

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29, 2021, 5:15 PM

Truro Central School

AGENDA

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

Superintendent - Mike Gradone
Acting Assistant Superintendent-Principal -
Stephanie Costigan
Recorder – Kathleen Rosenkampff

1. Call to Order:

2. Public Comment: Public Comment will be held until after the presentation.

3. Unfinished Business: Consider Expansion of the Preschool Program

We have continued to consider how an expanded Preschool program might be offered in September. Using space at the Community Center raises too many complications of supervision and transportation. COVID will necessitate a third classroom be used to expand TCS' Preschool, which would have a domino impact on staff and programs. We present the option that makes the most sense, both within an expanded Preschool, and throughout the school.

1. We will continue to use the two rooms currently available to the Preschool, to enroll all the children whose families have applied, for as much time as they have requested. This will be a single, expanded program, not two distinct classes.
2. The expanded program will require an additional teacher, and an additional Educational Assistant - a total of two teachers and three Ed Assistants.
3. A third room will be necessary for activities that cannot be accommodated in the two classrooms currently in use. We will meet with staff individually and collectively after vacation to discuss the impact.
4. This will make a third Special program, in addition to Music and Spanish, a "traveling" program. All three will be affected adversely by this arrangement.
5. The cost will be in the \$110,000-125,000 range, as previously reported. The most obvious source of funds is the FY22 operating budget. The Town's School Choice state aid account may also be an option.
6. This arrangement will impact each classroom teacher, because they will not have their rooms available for preparation periods when their students are being taught by one of the traveling teachers. This will be part of our continuing discussions with the faculty, if the Committee decides to implement this model. We likely have to identify and prepare another space for teachers to work productively and safely during these Special classes.
7. We hope the third room is unnecessary once we get beyond social distancing. To restore our Special subjects to their pre-COVID, pre-expanded Preschool effectiveness, at least one additional portable classroom space should be considered in planning for 22-23. For planning purposes, \$90,000 is a reasonable estimate of the cost to acquire and install a single classroom.

This overview is our best analysis of the impact of expanding Preschool to serve every family with a three- or four-year-old to the extent they have requested. We will answer questions at the meeting as well as we are able, recognizing that detailed planning will follow a decision by the School Committee. We will have ready to send two letters to each family on Friday, April 30: one reflecting an expanded program, and one based on the current model.

4. Public Comment: The expectation is that the Committee will hear public comment, and then resume its deliberation on how best to proceed.

5. Adjournment:

Town Clerk

Posted: April 26, 2021

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 platform. Members of the public who wish to participate in real time may be invited by emailing harnede@truromass.org. The meeting will be recorded and posted to the TSC website.

