

Tisbury School Committee
October 13, 2009

Members Present: School Committee Members: Present: Rebecca Cass, Robert Tankard and Chairperson, Maura Valley

Others Present: Superintendent: Dr. James Weiss, Asst. Superintendent: Laurie Halt, Principal: Richie Smith, FinCom Representative: Jynelle Kristal, Guests: Mark Hahn, Jane Wilbur, Margaret Curtin, School Committee Secretary: Barbara Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

1. The minutes from September 15, 2009 meeting were read and **approved as written.**
2. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Retirements
Dr. Weiss reported that Judy Baynes and Chris Abbot will be retiring at the end of this school year. A motion was made to accept both resignations with extreme regret. **The motion was moved and carried unanimously.**
 - b. New Ethics Law
Dr. Weiss stated that there is a new conflict of interest law that was passed several months ago. All school employees and volunteers must get a copy of the law and sign a document stating that they received the copy. This must be done by December 28, 2009. Secondly, all employees and volunteers must go online and complete the conflict of interest form by April 2nd.
3. Financial Report
Mr. Smith distributed the Expenditure Report. He stated that deficits would continue to appear in the report until school choice funds had been distributed.
4. Principal's Report
Mr. Smith reported that the school has hired MaryEllen McElroy as a 40% one on one assistant for a second grade student and Abigail Hurlock as a 100% one on one assistant for a 7th grade student . Mr. Smith was not able to fund the 100% assistant position out of the REAP grant as he had originally intended because the total cost of this position with benefits was more than was available in the REAP grant. Mr. Smith stated he would be paying the 40% second grade position from the REAP grant and **requested \$20,939 from school choice funds for the 7th grade one on one assistant position. The motion was moved and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Smith gave the floor to Asst. Superintendent, Laurie Halt. Ms. Halt distributed the Tisbury School's 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data. She stated that the AYP report is the most important of the MCAS data. The performance levels for English Language Arts was listed as *very high* and as *high* in Mathematics. The Tisbury School was not cited for improvement. Ms. Halt stated that Tisbury School's 3rd and 4th grades showed high performance and high growth, highlighting a stellar performance.
5. Sub-Committee Reports
 - a. Buses
Dr. Tankard reported that Jimmy Flynn said that the buses are going well. He is in the process of hiring new drivers to replace those that have left.
6. Policy
 - a. Cyber-bullying
Dr. Weiss presented the Cyber-bullying policy for a second reading. A motion was made to accept the policy. **The motion was moved and carried unanimously.**
7. All Island School Committee
 - a. Dr. Weiss reported that the All Island School Committee agreed not to change the method used in accessing shared services.

b. School Calendars

The school committee approved the school calendars for FY11-FY13

FY12 and FY13 will begin as they have traditionally. Teachers will start the day after Labor Day and students will start on the Thursday after Labor Day.

For FY11, staff and teachers will start school the Thursday and Friday before Labor Day and students will start the day after Labor Day. This decision was made for several reasons:

If staff started after Labor Day as is traditional, the last day of school would have been on 6/30. Also, the first two days of school for students would have been on Rosh Hashanah.

c. Superintendent's Budget

Dr. Weiss will be presenting his budget to the all island school committee on the October 22nd. The budget will show an increase of 3.56%. This budget includes a reduction of \$28,000. Non union employees will get no salary increases. Only staffs that are getting steps will receive an increase. Dr. Weiss stated that 70% of the superintendent's budget is for direct shared services and 30% is for management and finance. If forced to go to 0%, then other things like the strings program will be cut. Dr. Weiss asked the committee to take a look at the budget before the Oct. 22nd vote. Dr. Tankard suggested that the school committee should get together to discuss this budget. He expressed his concern that programs that motivate students would be cut. Dr. Tankard stated that he did not want to see cuts made prematurely. It was agreed that the School Committee would convene on Monday, Oct. 19th at noon in the Library.

8. New/Old Business

a. Shenendoah

Mr. Smith reported that he had met with Morgan Douglas of Coastwise Packet concerning the Shenendoah trip. He told Mr. Douglas that he was not interested in continuing the trip as it currently is. Mr. Smith wants all children to have the opportunity to go and wants the price to be cut in half. He expressed his thought that this trip could possibly replace the Alton Jones trip. Mr. Smith stated that he wanted to pass this idea by the school committee and will bring it to SAC.

b. Chairman

Maura Valley stated that a chairman for the School Committee needed to be chosen. Dr. Tankard volunteered to be the chairman for the current year. **A motion was made and carried unanimously to accept Dr. Tankard as chairman.**

c. Meeting Time

It was decided that school committee meetings would remain at 4:30pm.

9. Visitors and Public Comment

Parent, Mark Hahn stated to the committee that he was concerned about the strings program being cut. He felt that it was an important part of a well rounded education and we needed to maintain it. Mr. Smith invited Mr. Hahn and other guests to the SAC meeting at 8:30am on October 27th. Ms. Jane Wilbur expressed her desire for the string program to remain as it is. She stated that the program is needed as much as math and reading and we need to find a way to save it. Parent, Margaret Curtin stated that the town of Tisbury appreciates the Tisbury School and felt that it would support the program. Dr. Tankard stated people need to know that the community wants these programs. Finance Committee Member, Jynell Kristal stated that the Finance Committee is looking at a heavy deficits in 2011 and that there would be hard cuts. Mr. Smith stated that if the revenue is not available, than he could be facing hundreds of thousands of dollars of cuts. Positions in the building would be cut. Programs that might be kept would mean a decrease somewhere else.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

Submitted by Barbara Armstrong, School Committee Secretary.