

Tisbury School Committee
3:30PM, Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Emergency Services Building

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton, Michael Watts, Janet Packer,

Others: About 30 people attended including:

Staff: John Custer – Principal, Melissa Ogden – Asst. Principal;
Matt D’Andrea – Superintendent, Richie Smith – Asst. Supt.
Veronika Buckley, Deb Conroy, Sean DeBettencourt, Hope Fecitt,
Angie Francis, Meredith Goldthwaite, Rita Jeffers,
Natalie Krauthamer, Emily Levett, Molly Lewis, Melinda Maveety
Siobhan Mullin – PTO, Nevette Previd, Alice Robinson,
Alison Smith, Anne Williamson,

Town: **Selectmen:** Melinda Loberg, Jeff Kristal, Jim Rogers,
Alex Kral – Admin. Asst., Facilities Director Kirk Mettell,
Jynell Kristal – FinCom
Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late Arrivals or early departures.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 3:37PM and Chair Amy Houghton thanked everyone for attending as well as for their support and work.

I. Approval of Minutes

• **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. JANET PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS THE FOLLOWING MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT:**

- **AUGUST 12, 2019, AUGUST 21, 2019, AUGUST 27, 2019;**
- **SEPTEMBER 10, 2019, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.**

V. Facilities Report (See below: Meeting/Events.)

A. Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant Article (See 9/18/19 Minutes.)

The Warrant was set with two articles:

- \$1,500,000 for modular units and/or remediation;
- \$450,000 from Stabilization to replace State authorized emergency appropriations for: current operational costs including: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) expenses, Tisbury School remediation, Owner’s Project Manager (OPM), moving costs.

B. Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) (See 9/10/19 Minutes.)

The OPM had walked through the School with various contractors and was expected to submit a report on Friday, Oct. 4th or Monday, Oct. 3rd. Consequently discussion of options and recommendations was postponed until the next meeting. A TSC meeting, Townwide forum and staff informational meeting were discussed and scheduled. Later in the meeting there was a hypothetical question on whether, if the OPM and contractors so recommended, the TSC would allow children in the building while work was ongoing. The TSC stated that:

- it was likely to endorse the OPM recommendations, and

- staff opinions were well represented at TSC meetings by Prin. Custer, however
- staff input was welcomed in person or by email (see below: Tasks).

II. Superintendent's Report

- The All-Island School Committee (AISC) meeting (see below: Meetings/Events) would include the first draft of the Shared Services Office budget.
- Islandwide Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) enrollment was over 2,200 with increases in all the other schools (see also below: #IV C).

III. Financial Report

A. Fund Balances (See documents on file.)

- Closing Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) balances were shown but not yet entered into FY20.
- The Manter Fund interest would be reported monthly and might go into the negative pending stock market status (see Minutes: 1/10/17 p.2 #III B & 5/7/19 p.1 #IV). Last year it generated \$67,510, far exceeding any other year— current balance ~ \$75,000.

B. School Choice Request

This fund closed FY19 at \$258,566—plus about \$24,600 FY20 revenues. The TSC had already authorized spending for daycare (see 9/10/19 Minutes p.4), and other significant expenses were anticipated: e.g. a shared residential placement tuition projected at \$125,000 for the year.

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED PAYMENT OF JULY AND AUGUST 2019 RESIDENTIAL TUITION AT \$21,561.43 EACH MONTH OUT OF SCHOOL CHOICE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Some of the tuition could be offset with ~ \$40,000 in FY20 Circuit Breaker funds.

C. Relocation Expenditures

The School was paying weekly invoices for such things as: the restroom trailer, moving expenses, refuse, utilities and equipment (see below: Tasks).

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED:**
- **THE TRANSFER OF \$832.83 FROM CLASS FUNDRAISING INTO EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT, AND**
- **A \$1,217.96 GIFT FROM CLASS OF 2019 TO CLASS OF 2020;**
- 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

IV. Principal's report

A. Personnel

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED WITH BEST WISHES THE RESIGNATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MS. PAIGE NITARDY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.** Ms. Susan Havekost was being hired to fill the position.

B. Opening of School: Kindergarten-Fourth Grade (K-4),
Fifth – Eighth Grade (5-8)

Principal John Custer (at the Tisbury School site) and Assistant Principal Melissa Ogden (at the MVRHS site) reported on the September 9th (delayed) two location, school opening in the “new wing” of the Tisbury School and the MVRHS, highlighting:

- difficulties of the prior two weeks and the pleasure of the September 9th opening;
- appreciation for the tremendous support most notably from parents, who were gracious, understanding, flexible;
- appreciation for staff some of whom had to travel between sites and/or were dealing with space and technology issues;
- split sites for support staff, custodians, secretaries, etc.;
- coming winter weather implications for the walk to separated lunch sites;
- students settling into new routines with continuing curriculums, field trips and outings (Plymouth, Thimble Farms, MV Museum, Boston Museum of Science, Boston Climate summit, phases of the moon, character development, etc.);
- postponement of the Alton Jones trip until March 2020;
- loss of depth in staffing and scheduling due to the split campus;
- passionate goal to re-unite the k-8 school as soon as possible.

C. Enrollment

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Student Information Management System (SIMS) reports were generated October 1st, March 1st, and June 30th. This year October enrollment was 288 students (comparable to 2018) with class size ranging from 24 to 42. Although transfer interviews were not conducted, 20 students left the school due to the relocation situation of which 15 were by School choice.

D. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Application

(See documents on file & Minutes: 9/18/18 p. 1 # I A & 6/4/19 p.2 # V B.)

This was the application for the second half of the originally requested \$200,000 for play area improvements. Thanks went to Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) President Siobhan Mullin and Principal John Custer for the leadership and work.

V. Facilities Report

Prin. Custer was directed to update the March 2017 Education Program Document and would work with staff on Oct. 11th, the next Professional Development (PD) day. In his turn, he requested TSC direction on inclusion of the Shared Services Pre-Kindergarten class space. All three members were strongly in favor of the program in terms of Islandwide MVPS value, joining the other MVPS in providing Shared Services space, and relieving the increasing struggle of parents looking for young child care.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RETAINING THE PRE-KINDERGARTEN SHARED SERVICES SPACE IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENT: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Adjournment

The TSC thanked everyone for their time and passion for the School.

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MR. WATTS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 4:30PM.

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- MVRHSC - 4:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS LCR
- MARS/Mediation Presentation - 6:00PM, Monday, October 7, 2019 – MVRHS PAC
- **TSC – 8:30AM, Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at the EMS Building**
- Tisbury School Staff Informational – 3:30PM, Tuesday, October 8, 2019
- STM Information Forum – 5:00PM, Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the KCT
- Special Town Meeting – 7:00PM, Tuesday, October 15, 2019 - Tisbury School Gym
- AISC - 5:00PM, Monday, October 28, 2019 – MVRHS LCR

Appendix B: Actions

Prin. Custer – draft itemized list of relocation expenses for STM.

Prin. Custer – send TSC personal email addresses to Tisbury School staff.

Prin. Custer–call information staff meeting and/or email TSC/OPM recommendations.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- TSC Agenda 10/2/19
- Tisbury School Committee 9/12/19 Minutes (2 p.)
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2018-2019 10/2/19
- Tisbury School Fund Balances Fiscal Year 2019-2020 10/2/19
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Student Information Management System Report 4 Enrollment Statistics (2 p.) 10/1/19
- Final Application – Cover Sheet, Tisbury Community Preservation Committee (2 p.)
- Hickey email re: 10/10 TSC Meeting 10/2/19

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