

TRURO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 6, 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:**
- 3. Approval of Minutes: April 8, 2021, April 29, 2021**
- 4. Dates to Remember:**

School Committee - 5/27, 6/17 & 28
Town Meeting - 6/26 (27)
Town election - 6/29

5. Administrators' Reports:

- 5.1 Superintendent: Annual fiscal cycle; ESSER III grant; DESE in-person update; ventilation**
- 5.2 Acting Assistant Superintendent - Principal update, Safety Care training, MCAS**
- 5.3 Business Administrator: FY21 update**

6. Subcommittees:

7. New Business:

7.1 School choice - With the pandemic still a factor, we recommend fewer Choice students than normal. These numbers are consistent with 6 foot distancing. If we opt for 3', we may recommend they be increased over the summer.

K - 0
1 - 2
2 - 2
3 - 0
4 - 0
5 - 0
6 - 8

Recommendation: Approve TCS participation in the School Choice program at these levels.

7.2 School calendar 21-22 - Enclosed is a straightforward 180-day school year, with the required five snow days. The single change from past practice is having no school on the day before Thanksgiving, the most poorly attended day of the year. Instead, we propose a half-day on Dec. 22, the day before the winter vacation.

Recommendation: Approve 21-22 calendar.

7.3 Request from Joan Holt - Mrs. Holt sent the following letter to the Select Board, and copied Mr. Oxtoby. She asked if the Committee would take a stand opposing the voucher article.

Dear Select Board Members:

If there is a need for the Town to support a day-care program, the Truro Human Services Committee is the appropriate body to consider this need. It can recommend a contribution of Town funds to a day care provider that it has investigated and deemed

worthy. That is the proper way for the Town of Truro to provide this sort of assistance, not a direct subsidy to the parents. A voucher program is far too risky.

I urge you not to recommend the Petitioned Article seeking taxpayer funding for voucher system for day-care for toddlers.

I and several others with whom I've spoken support pre-school for 3 year olds **when and if the School Committee and Staff believes it is possible for the school to provide that.** I believe that for any pre-school program to be funded by the taxpayers, it should be supervised and staffed by educational professionals, whom I trust to do it right. I hope that one day (sooner rather than later) our school will be able to provide **a nursery school type of educational program for Truro's 3 year olds.** That would greatly benefit Truro's toddlers, their parents, and the entire community. I would gladly support an educational budget increase to pay for it.

I do not support taxpayer funding for some unknown and unnamed provider of day care (or babysitting). I think the petitioned article on the Draft Warrant is confusing, seriously flawed, and without any guarantee that the vouchers would be used for the **benefit of the children.** The town could find itself regretting how the contemplated vouchers get used. I urge the Select Board to vote against recommending it to the voters.

Joan Holt

p.s. I would hope that those in our town who can afford it would consider making a charitable contribution to a carefully vetted private, non-profit provider of day care for toddlers. I have done that before and would do so again.

8. Unfinished Business:

8.1 Approve Team Chair - The job descriptions are enclosed.

Recommendation: Approve position of Team Chair at 20% of full time.

8.2 Policies - Second Readings of School Admissions (JF), Homeless Students (JFABD), Military Students (JFABE), Children in Foster Care (JFABF), and Administering Medicines to Children (JLCD).

Third Readings of Affirmative Action (GBA) and Curriculum Development (IGA).

Recommendation: Approve GBA and IGA.

9. Other:

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

11. Adjournment:

Town Clerk

Posted: May 3, 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

