

**Tisbury School Committee Meeting**  
**Tisbury School Conference Room**  
**December 11, 2007**

Members present: John Bacheller and Maura Valley

Others present: Superintendent Dr. James Weiss, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Halt, Principal Richie Smith, Financial Officer Amy Tierney, Teachers Patricia Ryan and Judy Baynes, Lani Carney and Secretary Donna Tankard

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m.

1. The minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were read and approved as written.
2. Superintendent's Report:
  - a. *Enrollment Projection:* Dr. Weiss passed out Enrollment Projections for the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools showing the enrollment history by grade island-wide as well as projections for the next ten (10) years. Island-wide we topped out at 2,390 students ten (10) years ago and enrollment in the 2007-2008 school year is now 2,120. The Tisbury School had an enrollment of 389 students in 1997 and now ten years later has an enrollment of 297 students. The projection is that the enrollment will remain pretty stable for the next five (5) years.
  - b. *Principal Appointment:* Mrs. Halt read a memo from the Superintendent of Schools stating that he whole-heartedly endorses Richie Smith as the newly appointed principal of the Tisbury School. Dr. Weiss will bring a contract to the next meeting for approval.
3. Financial Report:
  - a. Mr. Smith passed out the Expenditure Report, Revolving Lunch Report, Student Activity Report and the Fund Balances Report for the committee to review.
  - b. He spoke to the committee about creating a line within the Student Activity Account called Sports Expense Line by transferring \$714.08 from the Catchall Line. The Catchall Line would be eliminated and the Sports Expense Line would be used to buy sports equipment, uniforms, etc. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to transfer the \$714.08 to establish the Sports Expense Line in this manner.
  - c. The Revolving Lunch report is reflecting a loss as of November 30, 2007, which is typical for this time of year. Costs have gone up and participation is only at a little better than 50%.
  - d. Mrs. Halt reported that Linda Rose (Head Cook) and Jeanne Dowling (Nurse) participated in a Family to School Initiative, which involves starting a movement on Martha's Vineyard to buy more locally grown food.
4. Principal's Report:
  - a. Mr. Smith reported that he had a request from a parent who would like to transfer their student from Tisbury School to the West Tisbury School. He was asking for confirmation of the School Choice Policy procedures that state that transfers can take place until December of that school year.
  - b. The committee agreed that there were no changes to the School Choice Policy. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the School Choice Policy.
  - c. Mr. Smith reported that Kara Zajicek was requesting a 12-week maternity leave starting December 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to approve the maternity leave.

- d. Ms. Lani Carney shared with the committee her concerns about curriculum review, the quality of the mind for the Tisbury School students, the culture here on the island, and the administrative portion of the budget. After some discussion about these issues, it was decided that she would meet with Mr. Smith to share her concerns further.
- e. FY'09 Budget Analysis (DRAFT #2): Mrs. Tierney explained the Tisbury School Site Budget with School Choice monies increasing from \$100,000 in the 2008 school year to \$210,000 in the 2009 school year to be added into the budget. This was a recommendation by the SAC committee. There was a lengthy discussion about several issues including the salary increases for all five units, which are contractual obligations, the shifting of staff, and operating expenses. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to approve the transfer of \$210,000 from School Choice Funds to the FY '09 Budget.
- f. *Facilities Manager*: Mr. Smith reported that the SAC does not support the Facilities Manager position to the Superintendent's Office and strongly recommends that the School Committee approve this position on a one-year only trial basis. There was a very lengthy discussion about the need for this position, the already very tight budget, the role of the position and how they would be used in each school, and the quality of the person one would get for a one-year only position. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to reduce the budget by \$17,673 and remove the position.
- g. Mr. Smith presented to the committee a plan for salary changes and reorganization. He explained losses and gains by rearranging salaries and positions. He was proposing an additional \$25,000 to have in the budget to cushion these changes. A motion was made and seconded and a unanimous vote taken to add \$25,000 to the budget for this purpose.
- h. It was decided to have another meeting to review the FY '09 Budget before it is to be turned into the town. The meeting was set for Monday, December 17, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

6. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna R. Tankard