

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 2024, 4:30 PM

Truro Central School

Vida Richter – Chair - online
Peter Cook - Vice Chair - present
Edwige Yingling - online
Kenneth Oxtoby - online
Tyler Medley - present

Superintendent - Stephanie Costigan
Principal - Patrick Riley
Recorder - Jody O'Neil - online

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order:** Vida Richter called the meeting to order at 4:30pm, took roll-call.

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

3. **Approval of Minutes:** February 8, 2024

A motion to approve the February 8, 2024, TCS meeting minutes was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Peter Cook, 5-0-0.

Ken Oxtoby – yes
Tyler Medley - yes
Peter Cook – yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Vida Richter - yes

4. **Dates to Remember:** March 22, 2024, Pasta Party Fundraiser

5. **Administrators' Reports:**

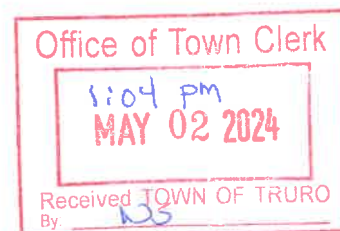
5.1 **Superintendent:** School Improvement Plan, Outer Cape outreach, Grade 6

Upcoming Meeting dates:

- April 15, 2024, 4:30pm, selected as the next TCS meeting date.
- Grade 6 committee, Vida Richter and Edwige Yingling, to meet March 18, 2024, 11am.
- Policy Sub-committee to meet on Thursday, March 21, 2024, 10am.

School Improvement Plan

Superintendent Cositgan offered updates on the two year, 2023-2024 TCS Improvement Plan including Mission, Core Values and Vision, Theory of Action and four Strategic Objectives: Welcoming and Inclusive Environment for All; Teaching All Students; Family and Community Partnerships; Sustainability – put into practice through four Strategic Initiatives and Outcomes that include student and family participation; Academic Achievement and Social Emotional Well-Being (Dr. Wornum's returning workshop aided by a Title 1 grant fund); Communication between home, school and community, facility and structures/processes improvement.



Monitoring processes overseen by N. Winslow, P. Riley and S. Costigan with benchmarks for creating an inventory of literacy instructional materials and assessments by grade level and a curriculum mapping for writing, writing assessments conducted two to three times a year, MA Literacy Institute, Curriculum Night for families, p/t English Learner hire, create and develop an English Learner curriculum. Data base to go live when ready.

Participation will include, in part: Farm to School Institute; Tier 2 Coaching Wellness Program; NOAA's Ocean Guardian Schools Program; contracting with Sustainable Cape for Farmer in the School Program; and Truro Rec for opportunities. Measurement of impacts on benchmark plans as charted from Sept. 2023 through Sept 2024, including contractual negotiations and CIP engagement with the DPW. *Full plan posted on the website.*

Edwige Yingling spoke of positive feedback from multiple families regarding the nutritionist program. Superintendent Costigan said the program would go under review at the end of the school year for renewal considerations. Ken Oxtoby thanked the staff for putting together all the current components of the Two-Year Plan together in a clear and concise manner.

Outer Cape Outreach

Superintendent Costigan spoke of a meeting with the first year Principal of Wellfleet School, Adam O'Shea, regarding the shared challenges of declining enrollment and opportunities to merge and integrate events, such as the Meet Collaborative, the fall and/or winter circus, Girls on the Run – a national program – and a new activity to be announced tomorrow.

Superintendent Costigan said she has also been meeting on a regular basis over the past two years with the Superintendents of Provincetown and Nauset to outline ways to cooperate across school districts and benefit students.

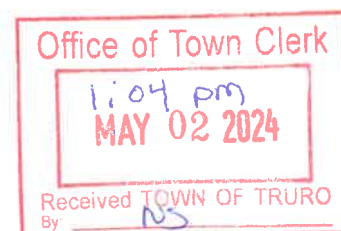
Grade 6

Recent information session revisited where Ideas were shared for ways to entice students to remain at TCS for Grade 6 in terms of hands-on learning and project-based learning, such the recent engagement where students built a skiff in conjunction with the Maritime Museum. Standards for 6th grade learning to be outlined for September 2024.

5.2 Principal Report: Mid-year assessment data, attendance, report card conferences, WetFest in Provincetown

TCS Mid-Year Literacy Benchmark Update

Principal Riley said he would focus on areas of literacy in presenting Benchmark Assessments for K through 5th grade, conducted in Fall, Winter and Spring to provide a snapshot for areas of needed attention and development. NWEA testing and Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Progress Monitoring tool with scaled scores evaluated nation-wide. As reported, TCS is in the 61st percentile for growth in reading on the MAP Growth Assessment, fall 2023 to winter 2024. Edwige Yingling said she appreciated the climb to 63% in the F&P reading calculation and asked



if there is an expectation as to how high it may go, to which Principal Riley said they want it to rise to 100% and noted that TCS student reading has achieved its highest levels in three years. (Math level shown at 51% of benchmark assessment.)

Measures to improve student achievement in literacy include enrollment in Literacy Leadership Institute (DESE), implementation of writing benchmark assessments for scope and sequencing in writing.

TCS Attendance

Principal Riley related that attendance has been a challenge across the State since the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 where statistics show that almost one in four MA students missed 18 or more school days in 2022-2023. 32.7 % of TCS students for grades 1-5 were considered chronically absent in 2023, down from 44.1% in 2022. Efforts continue to be made in getting the word out on the benefits of improved attendance through consistency in communications with parent. Principal Riley offered that recording attendance numbers three times a year is not enough, and so letters are dispatched to alert families to the hours of missed instruction with days of absenteeism. Peter Cook asked at what point do chronic absences invite punitive measures to which Principal Riley said truancy reports may be filed – which so far have not been necessary at TCS, but suggested that the TCS attendance manual be updated.

Ken Oxtoby thanked Principal Riley for his presentation and left the meeting at 5:50pm.

Report Card Conferences

Report Card Conferences are to be held on the last Thursday (evening conferences) and Friday (afternoon conferences) of the month.

Wetfest

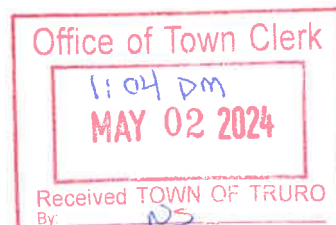
Sponsored by AmeriCorps to promote awareness of local water sources, hands-on and interactive activities with TCS joined by Provincetown and Wellfleet. Edwige Yingling thanked Principal Riley for his report.

6. Subcommittees: Gr. 6 subcommittee - *As discussed above.*

7. New Business:

7.1 Farm to School update

Beth Cook, School Nurse and Wellness Committee Chair, presented with former Nurse and Garden Coordinator on the Farm to School team, Helen Grimm. Farm to School reinforces the important themes of community, environmental health, and sustainability while also teaching students about agriculture, health and wellness, science, literature, nature, and stewardship. School gardens and field trips offer educational opportunities and support the local economy. Local



procurement figures at 6%, verses 20% at the natural average. It is the 10th year of the Farmer in the School program with Stephanie Rein. Video screened of children in the lunchroom testing their knowledge of food education and a round-up of the TCS Souper Social, community gathering and raffle. A graphic was displayed, highlighting Mission, Vision and Values.

7.2 Vote not to maintain grades 7-12 - This is an annual vote required by state law

A motion to not maintain grades 7-12 was made by Vida Richter, seconded by Tyler Medley, 4-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes

Peter Cook – yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Vida Richter - yes

7.3 Consider a vote to support the town and recreation department's use of Collaborative vans and buses. (May through August – initially proposed)

A motion to support the town and recreation department use of Collaborative van and buses March 15, 2024 through March 15, 2025 was made by Vida Richter, seconded by Edwige Yingling, 4-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes

Peter Cook – yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Vida Richter – yes

A motion to approve the School Improvement Plan was made by Vida Richter, seconded by Tyler Medley, 4-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes

Peter Cook – yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Vida Richter - yes

8. Unfinished Business: None reported.

9. Other: None reported.

10. Executive Session: There will be an executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. (Not needed, per Superintendent Costigan.)

11. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24pm was made by Vida Richter, seconded by Tyler Medley, roll-call, 4-0-0.

Tyler Medley - yes

Peter Cook – yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Vida Richter – yes

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

April 25, 2024

Respectfully submitted: Jody O'Neil



Truro School Committee Member

