



**TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 8, 2024, 4:30 PM**  
**Truro Central School**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Superintendent - Stephanie Costigan**  
**Principal - Patrick Riley**  
**Admin. Business & Finance - Heather Harper**  
**DPW Director – Jarrod Cabral**  
**Recorder - Jody O’Neil**

**1. Call to Order: Peter Cook called the meeting to order, gave roll call.**

**2. Public Comment: None.**

**3. Approval of Minutes: January 4, 2024, January 25, 2024**

**A motion to approve the January 4, 2024, and January 25, 2024, TCS meeting minutes was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Vida Richter, roll call vote, 5-0-0.**

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

**4. Dates to Remember: March 14, 2024; Pasta Party, March 22. 2024**

**5. Administrators’ Reports:**

**5.1 Superintendent: Budget update, 2023 District Report Card.**

Stephanie Costigan reported that the FY2025 budget presentation to the Budget Task Force was well received with one or two questions addressed related to the budget and operations. Vida Richter was present at the meeting and concurred.

2023 District Report Card containing information pertaining to student enrollment is to be dispersed as required by recipients of the Title 1 Grant funds. As presented: enrollment has declined from 113 in 2021 to currently 92; 75.8% of teachers are fully licensed; 100% of students engaged in the arts, as well as Digital Literacy and Computer Science courses. Attendance: 91.1% in 2023, up from 90.6% in 2022, but down from 94.3% in 2021; chronic absenteeism at 32.7% in 2023, down from 44.1% in 2022. Vida Richter suggested parents may keep children home due to illness levels more so since COVID-19.

Results from MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Study) Student Performance included English Language Arts and Mathematics, grades 3-8 and Science, grades 5 and 8. Metrics evaluated as Exceeding, Meeting, Partially Meeting or Not Meeting Expectations.

Literacy Institute engagement benchmarks were revisited. Patrick Riley said students are achieving high levels in improvement in both math and reading based on online assessments three times a year with growth recorded between fall and winter. Science levels of Meeting

Expectations rose to 79% in 2023 from 44% in 2022 for grades 5 and 8, which Stephanie Costigan can be attributed to the recruitment of a science teacher, adding that while the drop in scores is disappointing, appropriate, actionable steps have been taken to mitigate these results.

Tyler Medley noted the average of 1% of TCS students in the Exceeding Expectations column in in English and Science compared to the State average of 7%; while Not Meeting Expectations reports TCS with 8% in ELA and the State at 19%, along with similar results in Math & Science.

Stephanie Costigan cited 15% to 20% of students who need a *bit* more help through Tier I of the Literacy Academy program and 3% to 5% who need more help beyond that indicator. Patrick Riley pointed out a number of students who are very close to crossing over from Partially Meeting Expectations to Meeting Expectations and said writing is a stand-out area for focus with TCS employing the Empowering Writers curriculum. Stephanie Costigan suggested taking a look at more local data to make further assessments to be addressed at the next meeting.

Accountability section takes into account student test performance and chronic absenteeism. TSC results show 15% for Progress on this MCAS scale, compared to 41% State-wide, and which translates as little to no progress. Stephanie Costigan related that this is also an indicator of the relatively small student population, where four students opting out greatly affects the ratio.

Financial expenditures: 2021 at \$41,350 per pupil; 2022 at \$43,233 per pupil. Stephanie Costigan addressed high TCS numbers compared to the State average of \$17k as a result of the high cost of tuition for grades 7-12 transportation and special education; noted that TSC is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest ratio per student expenditure in the State and that Provincetown, #1. Peter Cook suggested an update on the Report Card as TSC gets closer to Town Meeting.

**5.2 Principal Report:** Global Play Day, Valentine's with the COA, Professional Development, Parenting Classes with Cindy Horgan

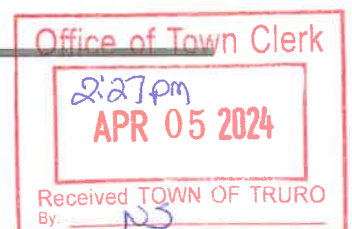
Global Play Day yesterday was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual such event to promote awareness and importance around child play as not directed by teachers; four areas of set-up: outdoor play; Library, with a focus of individual student freedom; arts & crafts in the Art Room; building – Legos, and other. COA visits on Tuesday with 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders crafting valentines to brighten spirits. Peter Cook said the Facebook pop-up was nice to see. Classes with Cindy Horgan from Cape Cod Child's Place in Orleans were presented in two sessions over the past two Wednesdays. Family Group provided pizza and childcare, about eight or nine families per session.

**6. Subcommittees:**

Wed., March 6 or Thursday, March 7 considered for Policy Subcommittee with Peter Cook.

**7. New Business:** Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) presented by DPW Director Jarrod Cabral (vote may be taken). Farm to School presentation by Nurse Beth Cook – *postponed to next meeting*.

Jarrod Cabral presented updates on Capital Improvement Projects and FY2025 plans. Door replaced the week of the 19<sup>th</sup>, CPC Funds approved for the pre-school playground – safety data sheets, and materials to be employed, are expected. TCS is encouraged to retain yearly \$25k technology upgrade. Stephanie Costigan said these funds could potentially be expended for security upgrades. Jarrod Cabral recommended keeping the grant at \$100,000. Gym floor



upgrade and added Pickle ball courts could benefit from adding another \$29k. Carpeting and interior painting are the next two big things; Stephanie Costigan mentioned a rubberized playground surface and Peter Cook cited tiling for the lower-level bathrooms with increased community usage, also deterioration at kitchen and gym entrance areas. Flat rubber roof replacement and skylight leaks were mentioned. HVAC work to include the cafeteria. Stephanie Costigan asked if mini-splits might be added or if there is another way to cool down the kitchen. Peter Cook asked if Library carpeting for FY2026, also indicates leveling off the floor.

**A motion to approve the CIP as presented by Jarrod Cabral for FY2025 in the amount of \$1,690,00 was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Vida Richter, roll call vote, 5-0.**

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

**A motion to approve the CPC funding for the Playground as presented by Jarrod Cabral for FY2025 in the amount of \$128,804.69 was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Vida Richter, roll call vote, 5-0.**

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

**8. Adjournment:**

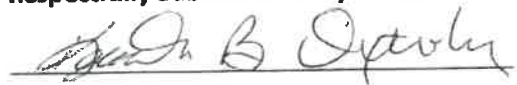
**A motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 5:33 pm was made by Ken Oxtoby, seconded by Peter Cook, roll call vote, 4-0.**

**Ken Oxtoby – yes  
Tyler Medley - yes  
Peter Cook – yes  
Edwige Yingling – yes**

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

**March 14, 2024.**

**Respectfully Submitted: Jody O'Neil**



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Truro School Committee Member

