

Town of Tisbury
Office of the Town Administrator
51 Spring Street, P.O. Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
(Tel. 508-696-4203)

July 18, 2022

Tisbury Select Board
51 Spring Street
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Members of the Select Board:

I have been fielding questions regarding the status of the Tisbury School Project and would like to offer this update and my recommendation on the timeline and next steps.

The Town's consulting team and the construction manager will be quickly closing in on completion of the trade contractor bidding process for the project so that the construction manager will be in a position to submit a guaranteed maximum price to you in late July. The demolition and removal of the gym and removal of any hazardous materials is scheduled to commence August 1st. Further, the project is now at the stage where construction materials, such as steel, may be ordered. It is advantageous to have the demolition and removal of hazardous materials completed before the new school year begins for reasons I know you all can appreciate. We are committed to the goal of lowering the impact of the students' learning experience during the building project process. Having the abatement and demolition of the gym occur while students are not on campus seems logical. Also, materials need to be ordered before the prices rise again and stockpiled at or near the site, which is logistically challenging.

The decision was made collectively, following recommendation of the School Building Committee and communication to the School Committee, Finance and Advisory Committee and Select Board in May, to pursue Option 3 (with targeted scope reductions and anticipated savings based on value engineering) to reduce and contain costs that have been escalating for all the reasons previously stated in my prior report on June 14, 2022. The targeted reductions accomplished by the Tisbury School Building Committee were substantial and achieved through square footage reductions and value engineering, but still meet the objectives of the project and what was approved at Town Meeting.

The interim school facility is on track for completion and occupancy by the end of the year with the plan for students and staff to be ushering in the new year by occupying the temporary school campus. We have all the costs for the interim facility. Like the main project, the cost increase for site work to bring the modulares online escalated over the last year. However, the price for the actual units and rental is fixed and predictable going forward.

We are still on track to bond the bulk of the project cost while interest rates and premiums are still favorable.

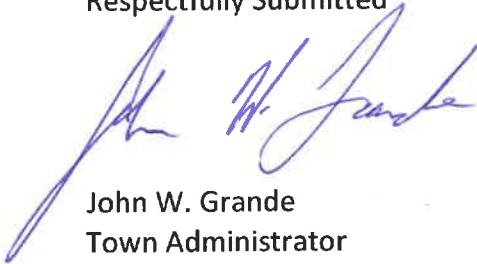
We are already aware that the budget for this project will require us to seek an additional appropriation from Town Meeting, based on the price information being developed. This additional funding will be necessary to complete Option 3 and the other critical work identified as deferrable. A warrant article will need to be drafted that accurately reflects the scope and cost of this work for consideration and approval by Town Meeting.

We are still identifying grant opportunities. We recently submitted a request to Eversource for up to ten charging ports. The value of the technical services for the project could be up to \$150,000. The School Committee set aside end-of-year funds in the amount of \$150,000 for the project, but those will not be eligible for expenditure for the project work identified and will be returned to the Town's general fund.

Progress has been made on the Town Meeting special legislation request we filed. On July 7 the Senate approved the special legislation to hold Town Meeting outside the geographic limits of Tisbury for calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024. The House will follow suit shortly and a bill will then be ready for the Governor's signature. As you know this was a consideration in the timing of the commencement of demolition and site construction activity at the school.

We need to address the health and safety problems with the school, and need to avoid unnecessary cost increases, due to delay in ordering materials or requiring contractors to demobilize or modify contractual agreements. The strong recommendation is to keep to the construction schedule as recommended by our consulting team to the maximum extent feasible until such time they advise us otherwise. We understand additional funding is necessary for the project. Nobody on the Town's project team is of the opinion that delay is in the public interest or good for the pocketbook. The Town has made a substantial investment in the current plan. The project is already underway. A pause or redirect of this project at this time would be costly and ill advised. I cannot in good conscience tell you to not proceed forward with the current plan knowing the consequence of delay.

Respectfully Submitted



John W. Grande
Town Administrator