



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

**PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER
12 Winslow Street
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657**

**Tuesday
January 15, 2013
5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Jamie Kryszkiewicz,
Shannon Patrick, and Lory Stewart.**

**Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, District Principal**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Shannon Patrick, Chair.

AGENDA

Public Comments

Chris Duff of 6 Webster Place said that he is now supportive of the new playground but disappointed in the lack of response that he has received from the school's administration. He spoke of numerous attempts to contact the administration without acknowledgement or any interaction. Mr. Duff also said that he is now aware of the many restrictions on locating the playground and is in total support of it but feels that his concerns and letters have been ignored.

In closing he repeated that "he has not been extended the courtesy of a reply but he continues to be available to assist the Superintendent and Committee in developing a plan to minimize the impact of the playground, but will no longer continue the futile attempts to seek this involvement.

Next Tony Bracket, Cottage Street, said that he appreciates all the hard work of the Provincetown School Committee – BUT - he’s concerned about reducing the school psychologist from 3 days down to 2 days. He feels that it should be a full time position and asked the PSC to please look into that.

(To further elaborate on the playground issue – there are two properties that abut the playground’s school property. The properties are 6 and 8 Webster Place. Chris Duff and Mark Westman own 6 Webster Place and 8 Webster Place is a single building with two condo owners. The 8 Webster Place folks claim that contractors removed plants from their property and they have thinly veiled restitution requests.)

Minutes: December 11, 2012, December 18, 2012

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the December 11th meeting as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson
Vote: 4-0-1 ab (LS)

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the December 18th meeting as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 5-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

FY-14 SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Dr. Singer said that the goal of the budget was to come in within 2.5% increase. Unfortunately, she continued, we have a 3.7% increase, even though we have made substantial reductions in the areas over which we have control.

Thus, all the things that we have control over have been reduced. There are things that we don’t have control over. One of them is a 47% increase for the high school students going to Nauset.

Beth said \$598K for tuition to Nauset. We have 5 additional students that we did not previously identify. Next year all 4 grades (9-12) will be attending Nauset. There are 40 students (we’ve actually identified 39 students and the other one is a cushion). \$14,047. is the rate that has been negotiated.

The FY-14 budget also has a small reduction in ftes. From FY-10 to FY-14 there have been significant reductions in personnel-over 18 people.

Jamie Kryszkiewicz appreciates seeing all these things in the budget. She said that - even though - it seems that we're having a budget increase - we really aren't.

Lory Stewart asked – we've had a retirement in the pre-k that has already happened. The salary used to be \$51K – even though she's retired it's still \$51K. Ans: we've replaced that teacher so the salary you are seeing is now the actual amount. All of this is coming from the revolving account from the early childhood.

Cass Benson had a question on the first page. It had to do with union salaries. Beth said that the only non-union people that we employ are the Superintendent, District Principal and the Administrative Assistant for the Superintendent.

Kerry Adams had a question regarding custodial help. Beth said that – at the moment – we are still taking care of our portion and the gym at VMCC but in the near future the DPW should take care of the gym and its bathrooms.

Our main budget details a 1/3 share of the VMCC building regarding utilities.

Regarding Nauset tuition, what happens if we don't have enough?
Beth also said that - typically when we overspend for an item our recourse is to find the money in our budget before going before the town to ask for help.

Jamie doesn't like to take money that we don't need but doesn't like being too short either and Kerry agreed. Jamie wants a discussion about this.

Lory asked - how much testing does the school psychologist actually do?
Ans: Every child on an IEP gets tested every three years as well as new referrals. There are approximately between 12 and 15 evaluations/year, it varies.

Our school psychologist works with individual students, groups of students, and classes of students. Also the psychologist does supervision of students; she's in the pre-school, too.

Motion: Move to leave the school psychologist right where she is, a .5 position.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Jamie Kryszkiewicz

Vote: 3 in favor (KA, JK, & CB) and 2 opposed (SP & LS)

Lory, referring to the budget, said that she is reluctant to provoke a 2½ override. All someone has to do at town meeting is to make a motion from the floor and that will be it.

Jamie feels that there should be distinction between the cost of the high school students and the operating budget over which we have control which is the PK-8 program.

Lory asked - is someone going to the Cape Cod Tech? Ans: Our current 8th graders have yet to decide where they will be going and if 2 children opt to go to tech it's a cost to the Town but comes off the Nauset tuition in our budget.

Superintendent's Update:

▪ Playground

Beth said – the playground has been completed and the children are very anxious to get out there. We're thinking about a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime this week. We have installed a chain link fence. The Historic Commission approved a chain link fence. We're looking at different options and getting advice about additions to the fence. We're out of our CPA funds. All additional work/materials will need to have a funding source.

She read a January 4th letter from the 10 Webster Place owners. Among other things it said that you must cease and desist and you must respect their property lines. Also it stated "Vendors have cut down my trees and removed numerous tree saplings and egregious liberties were taken. The letter further threatened that any damage done has to be repaired at the expense of the school." It was signed Greg Siago – 10 Webster Place.

Beth is looking into it. The original prepping was done by the town. The complaint refers to – after the resumption of the work – so this is after the prepping. All of our work was done on the school side of the property, according to our vendors and they are clear that they only removed a tree stump from the school side. No sand was dumped onto his property. All the trees were trimmed earlier this fall. The DPW said that they removed nothing as well.

Beth said they want to abide by - what is required and expected in terms of town regs, the taxpayer's money, etc. What is potentially the best noise and vision obstruction and what is the standard that you want to meet. There are many things to consider and whatever we choose to line the back wall of the fence – bottom line is: it's not finished as of yet.

Kerry asked – exactly how many direct abutters are there? Ans: There are 3 properties adjacent to the school property and playground and they are 6 and 8 Webster Place and then there is 1 on Winslow Street that does not abut the playground. We have other abutters on other property lines.

Cass Benson asked - is this about noise – or what? We were talking about noise remediation.

The price for slats for the chain link fence would be \$2,796. We are looking at other options too.

Beth said that she has contacted a company called Acoustica Block (sound-proofing fencing) but they haven't gotten back to her as yet.

Kerry suggested contacting the neighbors to see if they'd like to contribute to this.

Beth said that the amount of use at this time of year will be minimal. She'd like to suggest a sub committee to work on the solution.

Kerry said he would be happy to be a member of the sub committee and Lory Stewart also volunteered; it was decided that Lory will chair the sub committee. Chris Duff, the letter writer, was also invited.

Cass wants it made really clear – is this for beauty or noise abatement? Kerry said that there has to be common sense – Beth said that whatever decision you make will need a vote from the PSC. Kerry wants the neighbors to get involved, too.

Lory is very concerned about the letter regarding property damage. How about getting back to them and asking them for before and after photos.

Motion: Move to direct Beth to research the allegation regarding neighboring property damage.

Motion: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0

▪ **Building’s Exterior Renovation**

This should come under the caption (It Never Rains But What It Pours!) One of the architectural design firms that we didn’t select for the renovation has filed a complaint with the Attorney General so we’re going to be off schedule. The worst case scenario is that we start over and are delayed.

▪ **New PK Teacher**

The new Pre K teacher, Lisa Daunais, was to be introduced at tonight’s meeting but she has the flu. She just moved to the Cape and began teaching on January 2nd. She has a masters in education and you’ll meet her soon.

▪ **Mid Year Review-Evaluation Process**

The PSC was told that in February they will be given a formative assessment on the Superintendent’s progress on goals. Your job is to give feedback, and you may suggest that some alterations might be needed. Kim Pike is currently doing 19 mid-yr evaluations.

▪ **Alumni Events**

Insignia- **31-13** will be the mark for all the alumni events. Every month on the 2nd Sunday from 2–4 pm at Napi’s there will be a meeting with the focus on sharing memories. The February topic is the arts – both fine arts and performance arts. The March topic will be athletics. We will have an alumni basketball game and a Portuguese pot-luck supper. All these events will be culminating in June with an alumni prom. Also at graduation we will have an alumni recognition happening.

There will be an event at the Red Inn – no date yet. We have a 31-13 planning committee and all alumni are welcome to send us your ideas and participate.

New Business:

CPC Meeting

We have been invited to the next meeting on January 22nd at 4:00 p.m. We've asked for \$400K. The meeting will be held at the Grace Gouveia building and it's our opportunity to speak in support of our request for the money and for the community to come and support us. This money would relieve the Town's free cash allocation to fix our exterior envelope.

BOS Joint Meeting

On January 28th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a joint meeting of the BoS. Lory suggested "they need to be made aware of the tuition situation."

SOI-MSBA application for heat & roof repairs

Massachusetts School Building Authority will be asked for help with the roofing of this building and replacement of the heating system– and also for the gym windows. Beth will be submitting a statement of interest for their funds.

Cass commented that the playground looks great and the kids are excited.

Shannon said that Gail Browne has been a tremendous asset to us. Beth is advertising for a replacement on the scholarship board.

Motion: Move to draft a letter to Gail Browne to thank her for all her years of service.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion: Move to go into Executive Session and to adjourn the regular PSC meeting and not to return at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved by all.

Adjournment for the regular meeting happened at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session:

For the purpose of discussion regarding an employee's character and reputation.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Gaudiano

E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by _____ on February 5, 2013.
Shannon Patrick, Chair