



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

**TUESDAY, April 9, 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 Chair, Shannon Patrick.

**AGENDA**

**Public Comments**

Tony Brackett offered congratulations on having the School Budget approved by town meeting. He also wanted to offer many thanks to Eleanor Lincoln for all of her enthusiasm during the Wizard of Oz production. Tony said that he was asked by some school parents to ask for a few changes to the schedule for professional days. The parents had suggestions for splitting the professional days, etc.

David Bedard said that he's assuming that many parents are watching and he wanted to say that they all have great kids. Later on in the meeting he presented a

\$2K matching grant to the Provincetown Public Schools. Tony Brackett was the first to make a matching donation of \$2K and Cass Benson immediately offered \$500 as her contribution.

Chris Duff, a neighbor of the high school building, said - congratulations on the playground. We did expect noise but it's greater than he expected. There has also been some concern about the visual line. He thinks that this speaks to the need for something visual. The subcommittee would ask that a decision be made on the fence; the issue is the cost. The town's attitude is – “well if I lived next to a playground what would I expect?” Mr. Duff thinks that the decision is one that perhaps needs more thought.

**Minutes: March 12, 2013**

**Motion: Move that the minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Cass Benson                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

**MYP Presentation**

Teachers from the MiddleYears Program presented.

Nancy Flasher said talked about the curriculum model. Nancy also talked about our commitment to service to the community, i.e. community projects.

Amy Rokicki – the thing she likes about the International Baccalaureate (IB) is that the children are learning new ways of thinking about very big ideas.

Brendan Dillon, Math teacher commented that math is traditionally an isolated subject that kids learn without real application to life. IB gives you the big AHA!! moment, really rich context and it made the teaching far more interesting. In thinking about these connections it makes it far more interesting to teach and to learn. It's about a balance in learning.

David McGlothlin who is involved in the humanities spoke next and said that he would repeat some of the things that the previous speaker has said. It's his 24<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and the things that we're doing now are the things that he and his colleagues have only talked about in the past. We've actually combined and made the teaching more meaningful, i.e., the Freedom Trail and what they've learned about this. The IB approach allowed them to make the connections that all of them wanted.

Eleanor Lincoln – values the MVP model and sees how it's tied into the performing arts. IB really encourages us to be creative. – One of the challenges is - how to have a small band with only those 3 students. IB has given her many facets and she loves that the children have more outlets within the arts. She talked about a collaboration with visual arts focused on Japanese brush painting. She is glad to have that freedom of creativity.

Nancy Flasher then concluded the teachers' discussion.

Kerry had positive comments regarding the MVP and IB.

Beth thanked the teachers for coming and told them they were welcome to stay if they would like.

Beth said that they've been dreaming about international travel since this program began. We are going next year. This would not be a vacation but an educational experience that will weigh in on culture, science, the language, the music, the arts. It's an experience that will be a year in the making. We're hoping that every 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader will go.

We just shared this with teachers. We are contracting with EF, will have a local tour guide; there will be a minimum of 2 chaperones and if community members or parents want to join us, they're welcome but need to pay for themselves.

At this point in the meeting David Bedard submitted his matching grant. He offered a \$2K matching grant for the school children's trip and he's challenging the rest of the community to take the challenge.

Tony Brackett applauded the generous grant and committed to match it.

Cass said that she will give \$500 toward the match.

### **Superintendent's Update:**

#### **▪ Town Meeting**

Beth wanted to thank the community for the support Provincetown Schools received concerning the FY14 budget. The BOS and the FinCom unanimously supported us and although there were some serious questions and concerns

expressed by a few tax payers, the support was overwhelming. Beth would like to thank Town Finance Director, Dan Hoort, for his eloquent explanations at Town meeting.

▪ **International Travel Plans**

Beth said that we are confident that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be visiting Costa Rica in May 2014. We will be doing community service in Costa Rica. This is not a vacation, it is an educational tour. We hope all students in grades 7 and 8 will travel regardless of ability to afford. This means a lot of fund raising.

▪ **Head Custodian Progress**

The superintendent completed interviews today and will be checking references and hopes to make an offer by the end of the week.

▪ **School Usage Revolving Account Balance**

The money in this account comes from outsiders using our building and the money can be spent on the building if the budget doesn't provide. We have generally used money from the revolving account for improvements that were not anticipated.

▪ **Wizard of Oz**

This year's musical was a smashing success. Ms. Lincoln out did herself with this production and several parents, teachers and staff worked very hard to bring it together. It was also a financial success raising almost \$5,000.00 for the theater and music department.

▪ **Upcoming Alumni Events**

April 12<sup>th</sup> Alumni Women's & Men's Basketball games

Women will play at 6: p.m. and the Men at 7:30 p.m. in PHS gym Adm: \$5.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Alumni Hockey Game – 6:00 p.m. at Charles Moore Arena in Orleans  
Adm: \$5.

April 14<sup>th</sup> – 12:noon at the V.F.W. – Portuguese Pot Luck

May 4<sup>th</sup> - annual Portuguese festival

**Unfinished Business:**

**2013-2014 School Calendar**

There are two potential calendars in your packet labeled A & B. On calendar A, children arrive back at school on the Thursday after labor day with 4 additional PD days falling on a day after a holiday when possible. Calendar B has the children arriving back to school on September 9, 2013 because of 3 PD days for staff the week of Labor Day. Both calendars have June 23, 2014 as the 180<sup>th</sup> day. Both calendars have advantages and disadvantages and the staff is not unanimous in their preference.

**Motion: Move to accept the school calendar (B) as presented.**

**Motion: Cass Benson                      Seconded: Kerry Adams                      Vote: 5-0-0**

**Policy Manual-Sections J, K & L-2nd reading**

**Motion: Move to accept Sections J, K. & L. in form**

**Motion: Lory Stewart                      Seconded: Jamie K.                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

**Playground**

There have been issues, i.e., noise, visibility, climbing on the fence, etc. Beth recalls the last time these issues were raised - the comments were: – Let’s wait and see what happens and now we’re beginning to see what happens. A good solution is a sound barrier which is warranted so the noise doesn’t go directly through the air. Beth is not sure you want to use the tax payers money to solve the problem. There are 3 direct abutters who have problems.

**Motion: Move to use the school funds to purchase acoustic block material and also to do the signage.**

**Motion: Lory Stewart                      Seconded: Kerry Adams (for discussion)**

Cass made yet another motion:

**Motion: Move to have the 3 abutters pay 25% of the cost of the fence, etc. as there are 3 of them and only one of us.**

Chris Duff said that Beth’s 2<sup>nd</sup> option – asking the town for help in mitigating this issue appeals to him.

What followed was a long discourse on playground usage and a discussion on control.

Cass said - we're all neighbors.

Lory - talking about different issues said that we have changed the landscape.  
Cass was still arguing about spending the \$1,600. - and she just wants to clarify the original motion she made.

Chris Duff joined in the discussion.  
He talked about only one side being painted.

Cass – clarification – we have collected \$6K in fees collected for the building's use.

Lory said that the additional should cost around 3K and this is not exactly an “over the top expenditure.”

Cass continued - what we're spending from the fund is completely for the children.

Chris said - thanks for the vote. We asked for a dialog and he would hope to keep this dialog up. The reason why we got off in a bad place was because there was no dialog. Many thanks, once again.

Lory said - I think we need to think about this.

**New Business:**

**Ratification of Article XXII-Reduction in Force**

**Motion: Move to table this until a future meeting.**

**Motion was made, seconded, and approved by all.**

**Motion: Move to have more research on what this would cost us for surveillance monitoring around the building. It would help us to record the usage of the playground.**

**Beth thought monitoring was a good idea because if something happens then we have a record. Kerry wanted to amend the motion to read that at our next school committee meeting in May 2013 we have a cost for this.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Cass Benson                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

## **Mid Year Superintendent Evaluation Progress Report**

**Motion: Table the evaluation for the next available meeting.**

**Motion: Jamie K.            Seconded: Kerry Adams            Vote: 5-0-0.**

Actually Beth said that she would like feedback on her work and if we need to change direction, etc.

Kerry asked - is this something we can talk about? Beth said that this is her progress report on what she set for goals and the evaluation is open to the public.

**Motion: Move to take this document away and return to it next meeting.**

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

## **School Choice Vote**

Beth said that school committees are supposed to take an annual vote on school choice to decide if they will participate or not for the coming year and to set any limitations on student acceptance. Beth believes that until all districts decline to participate, no district can reasonably decline.

**Motion: Move to participate in the school choice.**

**Motion: Cass Benson            Seconded: Lory Stewart            Vote: 5-0-0.**

## **April 23rd Meeting**

Mark Almeda wants to give you an update on the exterior renovation of the building.

We want a 2<sup>nd</sup> April meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the update.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen. It will be a meeting on how to proceed with the scholarship so it's important that we have a quorum for that meeting.

## **PSC Comments**

Beth said there is a "meet the candidates" night on April 25<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall auditorium starting with the BOS at 5:00PM. Candidates for the PSC should participate and the public is encouraged to attend.

Adjournment by popular vote was held at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Evelyn Gaudiano*

E. Rogers Gaudiano

**Approved by** School Committee on May 14, 2013.