

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 14, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Truro Central School

TSC Workshop: 3:30pm

TSC meeting: 4:30pm

Vida Richter - Chair - *present*
Peter Cook - Vice Chair - *present*
Amy Costa - *remote*
Kenneth Oxtoby - *present*
Tyler Medley - *present*

Superintendent - Stephanie Costigan
Principal - Patrick Riley

Recorder - Jody O'Neil

1. **Call to Order:** Vida Richter called the meeting to order at 3:37pm, took roll call.

2. **Work Session Agenda** - 2024-25 school committee goals workshop. *Rescheduled from October 3, 2024*

Goals for TSC 2024-2025: SMARTIE

Goal #1: Vida Richter suggested creating a School Committee Handbook through the Policy Committee, chaired by Ken and Pete, now that the Policy Handbook is digitized. Vida Richter to send current info to the sub-committee through Dropbox.

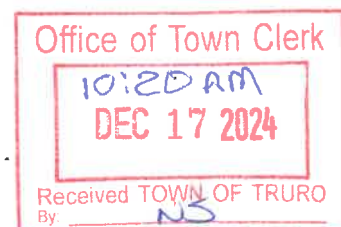
Goal #2: Sixth Grade, whether one student or ten, discussed as a goal with community and financial support, transportation to be negotiated in the next contract. Superintendent Costigan to draft the language and added benchmarks for the Sixth Grade Goal.

Goal #3: Tyler Medley mentioned small things that can be done for Communications, such as the Truro Page and sharing-out information; has five talking points for consideration. Good channels through email, Facebook and others - prudent to keep the messaging consistent. Pete Cook cautioned against violating Open Meeting Laws through social media posting of information. Stacey Klimkosky, Science and Art teacher and Social Media Coordinator, was mentioned as a good resource for communications networking.

Goal #4: TSC support of Superintendent Goals

Strategic Objectives:

Four objectives: 1., TSC to support the staff and administration; 2., Align curriculum across grades; 3., Partner with community organizations; 4., Ensure all school facilities are well maintained. School welcoming events, new lobby furniture, bringing back Grade 6. Literacy Institute explored for curriculum options; a quote of \$120,000 for a reading curriculum, grades 1-6. TSC to be involved in choosing a future curriculum. Grant opportunities to be investigated. Curriculums to be reviewed once every ten years or so. Science is good for now, Math curriculum



was introduced about four years ago. School budget worked in conjunction with the Collins Center.

3. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 4:18pm was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Pete Cook, roll call, 4-0-1.

Ken Oxtoby - yes

Pete Cook - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

Vida Richter - yes

Amy Costa - abstained (*audio-tech difficulties*)

School Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm.

1. **Call to Order:** Vida Richter called the meeting to order at 4:31pm, took roll call.

2. **Public Comment:** None reported.

3. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2024, October 3, 2024

A motion was made to approve the September 12, 2024 TSC meeting minutes by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Pete Cook, roll call, 5-0-0.

Ken Oxtoby - yes

Pete Cook - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

Vida Richter - yes

Amy Costa - yes

A motion was made to approve the October 3, 2024 TSC meeting minutes by Pete Cook, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll call, 4-0-1.

Ken Oxtoby - abstain

Pete Cook - yes

Tyler Medley - yes

Vida Richter - yes

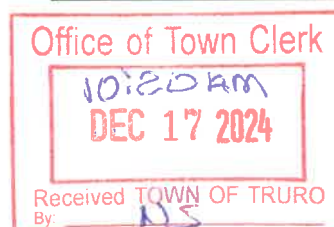
Amy Costa - yes

4. Dates to Remember:

November 22, 2024 - Family Breakfast Friday,
All School Meeting at 12:30pm.
November 26, 2024 - Thanksgiving Feast & TCSFG
Pie Sale, 3:30pm. Submissions are still open.
November 27-29, 2024 - No School, Thanksgiving
Break.

2024-25 School Committee meeting dates:

September 12, 2024	January 23, 2025
October 3, 2024	February 13, 2025
November 14, 2024	March 13, 2025
December 5, 2024	April 10, 2025
December 19, 2024	May 8, 2025
January 9, 2025	June 12, 2025



5. Administrators' Reports:

5.1 Superintendent: Budget timeline, contracts, grant update

MASC Conference

MASC Conference was held in Hyannis last week, and was very well attended. Items presented included Policy, Budget development, Collective Bargaining, Strategic Planning and Environmental Projects. Falmouth School District was recognized as a 2024 National Green District School, having met all the required criteria for sustainability and clean air designations. Superintendent Cositgan cited a good opportunity to collaborate with Falmouth and TCS's Farm-to-Table program. Ken Oxtoby agreed on the benefits of conference attendance, noting TCS's past art program. Conference is open to any MASC-affiliated school district in the State.

MASC Results

TCS's evaluation was noted in terms of "In Need of Focused Targeted Support," with 94% of participation or 32 out of 34 students represented. Highlights: Student Growth Percentiles in Math went up 27.5 points, and a 12.7 increase in ELA; decline across the board in Science - only pertaining to grade 5, but still above state-average; a decline by 3% in students meeting and exceeding expectations in the ELA; decline in math by 11%, but with growth also realized in these last two categories. Writing goals to be especially addressed in the current school year. Minimum group size of 10 is required to receive data. Winter benchmarks planned for the end of Feb. 2025.

Budget Timeline

Request to change the Jan. 23, 2025 meeting to Jan. 16 at 4:30pm in order to schedule the Budget Task Force meeting on January 21, 2025 at 8:30pm; Budget finalized on Jan. 9.

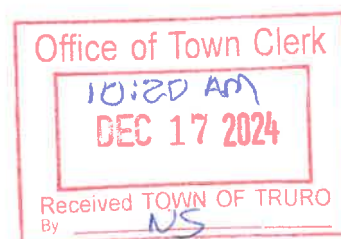
Contracts

Teacher's contract in receipt.

Grants

IDEA (Federal) Grant: \$43,114, on par with past grants, \$594 IDEA grant for Early Childhood Development. Title 1 Grant above \$43k. Money set aside for mentoring stipends. Title 4 Grant at \$10k to support stipends for teachers participating in the Literacy Leadership Team. Fresh Fruit and Veg Grant, just under \$5k. \$14.5k grant to support new technology. Rural School Aid Grant has yet to be allotted. Total allocation for the State has increased to \$16 million. Northeast School for Food Grant of \$1,000. The Comprehensive School Health Grant has dropped to \$14k from \$30k last year. A grant for just under \$46k was given as stipends for teachers participating in year two of the Social Emotional Academy and the new database. Total grant monies are just under \$200k. A new grant has been applied for to fund a two-spigot milk dispensary fostering fresh, local milk and reducing waste. Mass CEC offers opportunities to explore a decarbonization plan or electric transportation options, assessments forthcoming. Superintendent Costigan shared that she has been in touch with the Town's Energy Commission to discuss the School's vehicle policy.

5.2 Principal Report: Farm to School month, Jazz in the Schools, Family Conferences, Professional Development



Farm to School Month

State-wide Farm to School program was held in October; action plans include sourcing more food locally. Activities included a school garden Scavenger Hunt, strawberry-tasting, and a staged election which went in favor of quesadillas. Farm-and-Sea-to-School program. Rotation of items each month on a given Tuesday, e.g., apples, turkey, local seafood, others.

Jazz in the Schools

Jazz musician Bart Wesiman and others presented on Oct. 25. Jazz from 1920s through Afro-Cuban style. Free programming.

Family Conferences

Family Conferences were held at the end of last month, afternoons and/or evenings, high participation rate reported.

Professional Development

Half and full days of Professional Development recently held regarding work on safety measures, de-escalation and crisis management. DIBELS training for dyslexia screening - fully approved by the State and offered through a platform titled Amplify to offer immediate data; student testing can be conducted in 5-7 minutes. Professional Development facilitated within two weeks.

Sustainability for School District

Efforts over the past few years to engage students from Pre-K through a return to grade 6. A community-based model to roll out next year will involve applied-learning.

Fifth Grade Trip

This year's trip was a week in February at the Seashore through the The Need Collaborative in Truro, a week-long seashore program focused on science. This same opportunity is not available this year for April or May. 2025 trip selected as Motion Park in Maine, an outdoor classroom, incorporating wilderness survival and outdoor skills, week of April 7. Maine program noted as costing half of what the Need Collaborative charges; \$451 per student for one week, all inclusive, minus transportation.

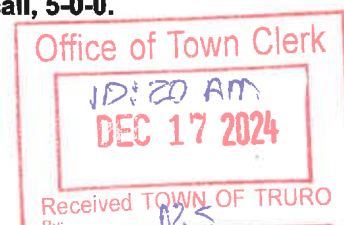
6. Subcommittees: None reported.

7. New Business: Alex Lessin, Town of Truro Finance Director, to discuss collaboration with the Collins Center for budget planning.

Alex Lessin presented online; reported on the Collins Center, a local government think-tank located within UMass Boston, working with local leaders. State is quoted as currently funding at only about 41% of education, creating budgetary challenges. Superintendent Costigan noted that a budget breakdown is forthcoming with pie-charts. Collins Center costs about \$11,000, financed by existing funds left over from the previous year, no additional monies expected to derive from FY2025. Collins Center was also noted as assisting the Town with collective bargaining.

8. Unfinished Business: Vote to adopt the entire policy manual as previously approved

A motion to approve all sections of the Policy Manual, as previously approved in part, was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Amy Costa, roll call, 5-0-0.



Ken Oxtoby - yes
Pete Cook - yes
Tyler Medley - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Amy Costa - yes

9. Other:

Ken Oxtoby proposed electing a secretary of the TSC. Vida Richter mentioned a discussion last fall with the choice expressed to not to have a secretary which was okayed by the Town, but said she would be open to the measure if the Committee was so inclined.

10. Executive Session: Not engaged.

11. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:34pm was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll call, 5-0-0.

Ken Oxtoby - yes
Pete Cook - yes
Tyler Medley - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Amy Costa - yes

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on December 5, 2024

Respectfully Submitted:



Truro School Committee Member

