



## MEDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
459 Main Street - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Medfield, Massachusetts 02052

Jeffrey J. Marsden, Ed.D  
Superintendent  
jmarsden@email.medfield.net  
(508) 359-2302

To: Medfield School Committee  
From: Jeffrey J. Marsden  
Re: Tisbury Model  
Date: 4/14/2022

After hearing so much about how Tisbury could be a model for Medfield to follow in order to replace and/or repair the Dale Street School, I decided to reach out to a Town Official to learn more about how the Tisbury model could help us. Tisbury, like Medfield, went through the entire MSBA process and their project failed when brought to the community for a ballot vote.

The Tisbury project was designed to build a new school adjacent to the existing building. This allowed the students to stay in the old building during construction, thus providing "swing space". Once the project was completed, the old building would be demolished. The availability of "swing space" is an important point to remember, as it was also discussed at STM in November 2021, with the Newton example. Unfortunately, we do not have the luxury of "swing space" as confirmed by the Warrant Committee prior to STM last November. This creates a huge expense for Medfield when considering a renovation project instead of building a new school.

These are the important facts to that I learned through my conversations with a Town Official:

- New School in Tisbury using the MSBA Program:
  - In 2018, the total project cost to build a new school was \$46.6 Million
  - MSBA reimbursement to the town was \$14.6 Million
  - The total cost to the Town was \$32 Million
- In 2021, after their own analysis, Tisbury decided it was more prudent to self-fund their project:
  - Town voted to renovate the old building
  - Town appropriated \$55 million (not \$60 million as reported locally) to renovate (\$23 million MORE than a new school)
  - The town is spending several million on modular classrooms to house students during construction because they do not have "swing space"
  - Projected "shovel in the ground" was 1/22 is now full construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2022 - with a modular classroom school "hopefully opening in 9/22"
  - Expected total costs to the Town with inflation "will be closer to \$70 million"...for a renovation of the old school, not a new school
  - The Tisbury model will cost taxpayers **double** the failed project and Tisbury will receive \$0 in MSBA reimbursement
  - Entire process began in 2012 – four years from deciding to "go it alone" to the first "shovel in the ground"

When I inquired if Medfield should use the Tisbury as a model for our project, the Town Official replied - "This isn't a model for anything- maybe to save the exterior of an old building, but that's about it."

I offer this memo as factual information to provide clarity and details about a model that continues to surface as a potential path for Medfield.