

Truro School Committee Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2020

Regular Session Virtual Meeting

Present: Kenneth Oxtoby, Michelle Jarusiewicz, Christine Roderick, Kolby Blehm

Absent: Dennis Clark

Others: Michael Gradone, Stephanie Costigan, Heather Harper, Kathleen Rosenkampff, staff members, members of the public

1. Call to Order: Kenneth Oxtoby called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: Kolby Blehm moved to approve the August 18, 2020 minutes, second by Michelle Jarusiewicz, vote 4 - 0.

3. Dates to Remember: TSC meetings September 15, 2020, and September 29, 2020.

4. Administrator's Reports

4.1 Superintendent's Report: Mr. Gradone reported families are emailed periodic communications with updates. In the coming weeks, all families will receive emails from the school nurse, classroom teachers, and administration. A FAQ page will be added to the school website. TCS will set up a google site for all families to access. The administration is gathering information on Covid-19 testing for staff with results returned in 3 - 4 days at the cost of \$3000. Truro Town Meeting is scheduled for September 26, rain date September 27.

4.2 Acting Assistant Superintendent-Principal Report: Mrs. Costigan reported that setting up PK for all 23 children has been challenging. Fourteen families request in person with nine families requesting remote learning. PK classroom can safely fit 10 - 11 students. The administration will prioritize four-year-olds. Some families of 3-year-olds will not have their requested schedule. Letters will be sent to PK families this week. Ms. Klimkosky will be the in-person PK teacher, Ms. Ready will be the remote PK teacher. The school-wide plan is to have a team approach in each classroom with two teachers, one educational assistant, and one specialist. Mrs. Costigan gave a brief overview of the numbers of remote learning, in-person, and special education students in grades PK - 5. There are no 6th-grade students this year. Enrollment is at 115 students.

The HVAC system has been inspected and cleaned. DPW director Jarrod Cabral suggested air purifiers ducts in vents throughout the system which have been installed. Rooftop exhaust fans have been repaired. Air purifiers and window exhaust fans were ordered for each classroom. Megan O'Leary has identified six different outside locations for outdoor classrooms. Benches and shade sails are on the way. Today was the first day of PD for all staff. Katie Castano presented information on ergonomics.

4.3 Business Administrator Report: Mrs. Harper reported TCS budget is financially stable. Mrs. Harper has received official CEP notice. All TCS students will receive free lunch.

5. Visitor/Faculty Statements: None

6. Subcommittees: None

7. Unfinished Business:

7.1 Approve Reopening Plan - Mr. Gradone recommended TSC approve the reopening plan with the following amendments, change K - 6 to PK - 6, and change remote learning platform model SeeSaw grades PK - 2 and Google classroom grades 3 - 6. So moved by Kolby Blehm, second by Christine Roderick, vote 4 - 0.

7.2 Confirm FY21 operating budget reductions - Please see attached memo for a breakdown. Kolby Blehm moved to reduce the TSC budget from six million sixty-six thousand, four hundred seventy-four dollars to five million eight hundred twenty-nine thousand seventy-four dollars, second by Christine Roderick, vote 4 - 0.

7.3 Walsh Property Liaison - Kenneth Oxtoby gave a brief history of the Walsh property, which abuts TCS and TSC interest in a land swap with the Walsh family. Kenneth Oxtoby would like to be the TSC liaison. TSC members thanked Ken for his willingness to participate on the Walsh property committee.

8. New Business:

8.1 Consider Teaching Position - There are currently 114 students enrolled at TCS PK - grade 5. There are no 6th-grade students enrolled this year. 68% of families have chosen in-person learning, and 32% of families have selected remote learning. With two teachers and one educational assistant in each classroom, we have one educational assistant more than needed, and are one teacher short. Mrs. Costigan would like to hire an additional teacher to complete the team approach in each classroom. This new teaching position would be for the 20 - 21 school year only. Discussion ensued with committee members asking for more information. There was no action taken.

9. Other: Raphael Richter requested permission to speak; Raphael expressed his concern with the PK plan and how it affects working families in Truro.

10. Executive Session: No action taken

****To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining****

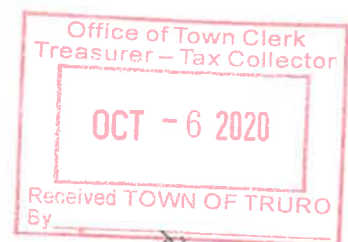
****Committee entered Executive Session at 6:32 PM, re-entered Regular Session at 6:46 PM, both by unanimous roll call votes****

11. Adjournment: Christine Roderick presented a motion to adjourn, second by Michelle Jarusiewicz, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on September 15, 2020

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen Rosenkoff
Kenneth B Oxtoby
Truro School Committee Member



To: Truro School Committee
From: Michael Gradone, Superintendent
Date: May 12, 2020
Re: Possible FY21 Budget Reductions

The list below seems consistent with the proposed reductions in other Town departments discussed at the May 5 Select Board meeting. I reviewed it generally with the Town Manager yesterday. She suggested a vote to approve these cuts is not necessary this month, because Town Meeting will not happen before late June, and perhaps not until the fall. If a better estimate of FY21 receipts is available before the Meeting, this list may be able to be trimmed. That said, the Town would like a Committee consensus, to inform planning going forward. These reductions would cut the Town Meeting request to \$5,820,974 operating, and \$20,000 capital.

1. The Town is including the Capital Improvement Plan in the overall budget request. If we keep in \$20,000 for technology (all those Chromebooks loaned out to students, and who knows what will be necessary for next year), and defer the rest, that's a reduction of \$122,500. The Town Manager suggested the balance of the handrail project be done this spring (\$20,000) with FY20 operating funds.
2. Take \$150,000 from Circuit Breaker, the state's Special Education reimbursement account, and reduce the residential tuition request to \$158,723.
3. Use \$50,000 from School Choice reimbursement, to reduce Nauset tuition to \$1,671,632.
4. Cut field trips \$15,000, to \$2,000.
5. Cut \$8,000 from Professional Development Conferences.
6. Cut \$3,000 from library books.
7. Cut \$3,500 for policy development.
8. Cut \$5,000 for the gym floor refinishing.
9. Cut \$1,000 from Principal's Professional Development.
10. Cut \$10,000 from Custodial Services. This will reduce the Facilities Director's time during a period when there will be little or no capital work done.

