

Truro School Committee Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting Regular Session

Present: Kenneth Oxtoby, Michelle Jarusiewicz (5:38), Dennis Clark, Christine Roderick, Kolby Blehm

Absent:

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

- 1. Call to Order:** Superintendent Gradone called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.
- 2. Reorganization:** Christine Roderick nominated Kenneth Oxtoby as Chair, second by Dennis Clark, vote 3 – 0- 1. Kenneth Oxtoby abstained. Dennis Clark nominated Michelle Jarusiewicz as Vice Chair, second by Christine Roderick, vote 4 – 0. Dennis Clark nominated Kolby Blehm as Secretary, second by Christine Roderick, vote 4 – 0. Christine Roderick and Dennis Clark will continue as Policy Subcommittee members. Kenneth Oxtoby and Kolby Blehm will be the Negotiating Subcommittee.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Dennis Clark moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2020, second by second by Christine Roderick, vote 3-0 - 1. Kolby Blehm abstained.
- 4. Dates to Remember:** TSC meeting, August 4, 2020 and August 25, 2020
- 5. Administrator's Reports**

5.1 Superintendent's Report: Mr. Gradone reported DESE has posted a FAQ document on the DESE website. Plans are ongoing to have students return to the building. Mr. Gradone listed a number of concerns and requirements including but not limited to masks, social distancing and health. A preliminary plan is due to DESE by July 31. The intended method of opening is due to DESE August 10. The administration will be sending a survey to all families.

Mr. Gradone updated the committee on railing installation. Specs had not been drawn for final plan. Wooden railings have been installed by the custodial staff. A future CIP will address railings.

5.2 Principal's Report: No report/vacation

5.3 Director of Student Services: Mrs. Costigan reported the extended school year program has 37 students participating in the virtual program. The ESY program is using the SeeSaw platform with younger students and it has been successful. A small group of students are participating in the Farmer's Market held at the school on Monday mornings. The students are picking veggies and flowers from the school garden and selling them, with money donated to the TEEA.

5.4 Business Administrator/ Heather Harper: The FY 20 budget has closed with \$447,286. 48 returned to the town. Capital funds of \$17,372.23 were not obligated.

6. Visitor/Faculty Statements: Amelia Rose as President of the TEA read a statement in support of the MTA/AFT/BTU Public School Reopening Proposals to DESE.

7. Subcommittees:

8. Unfinished Business:

8.1 Superintendent's Goals – The goals will be updated to include Black Lives Matter

1. Professional Development - We judge this is the highest priority, given our inability to prepare for the recent closure/remote learning, and the likelihood of some need to continue instructing some students at home in 20-21. The range of P.D. needs, from Health and Safety protocols, to Reading and Math, to the on-line programs we use (e.g., Google Classroom) is unprecedented. It is a challenge we share with every school district in the state, so we'll be working with our colleagues (particularly on the Cape) as we prepare for next year, but that adds another layer of communication, even as it provides different professional perspectives. We therefore recommend the Reading goal be incorporated in Professional Development, since the needs of our Reading program will unfold in September, when we regain in-person contact with our students. We will design and offer Professional development in Reading suited to the needs we identify in the fall, and not necessarily those we carry over from prior years.
2. Family Engagement - However 20-21 unfolds for TCS, our relationships with our children's families will be more important than ever. Whether some families or all deal with remote learning, periodically or for extended periods, we must take advantage of the opportunity to support them in whatever ways we can, to enable their children to have as productive and calm a year as possible. We certainly will continue to work with the Town as often and flexibly as possible. Actively engaging the wider community during a pandemic seems more than we can accomplish.
3. Future Leadership - the Committee's concern for considering the school's future needs, and having a plan in place, makes good sense, and is good School Committee practice. The administration will support that effort in any way we can.
4. Emergency Planning - It is apparent from numbers 1 and 2 above that much of our work this year will be planning our response to the COVID-19 emergency. The point made at the last meeting that we should not let other emergency planning lapse is valid. Keeping this goal on the list recognizes that this will remain a high priority, at least until we are past the pandemic.

9. New Business:

9.1 The Committee and the public: Mr. Gradone will talk to Eliza Harned to put together a proposal and a budget to record and possibly live stream TSC meetings once TSC meetings are held in person. The policy subcommittee will meet to form a policy on public comment.

9.2 Transfers: Dennis Clark moved to approve FY 20 transfers as presented, second by Michelle Jarusiewicz, vote 5 – 0.

10. Other: None

11. Executive Session: ****To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining****

****Committee entered Executive Session at 6:26PM, re-entered Regular Session at 6:43PM, both by unanimous roll call votes****

Vote to Ratify - Kolby Blehm presented a motion to ratify the votes made in Executive Session to approve the MOA contract on Covid-19/Corona virus and the MOA on Remote Learning, second by Christine Roderick, vote 5-0.

12. Adjournment: Christine Roderick presented a motion to adjourn, second by Dennis Clark, vote 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on August 4, 2020

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen Rose

Sam B. O'Neil

Truro School Committee Member

