

Tisbury School Committee
4:00PM, Tuesday, May 14, 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,
Student Support – Hope MacLeod, Elizabeth Bradley,
Town: FinCom – Louise Clough,
Others: Aditya Modi, Michael Owen – Daedalus/CHA,
Chris Blessen – Tappé Architects, Dan Anjo – W.T. Rich,
Recorder – Marni Lipke
Press: Louisa Hufstader – Vineyard Gazette,

* Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:04PM.

*(Recorder's notes: - Mr. Michael Watts originally joined the meeting by Zoom and then entered in person, shown in the change from roll call to standard votes;
- Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JEN CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. AMY HOUGHTON THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE.**

II. School Building Project Report (See also below: p.6.)

A. Project Update (See documents on file.)

- Mr. Chris Blessen of Tappé Architects reported the project was going very well, Construction Manager W.T. Rich was doing a good job and Tappé was very pleased with the finishes, carpets, paints, lighting and ceilings.
- A major milestone was reached with all the mechanical/plumbing work completed, as was all the roofing. Starting from the 3rd floor and going down, flooring was being installed and walls were being painted.
- Window, including the palladium, work was still in progress. The brick veneer on the gym wing was finished and crews had moved on to drywalling and taping.
- Landscape walkways on the west playground were in, and other paving such as the horseshoe drive would begin shortly.
- TSC members praised the amount of natural light that now entered the building. A tour was arranged for all Tisbury Town Department Heads. Owners Project Manager (OPM) CHA/Daedalus, considered the Professional Team was doing a good job, the Project was going well, moving into its final phases—almost ready to start a punch list.
- The construction budget was 74% spent and the total overall spending was at 71%.

- Owner's Contingency spending previously at \$225,000 each for Technology and Furniture/ Fixtures/Equipment (FFE) had increased to \$736,796 total.
 - After much advocacy and negotiation CHA/Daedalus, with the help of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman and Town Administrator Jay Grande, obtained a \$184,000 Eversource/State grant for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. These would become more useful as the MVPS shifted to an electric school bus fleet. The TSC thanked all involved for their perseverance.
 - The Construction Allowance (see 3/4/23 Minutes p.3 #V B) for such things as police details, overtime, heating fuel, etc. was projected to be 100% expended—the next big expense being for the modulars removal. The General Allowance (temporary toilets, lighting, etc.) expected to return ~\$250,000 back into budget.
 - In view of the savings graphics (see 3/12/24 Minutes p.5) including a digital wall that were value engineered out of the design could be reinstated.
 - The Project could now also include roof solar panels using the same professional team of Tappé, W.T. Rich, and CHA/Daedalus, saving money and time.
 - Both these components required that Tappé engage outside experts.
 - **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS):**
 - **ACCEPTED THE GRAPHICS AND SOLAR PANEL PROPOSALS AS SUBMITTED,**
 - **AUTHORIZED TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS TO PROCEED WITH THE SOLAR AND GRAPHICS DESIGNS, AND**
 - **AUTHORIZED THE CONTRACTS BE SIGNED;**
- MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE.**
The TSC thanked Mr. Blessen for his flexibility in the changing situation.

B. Approval of Invoices (See documents on file.)

These were standard monthly charges that had been vetted as usual.

- **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, 2024 INVOICES TOTALING \$3,156,466.25 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:**
- **CHA MAY 2, 2024 INVOICE FOR \$45,000.00,**
- **W.T. RICH APRIL 30, 2024 INVOICE FOR \$3,054,665.00,**
- **TAPPÉ ARCHITECTS APRIL 26, 2024 INVOICE FOR \$56,045.00**
- **BRIGGS ENGINEERING APRIL 30, 2024 INVOICE FOR \$756.25.**

C. Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE)

The majority of FFE was ordered and scheduled for late July/early August delivery.

D. Move Management

Staff was starting to pack the red bins, volume varied from classroom to classroom, some needing as many as 30 bins, others only requiring 2-3. CHA/Daedalus engaged extra Carrolls Storage crew for June 20th – 22nd. Once a pod was full it would be trucked to the warehouse, emptied and returned for the next load.

- The Team was looking for a summer home for the papier-mâché art that would be transferred to the new facility.
 - The material in long term storage was sorted during the original move. Climate controlled storage included: papers, the library, gym equipment, band equipment, etc.
 - All surplus old FFE (see 4/9/24 Minutes p.2 #C) would be put in a container and transported (at their expense) to a private school in Whalen, and/or to the Superintendent of the Randolph Public Schools—which might include some transportation costs.
- During the move, a dumpster could be put out, for any additional surplus to be transported to the other schools.
 - Staff was entitled to stipends for extra duties involved in moving.

III. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Richie Smith acknowledged the excitement and stress of this long difficult journey reaching its culmination in a beautiful facility.
- The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) budget was approved, having been passed by 4 towns. The Aquinnah Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was tonight.
- Asst. Supt. John Stevens had been hired as the Interim Principal of the Edgartown School, with veteran Guidance Counselor Deb DeBettencourt as Asst. Principal.
- Oak Bluffs School (OBS) Principal initial interviews were in process, with in-person interviews next week, and visits to the OBS the following week, with the goal of announcing the choice the second week of June.

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

- Six of the 14 AISC members should attend the all day Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) orientation training.
- Jim Hardy of MASC would counsel Negotiation Committee members.

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

- Zoom meetings and trainings were set up so parents could ask the advocate questions.
- Collaborative for Educational Services Specialist Laura Peltier was continuing Professional Development (PD) training in the new Individual Education Plans (IEP) protocol, and would also run a general information session for families (see Minutes: 3/15/22 p.2 #C, & 3/14/23 p.2 #B).

IV. Principal's Report

A. School Events (See documents on file.)

- Staff and students continued with many enriching field trips both on and off Island.
- As June 11th was Tisbury Election Day the joint TSC/School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting was re-scheduled (see below: Meetings/Events).

B. Staffing Update (See documents on file & below: Actions.)

The School was still advertising 4 positions. However, Principal John Custer was happy to have filled the Industrial Technology and be able to offer the subject again.

- There was no solid plan for switching from Spanish language to Brazilian/Portuguese (see 4/9/24 Minutes p.5) in September 2024. The MVPS was interested in investigating and moving forward with adding Portuguese into Tisbury and other MVPS Districts, without eliminating Spanish. A Task Force was suggested.

V. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- Prin. Custer, Mr. Friedman, and Administrative Support Professional (ASP) Rachel Hickey discussed a possible Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) deficit—probably under \$100,000.
- Transfers were still in process.
- The Shared Services Office was likely to come in under-budget, giving some relief.
- The final variance could be covered by School Choice funds.

B. Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Budget (See below: Actions & Meetings/Events.)

1. Presentation at Annual Town Meeting (ATM)

The new facility generated the highest School Budget increase in many years. The TSC considered that a report on Town Meeting Floor would also be an opportunity to talk about Project status on-time and under-budget despite difficult weather; and to thank the Town and residents for their support.

C. Grants – Nothing to report.

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:04PM: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events

- Annual/Special Town Meeting – Tuesday, May 28, 2024
- TSC – 5:15PM, Thursday, June 6, 2024 – Zoom
- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, June 6, 2024 – Zoom
- Town Election – Tuesday, June 11, 2024
- TSC – 4:00PM, Tuesday, June 25, 2024 – ESF
- AISC MASC/Negotiations – Tuesday, July 9, 2024 – Zoom
- AISC MASC School Committee Training – Saturday, July 20, 2024
- Project Status & Planning – 1:00PM Tuesdays.

Appendix B: Actions

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – send Project motion & invoices for Town Hall payment.

Prin. Custer/Ms. Houghton – contact ATM Moderator Donald Rose re: ATM report.

Mr. Friedman – send Expenditure & End-of-Year Transfer Reports by 6/23/24

June Agenda

- Minutes 5/14/24
- End of Year Transfers

Appendix C: Documents on File

- Agenda/Revised Agenda 5/14/24
- TSC/SBC Meeting – Construction Manager Update 05/14/24 (4 p.)
- Tisbury School, School Committee Meeting, May 14, 2024, 2024 (24 p.)
- Tisbury School Renovation/Addition, Project Update Newsletter, April 2024 (2 p.)
- Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoices, For Period: April 01, 2024 – April 30, 2024

continued

Appendix C: Documents on File

- Special Education Parent Events in May
- Tisbury School Events (May 2024)
- Tisbury School, Staffing – update (as of May 14, 2024)
- Tiger Tales, April 2024 (9 p.)
- Tiger Tales, May 2024 (8 p.)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2023-2024 5/13/24

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 6/25/24