

Tisbury School Committee Meeting

March 13, 2007

Members present: John Bacheller (Chairman), Dr. Robert Tankard, and Maura Valley

Others present: Superintendent Dr. James Weiss, Asst. Principal Richie Smith,
Teachers Jill Waxweiler and Anne Williamson, Planning Board Member
Tony Peak and Secretary Donna Tankard

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting were read and approved as written.
2. Superintendent's Report:
 - a. Dr. Weiss reminded everyone that the Tisbury Town Meeting would be held on April 10th at the Tisbury School gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. He mentioned that he would not be at the meeting but that Amy Tierney may be there. He wanted to be sure that someone would be at the meeting to address the high school assessment issue.
 - b. Dr. Weiss commended Richie Smith for the excellent job he did at presenting the 2007-2008 school budget to the Finance Committee.
3. Financial Report:
 - a. Mr. Smith passed out the 2007 Expenditure Report for review and he explained some deficit lines to the committee.
 - b. He also passed the Revolving Lunch Spreadsheet for review. He explained that the deficit of \$3,917,15 was much less than last year at this time because of the salary shift into the regular budget.
4. Principal's Report:
 - a. Mr. Smith shared with the committee the MCAS schedule. Testing will begin on March 20th starting with composition for the 4th and 7th grades and then grades 3-8 will have English composition on March 27th – 29th.
 - b. Dr. Tankard asked Dr. Weiss if there had been any new decisions concerning the MCAS testing. Dr. Weiss said not at this time.
5. Personnel:
 - a. Mr. Smith reported that Moiria Celia would be returning from her maternity leave on March 19th. He commended Pamela Melrose for doing a great job covering Moiria's class in her absence.
6. New/Old Business:
 - a. Visitor Tony Peak from the Tisbury Planning Board spoke about the Manter Fund Property. He explained the position of the Planning Board and their concerns about the land and what will be done with it. Mr. Peak stated that the Planning Board feels strongly about supporting smart growth and keeping development down, especially in open areas. This land has been identified as a habitat resource and a ground water protection area. A lengthy discussion took place about the history of the land, research into the possibility of teacher housing, and the infrastructure as a whole. Mr. Bacheller stated that the committee really just wanted to finish the property contract made with the town in the original agreement concerning the right-of-way. Mr. Peak stated that if the school committee decided to pursue further discussion of affordable housing that it would include the Planning Board in that discussion.
 - b. Mr. Bacheller reported that Mark Abraham, CPA from BetterGovernment.com, would be meeting on Wednesday, March 14th in the conference room at the High

School to discuss the assessment for the Town of Tisbury to the High School and how the figure of \$1,750,000 was arrived at and why Tisbury pays \$220,000 more than the other towns for this assessment.

- c. Mr. Smith reported to the committee about an incident with a third grade student that took place on Monday, March 12th. He asked the committee for their input on the disciplinary measure he took and if they thought it was appropriate. The committee commended Mr. Smith on his action and agreed with the decisions he had made.
- d. The committee agreed to change the date of the next meeting to Monday, April 9th because the Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10th.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna R. Tankard