

**Tisbury School Committee**  
**4:00PM, Tuesday, March 31, 2025**  
**Emergencies Services Building Conference Room**

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**TSC Members Present:** Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer,  
**Staff:** John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal;  
Richie Smith – Superintendent,  
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,  
Mike Taus – Facilities Director,  
**Others:** Megan Baptist – Co-President PTO, Marni Lipke – Recorder,  
**Town:** Louise Clough – Finance Committee

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

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 MARCH 11, 2024 MEETINGS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:**

II. Tisbury School Building Project

A. Project Update – Nothing new to report. Things were coming together.

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

These were standard invoice charges. Sweetwater was music equipment.

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED (2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE FOLLOWING MARCH 1 THROUGH 31, 2025 INVOICES TOTALING \$163,179.34 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:**

- **CHA – OPM INVOICE # 39235-49 FOR \$22,000.00,**
- **W.T. RICH 2/28/25 INVOICE FOR \$137,626.00,**
- **CARROLL’S MOVING & STORAGE INVOICE # 19633 FOR \$1,590.00,**
- **CARROLL’S MOVING & STORAGE INVOICE # 19632 FOR \$1,277.25,**
- **SWEETWATER INVOICE # 44462592 FOR \$686.09.**

III. Superintendent’s Report

• The Edgartown School Principal search had been lengthy but educational. The Search Committee completed visits to the home schools and would discuss the candidates this week. Superintendent Richard Smith hoped to make his decision at the end of this week.

• The April 1<sup>st</sup> Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Building Committee meeting would review the straight renovation (gut and remodel on the same footprint) finances Massachusetts School Building Authority (MASB) implications and more detailed option finances.

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- Negotiations with the remaining 4 bargaining units (Education Support Professionals—ESPs, Administrative Support Professionals—ASPs, Custodians and Food Service Workers) were proceeding with an employer meeting this week and a negotiating session next Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

B. Shared Services Update

At a Tisbury School faculty meeting Student Support Director Hope MacLeod spoke about the School hosting a Compass Program classroom next year. Compass kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students would be here, while grades 5 through 8 would be at Oak Bluffs School (OBS). Bridge and Compass Programs required more School staff involvement than Project Headway.

IV. Principal's Report

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

- Co-Presidents Megan Baptist and Elizabeth Clark-Derrick were working to revitalize the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):
  - helping with Staff Appreciation Week (May 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>),
  - raising \$850 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip, and
  - recruiting parent participation, including the Brazilian Community.
- The School received 6 tickets for staff and English Language Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELLPAC) members to attend a Slough Farm feast.

B. Policy

1. Wellness Policy (See 2/11/25 Minutes p.3 #B.)

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE UPDATED TISBURY SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

C. Student Opportunities Act (SOA) Plan Progress Update (See below: #

Assistant Superintendent Megan Farrell submitted the Plan Update. Family/Community engagement was an important goal, that was being stimulated by the new school building, the reactivated PTO, and ELLPAC. Over 1,000 people attended the School play *Shrek Jr.* during it's 3 performance run. The play had a cast and crew of 39 students, along with a small but hard-working team of adult staff.

V. Financial Report

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED THE \$800 GIFT FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD STRIPED BASS AND BLUEFISH DERBY SANCY PACHICO MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP TO THE UNDESIGNATED GIFT FUND.** The TSC commended Principal John Custer for his community participation.

A. Fund Balances – There were no concerns. (See documents on file.)

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B. Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget (See documents on file, & 1/14/25 Minutes p.5.)

Although voted at the AISC, the reductions and concerns were noted here.

- Utility lines depended on solar installation, i.e. were not funded for a total year.
- \$24,000 in School Choice funds (down from \$150,000) were added despite worry about new building unknowns, economic problems, or unexpected high needs student costs.
- Due to a FY25 reporting error, the MVRHS over-assessed Tisbury by \$200,000, so no invoices would be submitted for the final months.
- In addition, as a designated High Needs School, the Town received \$1,706,724 in SOA Chapter 70 funds that had to be spent on high needs programing and students.
  - In consideration of these concerns, the TSC asked Town Hall and the Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) to be understanding and supportive, if problems arose requiring further funds to cover FY26 overages.

1. Vote to Re-Certify

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) THE TISBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AS PER VERSION #4.0**
- **AT \$10,632,535.58 (AN INCREASE OF \$1,273,530.61 OR 13.61%),**
- **ADDING \$24,000 IN SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS TO REDUCE THE REQUEST TO THE TOWN TO \$10,608,535.58 (A 15.2% INCREASE).**

Staff Comment – Nothing new to report.

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:00PM.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events

- MVH Health Fair – 8:00AM – 12:00PM, Saturday, April 5, 2025 – MVH
- AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, April 17, 2025 – MVRHS/Zoom
- STM/ATM – 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 29, 2025 – Tis. Sch. Gym
- TSC – 4:00PM, Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – Tisbury School (TBD)
- TSC – 4:00PM, Tuesdays: June 10, 2025

Appendix B: Actions

Ms. Baptist/Ms. Clark-Derrick – try Brazilian/Other food exchanges for PTO meetings.

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

May Agenda (Joint TSC/SAC meeting):

- Minutes: TSC 3/31/25
- Vote to Revisit and Rescind the January 14, 2025 Budget Certification

continued >

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**Appendix C: Documents on File**

- Agenda 3/31/25
- Tisbury School Events
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2024-2025 3/27/25
- Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoice Summary Sheet, For Period:  
March 01, 2025 – March 31, 2025,
- Friedman cover email 3/31/25
- Tisbury School FY'26 Budget Analysis, Version #4.0, Tisbury, March 31, 2025
- Tisbury School Budget for 2025/2026, Version #4.0 – March 31, 2025 Proposed(8 p.)
- Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass check 3/28/25

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

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Marni Lipke – Recorder

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Date

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Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes approved 5/12/25