

Tisbury School Committee
8:30AM, Monday, July 1, 2019
Tisbury School Library

1

TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Janet Packer, Michael Watts
Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Assoc. Principal;
Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent, Richie Smith – Asst. Supt.
Natalie Krauthamer, Emily Levett, Nevette Previd, Alice Robinson,
Town: Melinda Loberg – Selectman, Facilities Director Kirk Mettell,
Others: Anna Edey, Paul Lazas,
Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late Arrivals or early departures.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 8:37AM.

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JANET PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2019 MEETING WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED A \$596.58 DONATION FROM THE STOP AND SHOP A PLUS PROGRAM; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) proposed submitting a second Community Preservation Act/Committee (CPA/CPC) application to complete the playground improvements (see Minutes: 9/18/18 p. 1 # I A & 6/4/19 p.2 #V B).

• **MS. PACKER MOVED TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDING TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE TISBURY SCHOOL GROUNDS; MR. WATTS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

I. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Indoor Air Quality Assessment

(See documents on file & below: Actions & 1/8/19 Minutes p.2 #B.)

(Recorder’s note: this discussion is summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

Unfortunately the Report detailed issues already known to the TSC, highlighting why they had judged a comprehensive school project to be a necessity not a simply a wish. DPH Inspector Michael Feeney’s accessible list of recommendations was appreciated. The TSC considered the complex factors around prioritizing the components:

- some were simple and easily accomplished;
- others more complex, impacting and/or damaging other structural systems;
- parent/staff concerns were understood and valued but could not all be immediately addressed due to timing, mechanical and financial complications;
- contractors were already heavily committed for the limited summer break timeframe.

• It was agreed that lead, asbestos and radon testing should take precedence. Mr. Feeney suggested this at the April inspection, however the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) usual contractor no longer offered such testing (see 5/7/19 Minutes p.3 #C & p.4 Actions).

- There was some disagreement on the most recent lead test date (2014 or 1993). Any building of this age had some lead paint however staff Unions' principal concern was chipping paint, particularly in lower grade classrooms.
- Every classroom and space in contact with the outside and the ground (including mechanical space) would be tested for Radon however, full occupancy during heating season was required for accurate results—hence this required a later timeframe than the lead tests. There was a substantial price differential between partial and full mitigation.
 - Old carpets were another parental concern and DPH recommendation. All classroom flooring had been replaced on a rotating basis. Only hallway and library carpets remained outdated, and these were professionally cleaned each year (see below: Actions). Carpet removal was complicated by unknown subflooring, and possible asbestos in the tile mastic (not in the tiles).
 - Insufficient ventilation was a compound problem. The facility was built to function by opening or closing windows but this was a heat and air-conditioning loss. Several renovations to the heating system blocked outdated ductwork or sealed intake units to prevent pipe freezing.
- Outside fresh air was required—fans would simply circulate stale air.
- A previous report recommended the pottery kiln be run outside school hours, but it was now advised that it be retired completely, possibly in favor of collaborating with Featherstone.
- Other air quality remediation might include: hiring a ventilation engineer, use of phyto-purification through plants in every classroom to filter the air, adding mini-split heating/cooling units to each classroom.
 - Building envelope repair cost was so high that there was a general agreement to remand it to the long term Building project.
 - Tisbury Building Inspector Ken Barwick could identify the gym roof leak location.
 - Ms. Packer strongly advocated that the “white house” was a hazard long overdue to be retired and advocated passionately that it be replaced with a short term rental.
 - The Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) received and read the document and determined much of it addressed long-term problems. The TSC considered such issues within its purview and requested the TSBC concentrate on moving forward with the larger renovation/addition project.
 - Some funds were available from school repair warrant articles, but testing alone was likely to exceed the amount approved. Once estimates were established the TSC would approach the Selectmen.
 - TSC Chair Amy Houghton was adamant that if the testing determined the school was unsafe, students would not be placed in the building.
 - Ms. Packer protested that the Report was dated June 6th and not sent to the TSC until June 22nd/23rd, losing invaluable time in the short summer construction window. In the spirit of basic form of collaboration, she requested that any information received by the Town, the Selectmen or Town Administration be copied immediately to the TSC.

Adjournment

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 9:26AM.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- MVRHSC-Audit - 5:00pm, Monday, July 1, 2019 at the MVRHS LCR
- TSC – 8:30AM, Monday, July 15, 2019 at the Tisbury School

Appendix B: Actions

- Prin. Custer / Mr. Mettall – get quotes on asbestos, lead, radon testing.
- Ms. Houghton – send MVCS test contractor information to Prin. Custer / Mr. Mattell.
- Prin. Custer – contact Featherstone re: use of kiln
- Prin. Custer – professionally clean rugs twice a year.
- Ms. Houghton – contact Anna Edey re: phyto-purification presentation.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/4/19
- Sign In Sheet 6/4/19
- Indoor Air Quality Assessment Tisbury School June 2019 (24 p.)
- Indoor Air Quality Assessment Tisbury School Little White House (Modular Building) June 2019 (9 p.)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call / Marni Lipke.

Marni Lipke – Recorder

Date

Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

Date

Minutes approved by the Tisbury School Committee 11/12/19