

**Tisbury School Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 13, 2009**

**Members Present:** School Committee Members: Dr. Robert Tankard, Maura Valley and Rebecca Cass

**Others Present:** Superintendent: Dr. James Weiss, Asst. Superintendent: Laurie Halt, School Business Administrator: Amy Tierney, Principal: Richie Smith, Asst Principal: John Custer, FinCom Representative: Jynelle Kristal and Substitute School Committee Secretary: Marsha Shufrin

Guests: Judy Baynes, Anne Williamson, Sue Canham

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm

The minutes from December 9, 2009 were read and approved as written.

**Superintendent's Report**

School System personnel and Island emergency personnel met for two days at an Emergency Management Meeting. This meeting provided a wonderful opportunity for these two groups to plan in the event of an emergency. A follow-up meeting will take place next month.

Through an Energy Grant, the Town of Tisbury was awarded \$95,583 to upgrade the school boilers. It was explained that one boiler still runs on water. It will be converted to a steam boiler which is more responsive and more cost efficient to operate. The grant will also cover the insulation of pipes. The town will receive 75% of the funds up front and 25% upon completion of the project. Everyone present wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Chris Freed for his energy audit and time involved to apply for this grant.

Dr. Weiss reported that the MASS newsletter stated that we may see as much as a 20% drop in state grants due to the economic situation in this state. The newsletter also mentioned that the state's new aggregate wealth formula implementation has been extended from 5 to 7 years.

**Financial Report**

Mr. Smith presented those present with copies of an updated Fund Balance Report. He noted that there was a Manter Fund balance of \$26,991.43. He also noted that the School Choice Fund had a balance of \$399,471.87 from which \$195,017.00 still needs to be transferred to cover the deficit in the General Funds line, SPED Assistant Salaries. The transfer will not take place until the monies are needed. Regarding the Revolving Lunch Fund, Mr. Smith noted that the deficit this year will most likely be around \$24,000. At present the report shows a

deficit of \$13,434.43. The Revolving lunch deficit will be reviewed again and assessed at the March meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that the ELL Translations line in the General Funds is overdrawn by \$1062.50 and it will keep accruing throughout the year.

Mr. Smith presented the proposed FY10 budget, reflecting a 2.9% increase over FY09, which will be presented to the Town of Tisbury Finance Committee on January 22, 2009. He noted that this was the lowest overall school budget on the island. The budget was reduced from its original 5.86% overall increase to 2.9% by eliminating the following from the General Funds:

FACS Teacher salary - \$72,000

Playground line - \$10,000

Professional Development - \$1000

Painting line - \$8,000

Transportation - \$10,000

Title 1 teacher (Math) - \$8,000

Read & Math remediation teacher - \$20,000

School Choice money in the amount of \$195,000 ( increased by \$30,000 from the original budget proposal) would be used to offset the General Funds.

Mr. Smith stated that Marci Nichols, the FACS (Family & Consumer Science ) teacher would be retiring this year. Although her position was not included in this budget, it does not necessarily mean that the program would be eliminated.

Mr. Smith has included in the FY10 budget an \$8000 salary increase for John Custer. Mr. Custer will be a fully certified assistant principal next year. Mr. Smith is proposing the increase to bring Mr.Custer's salary up to the normal range for the position of a second year administrator.

**A motion was moved to accept the FY10 budget proposal. The motion carried.**

#### Principal's Report

Mr. Smith has asked Fred LaPiana to assess the walkway lighting around the school. In times past, light posts have been vandalized very quickly after erecting them. Mr. Smith said that he is looking into lighting that can be posted at the corners of the building which will wash the building itself in light. He estimates that the cost for such lighting will be \$6000 - \$8000.

This will be a School Choice request once we obtain a quote and more details.

Mr. Smith made two Manter Fund Requests:

a. Due to increased costs of transportation, food and ski packages of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ski trip, Mr. Smith requested \$2485 to cover a deficit in funds. The cost this year was \$275 per student. Busses will cost \$1200. Mr. Smith suggested that he would like to see next year's trip reduced to \$200 per student. He suggested that the trip be reduced to one night instead of two. Dr. Tankard suggested that we investigate an alternate site to Gunstock Ski Resort. He suggested skiing in

Massachusetts rather than NH, reducing the transportation costs and time required for traveling. In the same vein, Mr. Smith noted that the school will sanction the Shenandoah trip this year but may not next year. He would like to see the Alton Jones trip reduced to \$200 per student and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC trip capped at \$600 per student. It was suggested that this topic regarding school trips be discussed at the All-Island SAC meeting on February 5, 2009.

**A Motion was moved to transfer \$2485 from the Manter Fund to the Ski Trip Line in the Student Activity Account. The motion was carried.**

b. Mr. Smith requested \$800 be taken from the Manter Fund to assist a Tisbury School parent / employee who could not afford to heat her house. \$800 would be necessary to purchase a ½ tank of propane which would last approximately 2 months. The individual had the means to pay for the lock to be taken off the tank but not to purchase propane. Other charities had been contacted. Red Stocking Fund could only help with food and clothing. Heating assistance agency was contacted but could not assist in this case The Salvation Army was contacted but the director was away. The Manter Fund benefits indigent students primarily to purchase shoes. In a previous discussion with Mr. Smith, Jim Norton said that this request was consistent with the sentiment of the Manter Fund and should be approved. **A motion was moved to pay Vineyard Propane \$800 to assist this needy individual and her family. The motion carried.** There was more discussion about the authority of the School Committee and it's authority to authorize use of funds as they deem fit.

5 Sub-Committee Reports

Amy Tierney reported that the bus project is coming along fine. The new busses will be transported up here 3 at a time.

Dr. Tankard spoke about the 800 participants, of which 50 were islanders, who attended Release Day sponsored by the Cape Cod Collaborative. On January 14, 2009 at the Collaborative's annual meeting, the board will select a new executive director. Dr. Tankard acknowledged the extraordinary work that Walter Healey, the present ED, has done and asked that everyone go onto website and thank Mr. Healey for his many years of service to the organization.

Laurie Halt spoke about the recent Professional Development Day. There were a total of 47 workshops. Teachers will reconvene in their learning communities. It was acknowledged by those that attended, how well organized the program was.

- 6 No Correspondences
- 6 No Policy issues
- 6 No Personnel Issues
- 6 No Old or New Business

#### 10. Visitors and Public Comment

Sue Canham, in-house EPGY coordinator, reported that the program began on Oct. 6, 2009 with 19 students. It has now increased to 21 students. It is held in the Little Lab before school. 10-12 students show up everyday. There is a good distribution between Grades 3 through 6. There is good support from California where the program is based. Students can work on-line either at home or in school. Enrichment Program for Gifted Youth ( EPGY) is an individual program. Students come and work in the lab for 20 -25 minutes before school. The students love the program and the multi-age environment has proved very successful. There are some challenges to the program. One example is that some of the geometry problems can be a bit illogical. Nanci Dator is very supportive of the program and provides the Little Lab as the venue. Her space works well.

Also stated during this discussion was that the Cape Cod Collaborative is establishing a Resource Center for gifted and talented children.

John Custer announced that Barra Peak won the Geography Bee. Eight students participated. On another note, John thanked the School Committee for funding and supporting him through his LLP program. He spoke about outstanding speakers and teachers, connections made within the educational community and the engaging Leadership Licensure Program.

A motion was moved to adjourn. The motion was carried.