

Tisbury School Committee
4:00PM, Monday, May 12, 2025
Tisbury School Cafeteria

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- TSC Members Present:** Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts*,
SAC: Elizabeth Clark-Derrick, John Custer, John Guadagno,
Emily Levitt, Caitlyn Lundberg, Jane Taylor*, Sarah Ward,
Anne Williamson
- Staff:** John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal,
Mike Taus – Facilities Manager,
Richie Smith – Superintendent,
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,
Student Support – Hope MacLeod,
- Town:** Louise Clough – Finance Committee
- Others:** Dan Anjo – W.T. Rich, Marni Lipke
- * Late Arrivals or early departures of TSC or TSAC members.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:07PM.
The Tisbury School Advisory Council (TSAC) meeting was called to order at 4:07PM.

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 31, 2025 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS:**
- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CAITLYN CLARK-DERRICK AND SECONDED BY MS. EMILY LEVITT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

II. Tisbury School Building Project

A. Project Update

Mr. Dan Anjo, reported for Construction Manager W.T. Rich. Work on the punch list during April break had the goal of a final inspection and permanent Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Tisbury Building Commissioner.

- Roof and parking lot canopy solar (covering 75% of the School's energy needs) was in the procurement process with Harvest Sun Solar—on track for summer installation. In addition to \$500,000 in grants, there was a \$600,000 State rebate pending completion by December 31, 2025.

• The TSC asked about charging fees for the parking lot Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers, however Town Administrator Joe LaCivita said in his experience charger payment systems were unreliable and not worth the cost. The TSC considered possible future signage: "Reserved for the Educational Community".

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

Creative Office Resources/Library Concepts charges were for furnishings.

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• 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 APRIL 1 THROUGH 30, 2025 INVOICES TOTALING \$453,331.06 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:

- CHA – OPM INVOICE # 39235-50 FOR \$12,000.00,
- W.T. RICH 5/08/25 INVOICE FOR \$366,144.00,
- RDA SOFT NET INVOICE # 2503670 FOR \$3,931.70,
- CREATIVE OFFICE RESOURCES INVOICE # 278021 FOR \$47,368.77,
- CREATIVE LIBRARY CONCEPTS INVOICE # 102466 FOR \$18,586.59,
- DEWEY FENCE—CHAINLINK GATE FOR \$5,300.00.

II. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Richie Smith commended the generosity of the Island towns and the hard work of Town staffs and Finance and Advisory Committees in supporting the Martha's Vineyard Public School's (MVPS's) Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budgets. Aquinnah would hold the final Annual Town Meeting (ATM) tomorrow.

There was a long discussion on the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Project, which was in the 3rd or Preliminary Design Module of the 9 module Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process.

• In the 2nd Module MVRHSD chose Tappé Architects as the architect/designer and CHA as Owner's Project Manager (OPM), the same Tisbury School team.

• After community and school input, Tappé presented a number of options from which the MVRHS Building Committee chose 3 preferred schematics:

- renovation at \$190,000,000 but uncertain MSBA reimbursement;
- renovation/addition expanding into the parking lot and incorporating the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and gym, at \$300,000,000.
- build new on the current playing fields at \$350,000,000.

- Only the straight renovation would require a temporary modular school.

• MSBA reimbursement was anywhere from 20-30%. Town shares were:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| - Aquinnah 2.9%, | - Chilmark 8.3% | - Edgartown 30% |
| - Oak Bluffs 23.7% | - Tisbury 22.9% | - West Tisbury 13.4% |

• The TSC expressed considerable concern on the lack of public awareness, despite outreach and meetings, citing their own experience with public complaints about lack of communication which lead to defeating a new school project by 12 votes in 2018.

- In addition the straight renovation option, although least expensive might mean pressure on or loss of Career Technical Education (vocational) space that supported critical careers in landscaping, construction, culinary, etc. for many Island young people.

- The reduced educational experience of 4 years in a modular/temporary school, an expensive and awkward component, was also likely to be unpopular.

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

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B. Shared Services Update

This summer West Tisbury School (WTS) would host the Extended School Year (ESY) program for Special Education students who experienced substantial regression during the long break.

- The Department was advertising for a speech and language teacher, an occupational therapist and an inclusion specialist.
- Shared Services was moving forward with meetings and professional development (PD) with Tisbury School staff in preparation for the new Compass classroom.
- Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) (formerly Island Parents Advisory Council—IPAC) would hold a basic rights training on May 20th.

C. School Equity Work

Although Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) lost all its funding due to President Trump's grant cuts, they had laid enough of a foundation for the MVPS to continue to work towards socially safe and equitable schools.

V. Principal's Report

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

- This was a busy time of year with many field trips and ongoing MCAS testing.
- Kindergarten through 4th grade community meetings celebrated the school pillars, along with music, birthdays, etc. and included middle school student counselors.
- Thanks went to Mr. Scott Schofield for volunteering to supervise the new student-requested Dungeons and Dragons Club.
- The All Island Band would perform at the PAC Wednesday May 14th.
- The traditional Memorial Day March to the Sea would step off from the west playground at 12:15PM Friday, May 23rd.
- The eighth grade trip to Washington, DC was set for June 2nd – 6th. There was a brief discussion on reviving TSAC and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored student fundraising to help pay for the trip, a practice that also taught students the pride and necessity of contributing to the trip.
- Graduation was scheduled for June 11th in the new gym.
- The June TSC meeting might be shifted to accommodate end-of-year activities.

B. Staffing Update

Starting early to get the best candidate pool, the School had hired 4 staff and was advertising for 4 more position: 2 special education teachers, and 2 Education Support Professionals (ESPs).

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- The Manter fund balance was currently strong.
 - School Choice funds were used to reduce both the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and FY26 budgets.
- Finance and Advisory Committee representative Ms. Louise Clough, gratefully acknowledged and thanked the TSC and Administration for their part in avoiding a Town override.

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Tisbury School Advisory Council (TSAC)

* During this discussion Mr. Michael Watts entered the meeting at 4:51PM.

An AISC Subcommittee worked hard all year with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) reviewing all MVPS policies to develop a comprehensive, overarching, universal, up-to-date MVPS policy manual that could be adapted to individual districts. This original push brought policy from the 19th to the 21st Century.

- The Subcommittee hoped to codify a consistent procedure on changing policies, what should include consulting school advisory councils who were more familiar with day-to-day operations; for example advising that a new policy on “no caffeine in the classroom” would adversely impact staff.

- TSAC members suggested this become a standing Subcommittee to re-examine policies on a rotating basis to keep up with the constant changes (e.g. the new law eliminating the MCAS graduation requirement), particularly in fields such as Information Technology (IT), health/wellness and libraries.

- Policies should set Student Handbooks content which now needed to be overhauled to coordinate with the update.

Staff Comments

Staff gave a shout out to the PTO for their wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week contributions: Black Dog muffin Monday, flowers, cards and etc.

- Everyone was invited to Ms. Jane Taylor’s retirement party on June 16th.

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:06PM; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. GUADAGNO AND SECONDED BY ANN TAYLOR THE TISBURY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:06PM: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

• **AISC – 5:30PM, Thursday, May 15, 2025 – MVRHS/Zoom**

• **TSC – 4:00PM, (TBD) Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – Tisbury School**

• **Graduation – Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – Tisbury School Gym**

Appendix B: Actions

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

May Agenda (Joint TSC/SAC meeting):

- Minutes: TSC 5/12/25

- Vote to Revisit and Rescind the January 14, 2025 Budget Certification

continued

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Appendix C: Documents on File:

- TSC Agenda 5/12/25
- Tisbury School Events
- Tisbury School Staffing – update (as of May 12, 2025)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2024-2025 5/9/25
- Tiger Tales, May 2025, (8 p.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 6/23/25