



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

**TUESDAY, February 5, 2013  
5:30 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Cass Benson, Jamie Kryzkiewicz, and Lory Stewart

**Members Absent:** Kerry Adams and Shannon Patrick (both excused)

**Staff:** Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Cass Benson.

**AGENDA**

**Public Comments**

Tony Brackett, a resident of Town, gave thanks to all for the countless hours spent on the budget. He was, however, concerned about the attitudes about one of the PSC members, Lory Stewart. He said that she claimed that there were fewer students – when, in fact - the school population is growing and not diminishing. Mr. Brackett felt that Ms. Stewart’s comments were aggressive and her most recent attitudes were not warranted. He further felt that she should work with her colleagues but she seems to have some other agenda. He went on..... the budget



In the packet presented at the Truro Public School was an informational sheet about the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in town. There were also copies of Fish Tales and the Fog Horn, accompanied with a power point program and a CD of this presentation including the school's mission statement.

There are MYP (team approach to learning) and unique collaborative opportunities citing the Provincetown Art Association Museum (PAAM) and the Fine Arts Work Center (FAWC) which are available to all students.

Quite a few other opportunities were mentioned in the implementation of the IB curriculum. The PSC was also told that the Nauset Middle School was making a presentation to Truro on this same night.

#### ▪ **PHS Exterior Restoration**

Dr. Singer announced that we have been given the go-ahead to proceed with the design phase of the restoration. We were e-mailed an updated time frame and Mr. Almeda aims for December 2015 as the completion of project. February 4<sup>th</sup> we should get the "go ahead" and before April vacation the workers will be here with the lifts, etc. and Almeda anticipates going out to bid April to June and beginning construction shortly thereafter.

#### ▪ **Early Childhood Center**

There has been interest - especially in town - regarding the difference between Wee Care and Pre-School. FYI - we are required to provide pre-school and the funding for pre-school is by grants and tuition. There are 2 Pre-school classes, 1 for 3-4 yr olds and 1 for 4-5 yr olds. If you are not on IEP, tuition is expected.

In addition to the sliding scales, we help Provincetown families access Baily Boyd funds.

Wee Care is NOT a required program. It is child care for infants and toddlers. It was established as a way to support young families so they can live and work in Provincetown. There has been no organized child care in town prior to Wee Care. We follow the state's regulations governing child care and thus we automatically qualify as a child care provider. The big question and answer is that NO TAX DOLLARS GO TO WEE CARE where there are 15 infants/toddlers enrolled. The caretakers are employees at will and are not included in the teacher's agreement. The tuition rates for infants and toddlers is more than for pre-schoolers

because hours are extended; it is a year long program and does not follow a school calendar. Our schools provide the in-kind costs of the spaces and utilities. All materials, furniture, etc. are paid for with tuition monies.

There is a total of 47 children in the Early Learning Center.

### **MSBA Grant**

In 2001 the Provincetown Schools received \$1,407,499 as a grant for renovations. It was 60% of the total needed. The MSBA said that – should the building cease to be used for educational purposes – the town would have to repay at least a portion of that grant. Decisions of this nature are made on an individual basis.

### **▪ Community Education**

We offered 14 classes for the fall semester and 9 were cancelled due to low enrollment. For this semester there are 4 classes – Birch stool building, Yoga, Italian cooking, and ladies' basketball. There is possibility of Latin Dance, as well.

There has been \$1,244 in registration fees collected and an amount owed to instructors for \$1,350 making a loss of \$106.

### **CPC Meeting**

Beth said that on next Tuesday – February 14<sup>th</sup> – there will be a public hearing for CPC funding; it will be our opportunity for making a public presentation. CPC has \$400,000 to spend and we're requesting ALL of it. There will be others making requests so we like to invite supporters to speak on behalf of this application. This would relieve the free cash amount which has already been promised for the external restoration of PHS.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Adopted Budget**

All changes have been made on the first page: \$25,000. reduction in office staff salaries and a reduction in the Superintendent's office supplies. On Monday the PSC will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and – on 2/19 with the Finance Committee (FinCom). Cass Benson felt that a narrative to go along with the budget would be nice.

Beth has received no confirmation yet. There was a bit of a discussion about how many people will be attending. Lory said that there would be no quorum so a joint

meeting couldn't take place – Also we talked about the 19<sup>th</sup> since the 12<sup>th</sup> would not have a quorum. Beth said that she will confirm the date with the FinCom.

Beth – regarding the budget changes – said that she has heard the PSC say that we cannot continue to reduce the budget at the expense of the elementary students.

### **Playground**

Lory is the chair of the sub-committee on the playground fencing. She made a recommendation for a stockade fence and she did review the minutes of the meeting. There was a question about whether it had to be a vinyl fence although no one was ever asked. The only thing that was brought forward was replacing the existing fencing.

There was a quote from Acoustiblok Fencing about the playground fencing. The quote was for approximately \$2,000. The fencing comes in black but can easily be painted.

Cass said she'd have no objection to this but wondered if the taxpayers are going to pay for this.

Lory cautioned that this wouldn't qualify for any grant. She also said that Shannon and Kerry are not here but they share her view. One neighbor feels the chain link is unsightly and now his yard is exposed.

Mr. Duff said that he appreciates the PSC's diligence but the fact is that the chain link fence is up – but it could have been better. The school did something that causes the need for fencing. He also said that – as he came to the meeting - there were 2 kids playing in the playground; he could have called the police but it does speak to the need for more enforcement. He would have preferred a stockade fence but this need has been thrust upon us. Mr. Duff asked pointedly - why should I have to spend money on a fence when I didn't create the need?

Beth agreed that a stockade fence is prettier than a chain link fence but it would be hazardous to children and it also has less give and it's apt to be destroyed.

Beth said that the term – “out of money” – means that the CPC grant has been used up – the fence clearly is not in our budget and one option is to wait until the end of

the school year - or suggest that she try to find the money in the budget somewhere. This decision might be better if we wait for the whole committee.

**New Business:**

**School Calendar 2013-2014**

This calendar has been modeled after the 2012-2013 school calendar – so – if we go with the same pattern – the final day would be June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Lory asked about how many professional days in the calendar. Beth said that it includes 4. Lory then asked about alternative plans, i.e., making the teachers come back and not the kids after a vacation. On Columbus day weekend she was wondering about hardship for parents who may have to work with the additional days for professional development.

Beth said that this would be brought before the teachers. Lory then asked - how much fuel would you save with a longer break in December?

**SOI/MSBA**

Beth has filed a statement of interest with the MSBA which opens the door for funding for roof, heating system in the high school and is the next thing on our capital improvement list. We're trying to get some help up front and the idea of bricking over the gym windows means the gym could serve as a shelter in case of need. Rise Engineering is working on the cost estimates.– We are presently spending an enormous amount of money on heat.

Beth spent the weekend answering their questions. Basically their questions are - what are the issues – how are they impacting education and they ask those questions in a variety of ways. The PSC has to vote on it and sign it and goes to BoS on Monday night.

**Motion: Move to approve the SOI as presented.**

**Motion: Lory Stewart                      Seconded: J. Kryszkiewicz                      Vote: 3-0-0**

**Policy Manual-Sections G, H & I**

We did not have a 1<sup>st</sup> reading thus the following motion:

**Motion: Move to accept Policy Manual-Sections G, H, & I in form.**

**Motion: Cass Benson                      Seconded: J. Kryszkiewicz                      Vote: 3-0-0**

**New Business**

Cass Benson had a copy of an e-mail sent from Mike Canizales to members of the FinCom. Cass viewed it as a violation of the “open meeting law” and wanted to inform the members of the PSC of her findings. She also felt that Mike C’s e-mail showed a clear bias. It was thought that an e-mail of this nature could be sent provided it was only informational and did not ask for anyone’s opinion. That being said, the PSC decided to file a complaint with the town clerk. - Both the complaint and response gets filed with the Attorney General’s office.

After a lot of discussion led by Cass Benson, the following motion was made:

**Motion: Move to proceed with the violation and file a complaint.**

**Motion: Lory Stewart                      Seconded: J. Kryzkiewicz      Vote: 3-0-0**

Also, the FinCom asked about the racial composition of our students. Cass didn’t like it and Beth wondered how this is relevant to our budget.

The meeting was adjourned by popular vote at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Evelyn Gaudiano*

E. Rogers Gaudiano

**Approved by** \_\_\_\_\_ **on** March 12, 2013.  
Cass Benson, Ass’t Chair