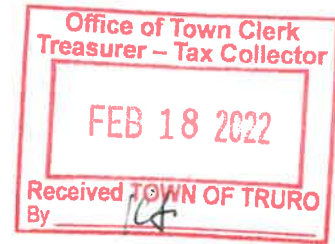


Truro School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022

Regular Session



Present: Kolby Blehm (remote), Christine Roderick (remote), Vida Richter (remote), Edwige Yingling (remote)

Absent: Kenneth Oxtoby

Others: Stephanie Costigan, Patrick Riley, Kathleen Rosenkampff

1. Call to Order: Kolby Blehm called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of Minutes: Vida Richter moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022, second by Christine Roderick, roll call vote, 3 - 1 - 0.

Vida Richter - yes

Edwige Yingling - abstain

Christine Roderick - yes

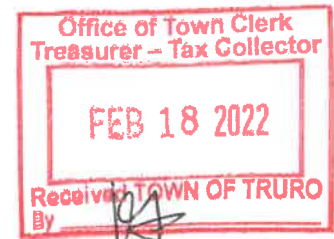
Kolby Blehm - yes

4. Dates to Remember: TSC meeting February 17, 2022, @ 5:15 PM.

5. Administrator's Reports

5.1 Superintendent Report: Superintendent Costigan reported the progress update for the four School Committee goals. Following are portions of the report, for the full report please see attached. In the first goal area of professional development, a committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion has been established and consists of 8 staff members including administrators, teachers, and educational assistants.

The second goal area is in the area of family engagement and communication in order to increase awareness of our process, procedures, and sharing of important information. Based on feedback from the school committee at the beginning of the school year, we instituted bit.ly links to our texts and emails to collect data on how many TCS community members, including staff and families, receive our communications. Based on the data collected, an average of 155 clicks have been recorded for our weekly update and any health & safety-related news. A survey to families regarding our communication has recently been sent out and we have received a 58% response rate within the first week of distribution with most families indicating text (80.9%) and email



(70.2%) as their preferred method of communication. 83% of those who responded feel the information TCS sends via text and email is just the right amount with 12.8% indicating it is not enough. Other areas identified by the leadership team to improve communication include updating our website with a more user-friendly interface that may include a news feed for most important information, an app for viewing information on a mobile phone easily, and improving our current phone system to make it easier to dial a party directly. The School Council has met four times this year so far and has developed a drafted School Improvement Plan and a survey for families to indicate their preference for sixth grade as well as gaining their feedback on school-wide communication. In terms of our third goal in emergency planning, COVID-19 has encompassed the majority of our time this year as well as last year. In addition to bi-weekly COVID Response Team meetings, our health, and safety protocols have changed several times to keep up with CDC and DPH/DESE recommendations.

On January 31st, the Test and Stay program will be replaced by a new offering from the state that supplies test kits to students and staff to test at home once a week. Symptomatic testing will continue to stay in place. Finally, the school committee has identified student achievement as their fourth goal area. Universal Assessment Screening occurs three times a year at TCS - in the fall, winter, and spring. Assessments are conducted in reading using the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System as well as the NWEA Map Growth online assessment for reading and math for students in Kindergarten-Gr. 5. Preschool and Kindergarten students also participate in literacy screening that is administered individually. This year, a data/student achievement team has been formed. In addition to the development of the data/student achievement team, I have been in touch with an approved DESE vendor, Open Architects, Inc., about data analytics tools. Open Architects (OA) has partnered with DESE to provide two free data dashboards that will allow us to easily analyze our state testing results. An MCAS dashboard will be created that will put the results in a visualization format that we can use to compare our school/district performance with comparable districts. Another dashboard for ACCESS results will be started. ACCESS is the tool used for assessing English Learners. Since this is the first year that we have had English Learners in need of services, it will provide a baseline for this school year. We are in the process of sharing MCAS information with OA and our dashboard should be up and running within a couple of weeks.

5.2 Principal Report: Principal Riley reported that TCS is transitioning to an opt in- opt-out Covid testing the week of January 31, 2022. Families and staff who opt-in must sign up and will receive weekly testing kits to do at-home testing 1x a week on Thursdays. A positive test result gets reported to TCS. The school will no longer be obligated to do contact tracing.

6. Subcommittees: The policy subcommittee will meet on February 9, 2022. Superintendent Costigan and Kolby Blehm met with Town Manager Darrin Tangeman to discuss the Walsh property and what was done in 2010. Superintendent Costigan will go through past records to get information on the history between TCS and the Walsh property.

7. New Business: None

8. Unfinished Business: Letter from Jack Peak regarding regionalization. Superintendent Costigan stated that Jack Peak raised valid questions and Sup't. Costigan would like to include regionalization in her entry plan for strategic planning in the future. Sup't. Costigan thanked Jane Clark for her interest in helping with a feasibility study. Sup't. Costigan will research the work done by Sup't. Brian Davis in 2009 and 2010 on regionalization. The committee discussed options regarding updated information on questions raised in Jack Peak's letter. Sup't. Costigan will include accurate per pupil costs and will meet with Nauset Regional Middle School to discuss curriculum. The committee discussed study options, which are an internal feasibility study or outsource a feasibility study on regionalization costs. The committee would like more information. Sup't. Costigan will have an outline for an internal study for the March school committee meeting.

Other: None

11. Adjournment: Vida Richter presented a motion to adjourn, second by Edwige Yingling, vote by roll call vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Vida Richter - yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Christine Roderick - yes

Kolby Blehm - yes

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on February 17, 2022

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen Rosenoff

Vida Richter

Truro School Committee Member

