

Tisbury School Committee Meeting
Tisbury School Teacher's Room
September 11, 2007

Members present: Dr. Robert Tankard (Chairman), John Bacheller and Maura Valley
Others present: Assistant Superintendent Laurie Halt, Principal Richie Smith,
Asst. Principal Maureen DeLoach, Superintendent Dr. James Weiss,
Financial Officer Amy Tierney, Tisbury Town Treasurer Tim McLean,
Jim Norton, and Secretary Donna Tankard

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

1. The minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting were read and approved as written.
2. Mr. Norton and Mr. McLean spoke about the Manter property and explained a letter addressed to Mr. McLean from James Lengyel of the Land Bank about the unclear title of the land and their request to purchase the property. Mr. Norton gave a brief history of the Manter family and the properties they owned, he talked about the whole 30 acre parcel and how in 1977 the town bought 23 of those acres and how there was no discrepancy with the title at that time, and then read from the will the stipulation that stated, "What is in the best interest of the children of Tisbury School". There was a lengthy discussion about these issues. The committee asked Mr. Norton to correspond with Mary Jo Reedy from Murphy, Lemere and Murphy to draft a clear document concerning the property. Dr. Weiss asked Mr. McLean to write a response letter back to Mr. Lengyel. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken by the committee asking Mr. McLean to write the letter to the Land Bank thanking them for their offer but refusing it.
3. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. Dr. Weiss reported that island-wide the schools are down by 47 students from last year and that Tisbury School remained the same with about 300 students. He also reported that there was a great school opening last week.
 - b. Dr. Weiss spoke to the issue of posting the positions of Principal and Assistant Principal as of July 1, 2008 with a strong in-house candidate. The committee made a motion and seconded it and with a unanimous vote taken asked Dr. Weiss to begin the posting process with a start date of July 1, 2008 for these two positions.
 - c. Mrs. Halt spoke to the committee about curriculum and instruction. She commended the Tisbury School for the Lesson Study approach it will be using this year. She also told the committee that in October there would be training for this program; two teachers and an administrator from each school will be invited to attend.
4. Financial Report:
 - a. Mr. Smith passed out copies of the **Expenditure Report for 2007-2008** and explained a few lines that were in deficit. The committee made a motion and seconded it and a unanimous vote was taken to transfer monies from the T-11line, 4th grade supplies and enrichment fund to cover these deficits. All salary lines will be adjusted to reflect the 3% increases. It was also stated that School Choice monies could be used with School Committee approval for these kinds of expenses next year.

5. Principal's Report:

- a. Mr. Smith spoke to the committee about the Lesson Study Program that has been implemented and the value of it to the school.
- b. Mr. Smith reported that Miss Oly Wirtz has been hired as a new Spanish teacher with an ELL background. The position is one year only and she still needs to get her Massachusetts certification.
- c. Mr. Smith spoke to the committee about his desire to bring in inclusion and use it as a hybrid model this year to see how it works out.
- d. Mr. Smith reported that there was a smooth school opening with great professional days. There was only one glitch and that was parking. It was a real problem because the American Legion refused to allow anyone to park in its parking lot. He shared with the committee some ideas he has about how to resolve this problem. He reported that the American Legion would be voting tonight to see if they would allow their lot to be used for 20 cars for school staff only, which would free up spaces in the school parking lot for parents. The committee made a motion and seconded it and a unanimous vote was taken to pursue insurance coverage for the American Legion if they agree to this plan.

6. Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. **Transportation Committee** – Dr. Tankard reported that the bus situation is going well. Mrs. Tierney and Mr. Flynn are looking into purchasing new buses but the trade-in value is no longer as good as it was in the past. They will continue to look into this issue. The subject of vans and pony school buses was discussed and it was reported that they can no longer be purchased for school buses and cannot be used after this year. What schools presently have can be still be used, but no more can be purchased.
- b. **Cape Cod Collaborative Committee** - Dr. Tankard shared with the committee that on Thursday, September 6th Mr. Walter Healey, Jr. gave him a tour of several schools in the Cape Cod Collaborative from Brewster to Mashpee showing him what they have to offer. They have an alternative school, staff development programs for credits and PDPs, and a great leadership program, which is excellent for students in the summer. All of this is offered to the island schools.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna R. Tankard