreased since prolonged building disruption began in 2019, but New England School Development Council (NESDEC) enrollment projections showed a steady increase for 5-10 years. Many of those that chose other schools during the troubles would likely remain away, but resident students "choicing" out of district would drop—decreasing the tuition draw on the Town.
- Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) III grant funding for the 2 pandemic recovery support positions would sunset in FY25. Principal John Custer deemed the need remained particularly in Special Education (SpEd) and English Language Learners (ELL); and further, after 3 years the positions felt established. He considered he could fund one position with other grants (e.g. Title One, Rural Education Assistance Program (REAP), etc.) plus School Choice funds. The TSC considered:
 - loss of the 2 current individuals due to one-year-only (OYO) contract instability;
 - standard projected pay for a Masters level teacher at \$139,000, bringing the budget to \$9,359,004.97 a \$1,048,085.25 or 12.61% increase;
 - mindfulness of Town budget constraints;
 - grade/class configuration and enrollment projections.
- Both the administration and the TSC were uncomfortable with a 12.6% increase, almost double all highs in recent memory.

- The late May Annual Town Meeting (ATM) left scant room to maneuver if the School budget failed.
- The School had scrimped for many years to bring in tight budgets.
- Chapter 70 income would not be known until February.
- Other Martha's Vineyard Public School (MVPS) Districts increases were: Oak Bluffs – 8.55%, Edgartown 7.18%, Up Island Regional 9.4%.
- How much of the \$300,000 School Choice projected balance was needed as a reserve and also needed to cover part of one support teacher salary.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO COMMIT \$75,000 IN SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS TO OFFSET THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 TISBURY SCHOOL BUDGET.
- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. JEN CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE TISBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AS PER VERSION #3.1 AT \$9,284,004.97 (AN INCREASE OF \$973,085.25 OR 11.71%).
- The Public Hearing closed at 5:18PM.

II. Superintendent's Report

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

All MVPS budgets had now been certified/approved and staff was moving on to Finance Committee interviews starting with Oak Bluffs.

B. Student Support Services Update

The Department was in the middle of SOA trainings.

IV. Principal's Report

A. School Events (See documents on file.)

- Weather permitting, the 7th grade would leave tomorrow for their Ski Trip.
- 8th Grade student Robert Riis was the Tisbury School representative for Project 351 when students from all over the Commonwealth participated in community service in honor of Martin Luther King day.

B. School Equity Audit – Nothing to report.

Personnel

- ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) WITH CONGRATULATIONS REQUESTED LEAVE FOR FIFTH GRADE MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER EMILY CROSLAND STARTING AROUND APRIL 17, 2024.

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances – No concerns. (See documents on file.)

B. Grants – Nothing to report

VI. Tisbury School Building Project Report

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

These were standard monthly charges and had all been vetted:

- **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 DECEMBER 1 THROUGH 31, 2023 INVOICES TOTALING \$3,306,159.20 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:**
- CHA JANUARY 4, 2024 INVOICE FOR \$45,000.00,
- CARROLL'S STORAGE DECEMBER 18, 2023 INVOICE FOR \$700.00,
- TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS DECEMBER 27, 2023 INVOICE FOR \$48,125.00,
- NB KENNEY'S FOUNDATION OCTOBER 31, 2023 INVOICE \$3,600.00,
- GOV CONNECT IT EQUIPMENT NOVEMBER 28, 2025 INVOICE \$1,347.95,
- W.T. RICH DECEMBER 31, 2023 INVOICE FOR \$3,202.094.00,
- BRIGGS ENGINEERING NOVEMBER 25, 2023 INVOICE FOR \$881.00,
- BRIGGS ENGINEERING DECEMBER 30, 2023 INVOICE FOR \$4,411.25.

A. Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC)

Later in the meeting, Mr. Watts attested all members had agreed to continue to serve.

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. HOUGHTON AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE-APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE TISBURY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MR. WATTS:**
- MS. CONNIE ALEXANDER (PLANNING BOARD),
- PRINCIPAL JOHN CUSTER,
- MR. SEAN DEBETTENCOURT (MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF),
- MS. RITA JEFFERS (PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF),
- MS. READE MILNE (BUILDING INSPECTOR, & ORIGINAL TSBC MEMBER),
- MR. JIM ROGERS (FORMER SELECT BOARD & CONTRACTOR),
- MS. SARAH YORK (PARENT),
- MR. WATTS (TSC).

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Public Comment – None

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED MS. CUTRER BY THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:27PM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events

- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, February 1, 2024 – MVRHS/Zoom

continued >

Appendix A: Meetings/Events (cont.)**• TSC – 4:00PM, Tuesdays, - ESF****February 13, 2024****April 9, 2024****June 11, 2024****March 12, 2024****May 14, 2024**

- Project Status & Planning – 1:00PM Tuesdays,**
- Annual/Special Town Meeting – Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

Appendix B: Actions**Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton** – send Project motion & invoices for Town Hall payment.**Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton** – include School Ch. 70 income in FinCom interview.**Mr. Watts/Mr. Owen** – send Marni December invoice cover page**January Agenda reminders:**

Please note: All business will consist of discussion and possible vote.

- Approval of Project Invoices
- Staff/Public Comment
- Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

Appendix C: Documents on File

- Agenda 1/9/24
- Tisbury School Events (January 2024)
- Tisbury School, School Committee Meeting January 9, 2024 (21 p.)
- Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoices, For Period: December 01, 2023 – December 30, 2023
- Custer email re: TSC Public Hearing notice 1/2/24
- Friedman cover email re: Tisbury School FY25 Draft Budget – Version #3 1/6/24
- Tisbury School FY'25 Budget Analysis, Version #3.0, January 9, 2024
- Tisbury School Budget for 2024/2025, Version #3.0 – January 9, 2024 (5 p.)
- Tisbury School FY'25 Budget Analysis, Version #3.1, January 9, 2024
- Tisbury School Budget for 2024/2025, Version #3.1 – January 9, 2024 (5 p.)
- Crossland maternity leave letter 1/5/24
- School Attending Report Worksheet, Census Data as of January 1, 2024, 2023-2024, School: Tisbury School 1/2/24
- NESDEC, Tisbury Elementary School, Vineyard Haven, MA, 2023-2024 Enrollment Projection Report (14 p.)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2023-2024 1/05/24
- Tisbury School FY'25 Budget Analysis, Version #3.0, Tisbury January 9, 2024

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder_____
Date_____
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair_____
DateMinutes approved 3/12/24