

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 14, 2020 5:15 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting – Regular Session

AGENDA

Chair - Kenneth Oxtoby
Vice-Chair - Michelle Jarusiewicz
Dennis Clark
Christine Roderick - Secretary

Superintendent- Mike Gradone
Principal - Bob Beaudet
Director Student Services - Stephanie Costigan
Recorder-Kathleen Rosenkampff

1. Call to Order:

2. Approval of Minutes:

February 13, 2020 and March 26, 2020

3. Dates to Remember:

June 11 and 25 - School Committee

July 9 - School Committee

4. Administrator's Report:

4.1 Superintendent/Mike Gradone - Town Meeting planning;

4.2 Principal/Bob Beaudet -

4.3 Director Student Services/Stephanie Costigan -

5. Visitor/Faculty Statements:

6. Subcommittees:

7. Unfinished Business:

7.1 Superintendent's Evaluation - The Chair will lead a discussion of how best to proceed.

7.2 FY21 Budget Request - I watched the May 5 Select Board meeting, and have some idea what adjustments were made in other departments' budgets. By Tuesday, I will email Committee members a list of possible reductions in our FY21 request that is similar to those across the Town. The one difference in our considerations is the need to both make up for the academic progress lost this spring, and to prepare for the possibility of closures next year. Simply maintaining our instructional effectiveness won't be good enough; we have to find ways to become more effective than ever, even if our budget must be reduced. A vote on any budget changes will be necessary.

8. New Business:

8.1 School Choice - I recommend we continue to participate (that is, to accept Choice students). However, not knowing what class size or student distancing may be required in the fall, I do not recommend specific numbers, as I have in the past. Instead, I recommend the Committee vote to participate in the School Choice program, to the extent additional students are consistent with social distancing requirements. These may evolve over the course of the year, and allow us to admit a few additional students as we move past the peak of the virus.

8.2 Food Service Compensation - I am in awe of the commitment four of our staff made, coming to school every week since the closure to prepare and distribute meals to our children's families. Many districts are paying food service staff "Hazard Pay" (time-and-a-half) for the time they prepare meals. I recommend this be done for Susie Roderick, without whom this program could not have been accomplished. The cost is just over \$2,000, at nine hours a week from March 16 through the end of June. Susie has been assisted by three volunteers every week. Lindsey White has come in early on Tuesday, the day the meals are distributed, and helped Susie sort the food, and give it to the families as they arrive. Jenny Leyton comes in an hour or so later, to help with the distribution to the families. Megan O'Leary has

been in every Tuesday, doing everything from passing out food and Chromebooks to painting messages to the families. As a token of our boundless gratitude, I recommend stipends of \$750 for Lindsey and Megan, and \$500 for Jenny, in rough proportion to the time they gave so generously, and constrained only by the Town's difficult financial circumstances. A vote is necessary.

8.3 June Calendar - Deciding what actually constitutes a "school year" in 2019-20 has been a moving target. DESE requires that we use our five snow days, which brings us to Monday, June 29. However, we have a 182-day year, under the terms of the teachers' contract, so the last two days are a local option (as they are every year). Under these unique circumstances, I recommend the Committee waive the final day, and end the school year on Friday, June 26. A vote is required.

8.4 Accept Donations - We have had two generous donations of \$50 each to support the food services we have provided since school was closed. I will have the donors' names at the meeting for the Committee's information. A vote is required.

9. Other:

10. Executive Session: There will be an executive session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

11. Adjournment:

Town Clerk

Posted: May 11, 2020

The matters listed above are those reasonably anticipated by the chair that may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

The meeting will take place on the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to participate in real time may find the online address on the Truro Central school home page, or may be invited by emailing harnede@truromass.org. The meeting will be recorded and posted to the home page.

