

**TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE REMOTE MEETING**

**March 28, 2024, 4:30 PM**

**Truro Central School**

**AGENDA**

**Vida Richter – Chair**

**Peter Cook - Vice Chair - *absent***

**Edwige Yingling**

**Kenneth Oxtoby**

**Tyler Medley**

**Superintendent - Stephanie Costigan -**

**Recorder - Jody O'Neil**

**1. Call to Order:** Vida Richter called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. No roll-call taken.

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

**3. Approval of Minutes:** None approved.

**4. Dates to Remember:** Next meetings: April 25, Thursday, May 2 and Thursday, May 9.

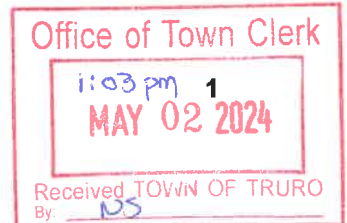
**5. New Business:** *A vote is needed to adopt the 2024 Student Opportunity Act plan. The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) requires each district to create an evidence-based plan for reducing persistent disparities in achievement across student groups, which must be submitted for the commissioner's review on a three-year cycle.*

Superintendent Costigan spoke of the challenges of conforming to the State-generated tool for data analysis in that the student ratio at TCS is so comparatively low. Alternatively, assessments were tracked as performed internally at TCS to cover a two-year period.

Breakdown of 91 total students at TCS: 64.8%, white 18.7%, multi-race, 9.9% Hispanic; 6.6% African American; 18.7% student with disabilities; 3.3% English Learners; 53.8%, high needs; 39.6%, low-income.

As three or four students opt not to take the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) test each year, overall accountability classifications fall to a low-participation rate which requires assistance and intervention. Some improvement reported in science and technology, but the biggest negative impact is derived from chronic absenteeism. Area of focus needed for high needs students who declined by 5.9 points in EL and 3.6% in math. Most recent and inaugural SOA stats reflect that the majority of three- and four-year-olds are showing robust attendance, benefiting from a co-teaching model.

Three main areas for critical attention: 1., Attendance; 2., Curriculum and instructional practices; 3., English Learners. Targeted sub-groups include students with disabilities, black and African American students, students of mixed-races and English Learners.



TCS is engaged in a Tiered-focus monitoring process conducted every six years and which is currently at the three-year check-in marker. SOA Plan for 2024 addressed for Integrated Services for Student Wellbeing & Enhanced support for SEL (socio-emotional learning) and Mental Health. The Wellness coach is being brought back to assist in the Plan. Balanced menu planning was worked on for this year with net year's potential to cover areas of mental health and plans for family and stakeholder engagement strategies.

Goals set for completion of SOA Plan in 2027. Anticipated funding at \$48,000 over three years for Panorama database and accompanying professional development; first 18 months being paid out from School Behavioral Health Grant, same amount to be credited next year less 10%.

### Curriculum

Mass Literacy Institute: The State has determined that literacy instruction at TCS only partially meets State expectations Supplemental materials employed mirror those used by most school systems in the State. All teachers are working on curriculum maps for teaching writing. Focus on program alignment across grades, literacy screener, value assessments, assuring equitable access to programming, and ongoing staff support.

Next year, or Year One, the focus will be on literacy, screening and progress monitoring tools. The following year will focus more intensely on utilizing appropriate interventions.

Four choices have been narrowed down to serve as curriculum sources. Funding is estimated at \$150,000 to purchase a new reading curriculum; \$120k to purchase the materials and \$30k for professional development. Grant funding to be explored.

### Diverse Learners, English Learners

Development of a coherent program responsible to the needs of diverse learners and a research-based program to sustain native languages as well as language development needs. Home language surveys noted as issued each year. All TCS teachers have the State guide designation of Sheltered English endorsement standard. Robust ELA program anticipated by 2027, with an estimated cost of \$96,200 over three years based on the current contract with p/t EL teacher, including \$5k for professional development.

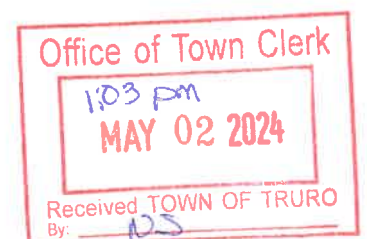
**A motion was made to approve the 2024 Student Opportunity Act Plan as presented was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Tyler Medley, 4-0-0.**

**Ken Oxtoby – yes**

**Tyler Medley - yes**

**Edwige Yingling - yes**

**Vida Richter - yes**



**6. Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 PM was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Tyler Medley, 4-0-0.**

**Ken Oxtoby – yes**

**Tyler Medley - 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**

