

**Tisbury School Committee**  
**February 10, 2009**

**Members Present:** School Committee Members: Present: Robert Tankard and Rebecca Cass  
Absent: Maura Valley

**Others Present:** Superintendent: Dr. James Weiss, Asst. Superintendent: Laurie Halt,  
Principal: Richie Smith, Asst. Principal: John Custer, FinCom Representative: Jynelle Kristal  
and School Committee Secretary: Barbara Armstrong.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm

1. The minutes from January 13, 2009 and the June 23, 2008 meeting were read and approved as written.
2. Superintendent's Report  
On Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> the All Island School Committee reviewed three policies that will be brought to the Tisbury School Committee. The policies are for staff and student conduct, special education and travel.

Dr. Weiss distributed the NESDEC Enrollment Projection for Tisbury School. The projections show that Tisbury School may be stable for the next 10 years. Over the next 5 years the enrollment projections are around 300 for the Tisbury School. Dr. Weiss reported that the island wide enrollment projections also seem to be stable for the next 5 years.

Dr. Tankard asked if this stability indicated that staffing would remain the same or decline. Dr. Weiss felt it might remain the same for Tisbury School. Mr. Smith stated he would like to keep the staff as long as the town will support it and that as the school loses staff through attrition he will reorganize staffing to fit the school's needs, including holding onto programs. Dr. Tankard stated that he would prefer regionalizing programs rather than losing a program. He also encouraged the administration to convey to the school committee all that they need to operate and that the school committee will promote it to the town. He asked that the administration not let things go that the school needs because it is hard to get them back.

Mr. Smith stated that there are three people currently working at Tisbury School that are not included in the FY10 budget. He would like to find a way to keep these individuals. Ms. Cass stated that she would rather see teachers share an assistant than give up a program like Practical Arts. Mr. Smith stated that his number one priority is to take care of staff jobs even if that meant he would have to give up a program. Ms. Cass stated the Practical Arts was an important program and that she would rather lose assistants and keep the Practical Arts Program. She asked if PA also included shop and art. Mr. Smith reported that PA Program was only Marci Nichols' program. Mr. Smith would like to find money for the three people currently not in the FY10 budget and is contemplating changing the Practical Arts from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade to a half time position for 5-8. Dr. Weiss added that Oak Bluffs and Edgartown currently share a PA teacher.

3. **Financial Report and Principal's Report**

Mr. Smith distributed the Expenditure Report. The School Choice rollover hasn't happened yet. Some of the expenditure lines are in the red but the departments are in good shape and are on par with last year. There is currently a "soft freeze" with no big trips or big ticket items being purchased. It is projected that the Revolving Lunch may end up being \$24,000 in the red.

Ms. Cass asked Mr. Smith if the parent in need of fuel had been helped. Mr. Smith reported that the town would not allow the money to be distributed from the Manter Fund, but two generous, anonymous donors had made contributions so that fuel assistance could be provided to the Tisbury School parent. There was discussion concerning why the town would not pay for this item from the Manter Fund and a decision was made that a letter should be written to the town addressing this.

Mr. Smith requested that \$.46 be transferred from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade DC trip to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation line. \$1172.00 had been approved at the September meeting, but the correct amount should have been \$1172.46. **A motion was moved and carried to transfer \$.46 from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade DC trip line to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation line.**

Mrs. Kristal reported that the Finance Committee was happy with the FY10 budget Mr. Smith had presented to them and they were pleased he was being frugal.

3. **Sub-Committee Reports**

Buses

Dr. Tankard stated that Jimmy Flynn and Amy Tierney have done a good job on transportation. Buses are being delivered 3 at a time to the island.

Professional Development

Dr. Tankard also reported that he and Laurie Hall went to the University of Mass of Boston to discuss setting up a partnership with them for Professional Development. The meeting was not successful. Mrs. Halt stated that Universities want to be the sole provider. Teachers on the mainland don't have the travel issues we have and the island does not have the numbers to support a district based program. Mrs. Halt is trying to get groups of people to do programs. The Cape Cod Collaborative might be able to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

Submitted by Barbara Armstrong, School Committee Secretary.