

Tisbury School Committee
8:00AM, Tuesday, June 23, 2025
Tisbury School Conference Room

1

TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Alicia Lesnikowska,

Staff: John Custer – Principal,
Richie Smith – Superintendent,
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,

Others: Ed Pachico, 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 8:03AM. Chair Amy Houghton welcomed new member Ms. Alicia Lesnowska and everyone introduced themselves and reviewed school committee membership responsibility.

- School committee authority focused on budget and policy. Membership was a significant commitment requiring attendance not only at monthly TSC meetings, but also at monthly All Island School Committee (AISC) meetings and possible service on subcommittees (Negotiations, Policy, Personnel, Transportation, etc.). Two TSC members also served on the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC)—see below #V.

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA AND SECONDED BY MS. JEN CUTRER THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2025 MEETING WERE APPROVED; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MS. LESNIKOWSKA, not a member at the time.**

II. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Richie Smith gratefully acknowledged outgoing TSC member Mr. Michael Watts' service to the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) as a committed active member of the TSC and a long list of subcommittees as well as both the Tisbury School and MVRHS Building Committees.

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

A Zoom-only single agenda item meeting was scheduled, hopefully to vote the remaining union contracts (Food Service Workers, Custodians, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), and Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs)).

B. Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Non-Union Salary Reccommendations

The recommendation for a 5% wage increase would effect 4 Tisbury School staff: Principal, Assistant Principal, Technologist and Facilities Manager. While supporting the individuals involved, Ms. Houghton objected that the high increase would present difficulties for future budgets and might exceed union increases.

Tisbury School Committee
June 23, 2025

2

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2026 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AS PRESENTED: MS. CUTRER—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYS, MS. LESNIKOWSKA—AYE.**

C. Shared Services Update (See documents on file & 3/31/25 Minutes p.2 #B.)
Dr. Smith commended Student Support Director Hope MacLeod and Shared Service Coordinator/Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) Shane Schofield for their great job welcoming the Compass Program staff to the Tisbury School. Coordination would continue throughout the summer. Special Education and Shared Services constituted a significant portion of MVPS budgets.

II. Tisbury School Building Project

A. Project Update

- As school was out, W.T. Rich had been busy with the punch list; for example sealing and staining the cafeteria floor, replacing the flagpole, etc. The one year warranty expired in late August, except for the gym/ground floor section.
- The parking lot had been fenced in preparation for solar canopy installation, and work would continue into the fall. The School would not reach net zero energy but would come as close as possible.
- Signage had been purchased to reserve the parking lot for staff during school hours (see 11/12/24 Minutes p.2) but no further action was taken.

B. Approval of Invoices – The invoices were signed on the previous warrant.

V. Discussion and Vote: Appointment of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) Reprepresentative

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) MS. CUTRER AND MS. HOUGHTON AS TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.**

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

Balances were as expected and in good shape. Various funds were explained.

- Manter Fund (#300) spending was restricted to furthering educational opportunities (field trip scholarships, etc.) for students in need, including at least 1 pair of shoes.
- The Revolving Lunch Fund (#400) financed student breakfasts and lunches (staff paid out of pocket). Since the COVID pandemic the State reimbursed 100%. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) restricted the size of the balance.
- Revolving School Choice (#401) – Non-resident students could “choice” into the Tisbury School. The sending Town paid \$5,000 directly to the receiving School budget.
- Chapter 70 State reimbursement was paid directly to the Town General Fund.

Tisbury School Committee
June 23, 2025

3

- The TSC had a practice of offsetting the School Operating budget with School Choice funds—this year at \$24,000 (see Minutes: 1/14/25 p.4 #V A, & 3/31/25 p.3 #B).
- Historically, School Choice and Revolving Lunch funds were used as rainy day accounts since the School Budget had no contingency reserves. FY25 was the tightest budget in many years due to unforeseen electricity charges (see below: #C.) and Town budget constraints.
 - The Math Gift Fund (#307) was a catch-all to receive gifts and donations, etc.
 - The School Book Gift Fund (#305) was a memorial fund for Jeffrey Goodale.
- “Gifts” were less restrictive than “donations”.

C. Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Budget Line Transfers (See documents on file.)

Thanks went to Financial ASP Rachel Hickey and MVPS Business Administrator Mark Friedman for their work on end-of-year budget transfers. Line Item deficits were noted:

- Superintendent Shared Services (of Central) Office Legal Services line reflected ongoing union negotiations.
- There were sufficient funds to cover FY26 Administrative salary adjustments however last year’s market adjustment left a small deficit.
- Data Management Software costs reflected higher PowerSchool costs due to the increased enrollment. Pick-a-Time scheduling software for parent/teacher conferences added a little further cost.
- Additional Special Education (SpEd) kindergarten (K) ESP (see 1/14/25 Minutes p.4 #V A) and an additional SpEd Teacher were hired.
- Substitute spending (including long-term subs) was notoriously difficult to predict.
- Other variances were contractual, e.g. a new longevity interpretation.
- There had been Power/Light Eversource invoice problems all year (at the Edgartown School too) (see below: Actions). The School looked forward to next year when solar panels would relieve the financial pressure.
 - Residual funding was found in the on-going Industrial Arts teacher vacancy and by shifting a Food Service Worker salary into Revolving Lunch Fund (see above p.2 #A) largest comes from Spec. Teachers Salary Industrial Arts again not filled and other was?
- Regionalizing costs saved funds in student management and computer software plus there was a small residual from the Central Office budget.
 - **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) \$360,248.80 TOTAL END-OF-FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET TRANSFERS AS PRESENTED.**
- Ms. Lesnikowska suggested a crossing guard at the Look St./State Rd. intersection.

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CUTRER AND SECONDED BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) AT 8:51AM.**

continued >

**Tisbury School Committee
June 23, 2025**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- AISC – Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – Zoom only

• TSC – 4:00PM, Second Tuesdays:

September 9, 2025

January 13, 2026

May 12, 2026

October 14, 2025

February 10, 2026

June TBD, 2026

November 18, 2025

March 10, 2026

December 9, 2025 (with SAC)

April 14, 2026

Appendix B: Actions

Ms. MacLeod – meet with Ms. Lesnikowska to explain/introduce MVPS Special Education and Shared Services

Prin. Custer – consider Look St./State Rd. crossing

Next Agenda:

- Minutes: TSC 6/23/25

- Finances

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

◦ FY25 Eversource Invoice Report

Appendix C: Documents on File

- Agenda 6/23/25

- Tisbury School, FY25

- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2024-2025 6/20/25

- Tisbury School, FY25 Year End, Proposed Year-End Budget Transfers June 23, 2025

- Tisbury School – Expenditure Report, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (12 p.) 6/22/25

- Tisbury School, Site Budget, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (4 p.) 6/20/25

- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, Office of Superintendent of Schools memo re: Management and Non-Union Salaries and Adjustments, 6/23/25

- Shared Services Changes for 2025-2026 School Year (2 p.)

- Custer email re: draft list – TSC meeting, 2025-26 6/23/25

- Custer thank you letter to Chief Habekost 6/24/25

- Tiger Tales, June 2025, (7 p.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved 9/9/25