Tisbury School Committee
4:30PM, Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Tisbury School Cafeteria

TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Alecia Lesnikowska,

TSAC: John Custer, Wiet Bacheller, John Guadagno, Catherine Mafcher, Jane Taylor, Sarah Ward,

Student Council: Finn Hall, Allana Rainha, Helena Rodrigues, Leticia Silva, Sophia Santos,

PTO: Alvaro Almanza, Adriana Ghidu, Lydia Sylvia

Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Assist. Principal; Richie Smith – Superintendent, Mark Friedman – Business Administrator, Dir. Student Support Hope MacLeod, Jane Taylor,

Others: Ed Pachico, * Late Arrival or early departure of TSC members

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.
The Tisbury School Advisory Council (TSAC) meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.

V. Principal's Report

B. School Improvement Plan (SIP) (See documents on file.)

3. Student Council

(See Minutes: 2/12/16 p.3, 12/10/19 p.1 #V A, & 2/17/26 p.3 # V A.)
The Council called itself the Responsible Organized Association of Representatives (ROAR). Principal John Custer introduced the members, including Leticia Silva who was also the Town of Tisbury Ambassador to Project 351 (see 1/15/14 Minutes p.3 #V A). The students briefly described their activities:
- ran a clothing drive,
- organized an Islandwide Middle Schools dance,
- conducted a survey of student lunch preferences and shared it with cafeteria staff,
- hosted 4 community meetings,
- sponsored Spirit week and May 4th, and
- made posters for Unity Day, Tigers Give, and Random Acts of Kindness weeks.

• The TSC asked Council members:
- how many years have you been involved in the Council?
- what kinds of things would you like to do differently? and
- what are you most nervous about?

I. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. ALECIA LESNIKOWSKA AND SECONDED BY MS. AMY HOUGHTON THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 TISBURY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS WERE APPROVED; 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

II. Superintendent's Report

• The Tisbury Annual Town Meeting (ATM) passed the budget and the accompanying override would be on the ballot a week from today.
• The required 2/3 or 4 of 6 Towns passed the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) operating budget (Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury).
- The Up Island Regional School District required approval from all 3 Towns, so the ir budget was waiting on the Aquinnah ATM/override.

A. All Island School Committee (AISC)

The Assistant Superintendent Search Committee posted and interviewed for an instruction/curriculum based position, but incoming Supt. Jaime Curley identified the need for an operational/transportation/finance focus so the position was reposted.

B. Shared Services Update

• Due to staff movement at this time of year the Department was trying to fill positions—Speech/Language, Occupational Therapist (OT), a teacher, etc.
• The Extended School Year (ESY) would be at the Tisbury School for the first time. Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) summer programs were noted.
- Summer schools or camps with activities and tutoring specific to each school for students who were asked or wanted to continue school for one reason or another;
- ESY for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) focusing on those skills recommended by each students' team; and
- Summer Academic Intensive Learning Skills (SAILS) a 6 week program to maintain skills for students with the highest level of disabilities from pre-school to high school.

III. Tisbury School Building Project Report

A. Project Update (See Minutes: 3/10/26 p.2 #III B, & 4/14/26 p. 2 #III A.)

The parking lot canopy foundations were completed during April break. As of last Tuesday, a reasonable estimate for total roof/parking hook up was mid-September. Mr. John Guadagno was tasked with moving the project along and reported the parking lot was expected to close from July 13th on.
- The solar project was separated from the original project to take advantage of various incentives and grants. ATM voted a $400,000 warrant article to qualify for a $790,000 Federal/State rebate (see 2/17/26 Minutes p.2 & below #II A).

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

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA 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, 2026 INVOICES TOTALING $283,356.50 TO BE SENT TO TOWN HALL FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT:
- CHA INVOICE # 39235-61 FOR $5,500.00,
- WT RICH INVOICE # 43 FOR $270,102.00,
- BRIGGS INVOICE # 230802 FOR $7,754.50
INVOICES, 4/1-30/26 $283,356.50.

II. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

* During this conversation the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) members joined the meeting.

• The Title One grant varied from year to year from $70,000 to $110-115,000. As a reimbursable grant the School spent the money, receiving funds at the end of each fiscal year, so the line showed a negative until July 1st. Regulations allowed a 10-15% rollover.

- This year the School was expecting $80-90,000 to be dedicated as usual to a variety of costs including summer programs and technology. Documentation would be reviewed in this year's needs assessment and evaluation audit (see above p.2 #II B).

• Utilities/Electricity projected overage was still $40-60,000 (see 4/14/26 Minutes p.2 #IV A). In order to compensate, food service worker salaries would be shifted; currently from 2.5 from General Fund/0.5 Revolving Lunch to 1.5 General /1.5 Revolving Lunch.

B. Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget

The TSC and Administration expressed their appreciation for taxpayer support of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget and their hope for a successful override.

C. Grants – See above Title One.

V. Principal's Report

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

• Full May and June schedules showed concerts, community meetings, graduation, etc.

- The Harbormaster would facilitate the traditional Memorial Day March to the Sea on the new Owen Park pier.

- Prin. Custer emphasized the student-centered nature of Graduation.

B. School Improvement Plan (SIP) (See documents on file.)

As one of the main tasks of the TSAC the TSC formally acknowledged the 2025-6 SIP and thanked the TSAC for their hard work.

1. Family Engagement

This goal coordinated with the Title One audit (see above #II A) and parent outreach requirement which the PTO greatly enhanced. Family engagement sharing and alignment was a MVRHSC meeting topic and would be part of the August retreat.

2. Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

• This was Teacher Appreciation Week so the PTO set up a table selling flowers and card-making materials during lunch times. Students were very appreciative for the opportunity. Other events were planned.

• There was a brief conversation about fundraising in difficult, competitive times.

• The TSC was excited to have such an active, amazing PTO.

3. Student Council – See above p. 1.

VI. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Building Project Update

A. June 2nd Vote

(See below: Meetings/Events, & Minutes: 3/10/26 p.1 #VI, & 4/14/26 p.1 # VI.)

The vote was 4 weeks from today and hopefully people were accessing the website for information. Absentee ballots were available up to 10 days prior from Town Clerks.

• Everyone was asked to engage people to talk about the project. It was emphasized again that elected officials could not advocate but could only give information.
• A Political Action Committee (PAC) 201c3 would sponsor media postings, articles, Facebook page, etc.
• If the vote failed, immediately required repairs were roughly estimated at $200,000, which was only ~ $50,000,000 less than a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) supported Project for a completely renovated, expanded facility.
• Governor Healey awarded funds to 28 schools for Career Technical Education (CTE) with $2,000,000 for the MVRHS which could be added to Project reimbursement.
• The current negotiated financial agreement, which had substantial variances in Town assessments, only applied to this specific project so that if the vote failed, future projects would revert to the old formula.
• The TSC saluted many people who worked long and hard to bring the Project to this point: Supt. Richie Smith, Mr. Mark Friedman, Ms. Bernadette Cormie, Mr. Sam Hart…

Adjournment

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. LESNIKOWSKA AND SECONDED BY MS. HOUGHTON THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED (2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) AT 5:32PM.
• ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE TISBURY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED (6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) AT 5:32PM.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:
• Town Election – 12:00N-8:00PM, Tuesday, May 12, 2026
• March to the Sea – 12:15PM, Friday, May 22, 2026
• AISC – 6:00PM, Thursday, May 28, 2026 – MVRHS/Zoom
• **TSC– 4:30PM, Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – Tisbury School**
• MVRHS Vote – 11:00AM-7:00PM, Tuesday, June 2, 2026
• 8th Grade Graduation – 5:00PM, Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Appendix B: Actions – None

Appendix C: Documents on File:
• Custer cover email & TSC Agenda (2 p.) 5/5/26
• Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year, 2025-2026 5/4/26
• Tisbury School Site Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (4 p.) 5/4/26
• Tisbury School Events
• Tisbury School Improvement Plan 2025-26
• Tisbury School Addition and Renovations Project Invoice Summary Sheet, For Period: April 01, 2026 – April 30, 2026
• Tiger Tales May 2026 (8 p.)

continued

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

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Marni Lipke – Recorder Date

_____ _____
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair Date

Minutes approved 6/16/26