

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 13, 2025, 4:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Truro Central School

Vida Richter - Chair - *absent*

Peter Cook - Vice Chair - *absent*

Amy Costa - *remote*

Kenneth Oxtoby - Secretary/Acting Chair - *present*

Tyler Medley - *remote*

Superintendent - Stephanie Costigan

Principal - Patrick Riley

Recorder - Jody O'Neil

1. Call to Order: Ken Oxtoby called the meeting to order at 4:32pm, took roll call.

2. Public Comment: Chris Roberts, Truro resident and parent of a fifth grader; expressed disappointment that TCS declined to join Wellfleet's fifth graders for a tour of Nauset and a lack of follow-up regarding the situation from Principal Riley. Chris Roberts read Superintendent Costigan's reply stating that all 5th grade families should contact Nauset directly regarding the upcoming tour and that all TCS families would receive information which, he said, was not sent out; requested middle school options be related in a timely and transparent manner going forward to all TCS families.

3. Approval of Minutes: December 5, 2024, December 19, 2024, January 16, 2025

A motion was made to approve the Dec. 5, 2024, TSC meeting minutes as amended by Amy Costa, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll call, 3-0-0.

Amy Costa - yes

Tyler Medley – yes

Ken Oxtoby - yes

A motion was made to approve the Dec. 19 2024, TSC meeting minutes as amended by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll call, 3-0-0.

Ken Oxtoby - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

Amy Costa - yes

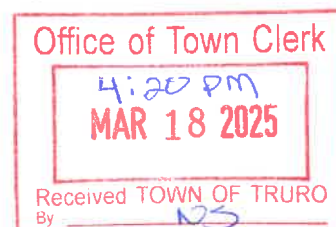
A motion was made to approve the Jan. 16, 2025 TSC meeting minutes by Amy Costa, seconded by Ken Oxtoby, roll call, 3-0-0.

Amy Costa - yes

Ken Oxtoby - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

4. Dates to Remember: Fifth Grade Fundraiser - Dine-out, hosted by Ciro & Sal's on 2/6/25
Fanizzi's on 2/12/25, Painted Lady Pop-Up on 2/17/25,
Tin Pan Alley on 3/2/25 - 10% of proceeds goes towards Gr. 5 trip!
February 17-21, 2025 - Winter Break, no school
March 4, 2025 - Bingo Night at TCS
March 7, 2025 - ½ day for students - Global Play Day and PD for teachers
March 13, 2025 - School Committee Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.



5. Administrators' Reports:

5.1 Superintendent:

Policy Manual

The Policy Manual is fully completed and in binder form, two flash drives included. The updated Manual process was launched four years ago with a future option to digitize the Manual at a cost of \$3,500 for conversion and a \$950 yearly charge for updates and maintenance. These costs may be discussed at the next TSC meeting for consideration. In its current, non-digitized form, the Manual was noted as being a bit cumbersome.

Budget Task Force presentation

The FY2026 Budget was presented to the Budget Task force on January 21, 2025; it was well received, fielding few questions, and will be presented at Town Meeting on the weekend of May 3rd at TCS, with a large tent as before and registration in the gym.

Executive Orders

Superintendent Costigan addressed what she said have been a barrage of Executive Orders from the new Administration and the anxiety it is causing families, teachers and staff; advice from the Attorney General and Town Counsel is to not react immediately by making announcements but to wait for a response at the State level and/or judicial actions, as well as further directions from Town Counsel. A letter was sent to families regarding immigration and the presence of ICE in TCS.

MSBA Assessment

Massachusetts School Board Authority is conducting the 2025 State-wide survey of general facility conditions, including capacity maintenance and educational environment; a design engineering team is to be sent to each school in two parts. A recent interview with the Superintendent consisted of 400 questions, and a site visit is planned for March 6, 2025 at 8am.

Integrated Monitoring Review

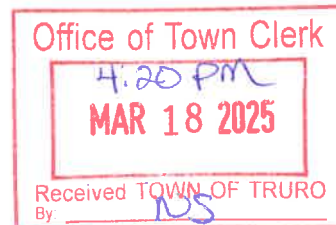
Mass Dept of Ed monitors districts as part of the Individuals with Disability Act; TCS is in Group A this year for review, focusing on Special Education and Civil Rights, and the English Learner Program. The State uses these interviews for tier-focused monitoring and issues recommendations across four areas. The Report is expected late in March. The second part of the interview regarding Special Ed will be the first week in April.

Title I Report Card

The Report Card was issued to staff today and a letter with a link to the Report will go out following today's TSC meeting. The Report can only be viewed online. Superintendent Costigan went through highlights of the Report including an increase in daily attendance to 96.2% and a decline in chronic absenteeism. A decline was also noted in the area of Exceeding in English Language Arts at 34% - reported for 2024, and a decline to 31% for Math - the first year of a drop in Math, which will be explored, Science also showed a slight decline, but at 58% is still above the State average. Student Growth numbers were reported as very encouraging.

State Accountability, which had dropped last year based on two students not participating in MCAS is now performing better than 46% statewide and making moderate progress..

Ken Oxtoby noted how small class sizes affect the MCAS percentile in greater proportions.



5.2 Principal Report:

Assessment Data

The winter benchmark was recently concluded, with results in Math showing TCS growth at a rate that is higher than 56% of other schools across the country, K through 5th grade. In Reading, TCS is starting the school year in the 69th percentile and the 65th percentile for Growth. No questions were fielded from the TSC. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for mid-March.

Curriculum Night

A good turn-out in January, math games and a focus on exercises that can be done by families at home. Literacy instruction in the Media Center. Special Subject teachers offered presentations.

Community Dinner

Truro Family Group family outings included a Taco Dinner two weeks ago with nearly 100 in attendance. Additional events are planned for March and April.

Grade 5 Trip Update

The April 7 Maine Trip has achieved about 90% of its fundraising needs. *Upcoming:* Bingo fundraiser on March 4, donations sought from local businesses and raffle tickets are being sold by students for scratch tickets. Ken Oxtoby noted the dinner at Ciro & Sal's was well-attended, to which Principal Riley said \$500 was raised, with the Fanizzi Dinner donation total forthcoming, based on 10% of the night's profits.

6. Subcommittees: None reported.

- 7. New Business:** The Commonwealth Massachusetts Virtual Schools (CMVS) statute (G. L. c. 71, § 94) indicates, and the CMVS regulations (603 CMR 52.00) reiterate, that a school committee of a sending district may vote to restrict enrollment of its students in a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School (CMVS) if the total enrollment of students enrolled the CMVS from the district exceeds 1 percent of the total enrollment in its district; provided, however, that no student enrolled in a CMVS can be compelled to withdraw because of that vote. A vote is needed.

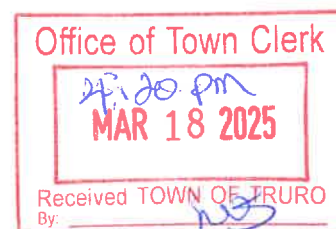
The Massachusetts Commissioner has reached out to determine the virtual enrollment of each district. TCS has one student so engaged, or 1.28% of total school enrollment, and at a virtual school enrollment cost of \$9,800 per student (School Choice is \$5,000 per student, charged to the district). Superintendent Costigan recommended the TSC vote to restrict enrollment to 1% to avoid the associated financial burdens.

A motion was made by Amy Costa to restrict enrollment allowance at the Commonwealth Massachusetts Virtual Schools to 1% of the student enrollment, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll call, 3-0-0.

Amy Costa - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

Ken Oxtoby - yes



8. Unfinished Business: None reported.

9. Other: Vote to approve TCSFG and Wellness Committee's fundraising requests for events to raise funds for the Pasta Party, Fifth grade trip, and enrichment activities/materials for TCS students.

A motion was made by Tyler Medley to approve the TCSFG and Wellness Committee's funding requests for events to raise funds for the Pasta Party and other fundraising efforts, seconded by Amy Costa, roll call 3-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes

Amy Costa - yes

Ken Oxtoby - yes

10. Executive Session: Not engaged.

11. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the TSC meeting at 5:22pm was made by Tyler Medley, seconded by Amy Costa, roll call, 3-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes


Amy Costa - yes

Ken Oxtoby - yes

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on

March 13, 2025

Respectfully Submitted:



Truro School Committee Member

