

PROVINCETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER  
12 WINSLOW STREET  
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657  
TUESDAY, December 10th , 2013

**Members Present:** Cass Benson, Anthony Brackett, Kerry Adams  
**Members Absent:** Shannon Patrick  
**Others:** Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent

- 1. The meeting was called to order at: 5:15**
- 2. Roll Called: See above**
- 3. Public Comments: None**
- 4. Minutes from November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Motion to accept minutes from Nov 5<sup>th</sup> as printed–**

**Motion:** Cass Benson **Seconded:** Anthony Brackett, **vote 3-0-1**

#### **5. MYP Presentation**

*Eleanor Lincoln (Music Teacher)* – 2 quick updates on MYP and PYP project – The winter concert is tomorrow (Wednesday 12/11). This concert is especially exciting because it shows student lead work and some of their own projects, both compositions and dance choreography. There will also be other, traditional, elements: we'll have Preschool through Grade 8, and a sing a long at the end in preparation for item two: caroling on Thursday. At 10:30 PK will be singing at the council on aging and seashore point accompanied by families. At 1:00 K-8 will gather here and sing across from post office, in Whaler's Warf and end at the Town Hall

*David McGlothlin (Humanities Teacher)* - We've started another extra curricular activity for students: we're in the process of forming a student government for MYP. We've been accepted to the National Association of Student Councils, and we have a little over ½ dozen students interested. We're drafting bylaws, a constitution and the procedures to set that in motion. We hope to have all that in place by end of January and then have student elections for the necessary positions, and for the 2014-2015 year this spring. They're excited and interested in having more of a role in how things are done at the school.

## **6. Superintendent's Update:**

**Beth Singer:**

### ***6.1 Exterior Restoration Project***

We are fortunate to have selected such competent and attentive architects and clerk of the works. They are scrutinizing every facet of the construction. Recently the roofers work has been rejected twice. They are responsible for the corrections and the associated costs of their mistakes. We have been very happy with the work of the general contractor, the company doing the stone work, Chapman. They are in the final stages of repair. It should be completed by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and under budget.

### ***6.2 Feasibility Study***

I have engaged Woodard and Curran to conduct a feasibility study on our heating system. This company was recommended by DPW Director, Rich Waldo. I have to say, they have been very accommodating and responsive thus far. The person I am working with is Mark Jacobs, mechanical engineer. I am very impressed by his accessibility and knowledge.

The DPW has committed \$5000 towards this feasibility study as a result of our day without heat and with broken pipes. I have committed us to the balance of the study and I will find the money for this in our budget, or by using funds we have from building rentals. I am hopeful that the total will be in the vicinity of \$10,000. We will then have options for the repair, replacement of the heating system and can make reasonable decisions. We will also have met MSBA requirements for a feasibility study.

I am told by MSBA that I should know "soon" if our project was selected in FY13, or we have to reapply in 2014.

### ***6.3 Bus and Signage***

With the assistance of our very accomplished parent, Carissa Silva, we have added signage to our yellow busses. This is letting people on Rt6 know we are an IB World School, The school of choice.

We have had a good amount of feedback from the community and beyond, that there is still confusion about the use of the Provincetown High School building and the location of Provincetown Schools. To remedy this confusion, we are proposing signage to help people find us.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### ***7.1 FY15 Budget Presentation and Discussion***

Changes made to budget since last week –

I have added \$1000 to Professional Development for instructional staff

Added \$1500 to advertising to bring it to \$6500

Increased FTE of school psych to .55 from .50 (a small cost to us, but allows that position to access health insurance)

I decreased appropriated funding of 1 cafeteria worker by \$1000, to be paid from the food services revolving account.

Increase is a \$5,390.43 increase in the budget from last week bringing the total increase over the budget from last year to .733%

Next Tuesday 12/17 at 5:15 is a public hearing, and the following the Thursday 12/19 will be to formally adopt.

**Public Comment FinCom:** Double checking – we have less than 1% growth from FY14, but we've increased the number of students?

**Beth Singer:** That's correct.

**Cass Benson:** My only concern is do we have enough for everything that goes into SPED? Since I know how hard everyone works there.

**BS:** It is a concern; it's a changing dynamic all the time. With additional students it's not just the numbers, but any given student, at any time a particular student or family can have additional needs, so if you don't have some flexibility in staff, that becomes challenging. For FY15, I'm comfortable with this, though I don't think we can continue to grow and continue to keep all our helping people – Speech and Language Pathologist, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, all at part time

**Anthony Brackett:** Agreed, Truro central, the (SPED) positions that they have are they full time?

**BS:** Yes

**AB:** Including Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy?

**BS:** They have them the same way we do – contracted though the Cape Cod Collaborative, and the amount of time we have contracted is determined by specific time identified in IEPs, so we know what that is an can plan accordingly.

**AB:** Something to discuss, not necessarily to act on – if we're looking at those position that you mentioned, SLP, School Psychologist, and School Social Worker – it would be huge to bring them up to full time all together – and since we're only at a .733% increase now, it would interesting to see what adding .1 or .2 to each position would be.

**BS, KA** – agree

**AB:** Was in a meeting with school psych today, she does a lot and not just for kids on IEPs, in SPED.

**BS:** Each .1 adds about \$7100

**CB:** ELL(English Language Learners)/Spanish, do we have enough for them?

**BS:** The ELL teacher teaches Spanish in PYP, in MYP Spanish taught by 2nd grade teacher – who is fluent in Spanish. We all agree that was an experiment, and tried that - results were not great, especially for MYP. We're looking at different options in-house. MYP students don't have a lot of time in their schedule for Spanish, so at most it's a .4 position. It might be difficult to find someone, we've had difficulty in the past when it was more than .4

**Public Comment FinCom:** Adding the .1 for specialists would increase the .733% increase to a 1.365% increase over last year (With the school psych at .6)

**AB:** That's with the School Psych at .6, SLP at .8, and School Soc at .7

**CB:** With a 20% increase in kids, more or less? I think that's would be great

**AB:** Is there compensation for those running extra curricular activities? Money if other things come up?

**BS:** Yes

**KA:** Is the music teacher working at .8?

**BS:** Yes, and she suggests we keep it that way

**CB:** Advertising – is that enough? 1 ad for banner is \$500, and some of that is for regular positing for jobs

**AB:** If advertising was 10,000, would bring us to 1.5% increase –

**Public Comment FinCom:** If part of that money is for the signs, we'll definitely need some more money for that.

**Public Comment FinCom:** The total percentage of salaries in the budget is about 85%

**BS:** And I would say that is low for schools, it's often in the 90s

### *High School*

Nauset Superintendent Hoffman and Ms. Blackwell looked at 3 possible options for establishing a tuition rate for Provincetown and Truro and he favors option 2 (see attached) - \$16,400 per student – which is good, \$600 less than we were expecting last week.

Since we last met we have another high school student, last week we expected 37, now we have 38 expected

**AB:** I've thought about this a lot; I would like to know exactly what we are expected to do – are we expected to guess, or are we expected to present a budget of what we know?

**BS:** How do we define what we know, does it include a history of what's happened? Part of what we know is we have 4 more students than we "knew" at this time last year – and we budgeted for 2, so we're still in the red there. So if part of the knowledge that it goes up...or do we define as we know as existing students.

**Public Comment FinCom:** Breaking out high school as separate budget, I would want to have a budget where I would be able to absorb some. It sounded like 2 additional students would be reasonable, considering last year – I don't think FinComm should be carrying an emergency budget with line items – this for DPW, this for school, etc.

**KA:** It sounded last meeting like FinComm agreed 2 additional was good. Sounds dangerous to be at known number and then need to go back in a month and have to say, well, we need 2 more.

**BS:** My sense is at town meeting the town voters, knowing that the budget is built at 40 and we have 38, they could direct us to take a certain amount out of the budget, and they could take them out if they said, "we need less money in the budget."

**Public Comment FinCom:** I think it sounds like we have a fluid population, a fluid school population, and particularly high school – prudence would say 2 more, we have to pay the bills one way or another.

**BS:** Bringing the tuition to \$16,400 x 40 students brings us down \$24,000, down almost 7%.

Only tuition is in budget, not choice, Lighthouse is choice, Sturgis is choice, Tech is tuition on a separate article.

**AB:** Any idea what Nauset is projecting for a budget increase? If their increase is 3%, why is the increase to our tuition 16%.

**BS:** Their position is that tuitions in students pay as much or more than member towns

**AB:** Would it be possible to be part of their district?

**BS:** Not easily – because they would have to open up the 4-town membership and reorganize everything, school committee members there, etc. (Wellfleet has 1 member for grades 6-12, we would be smaller and from 9-12, but would need at least 1 member)

**AB:** Is \$16,400 a firm number?

**BS:** Yes, we will know by next week – but I would like to understand how we got to that number, and if we have a multi-year agreement, which we would all like, what is the increase per year (3% would seem high)

**AB:** If we're going to have a multi-year agreement a 15% jump is too high this year – seems very steep

**CB:** But we got a low rate before, and now they're telling everyone they need to pay the same.

**AB:** I would be interested in seeing what it would be if they take transposition costs out

**BS:** We talked to them about this – that their SPED and transportation costs should come out. And as Monomoy becomes a reality, we may have more options. We could have an IB Career Certificate Program High School.

## **8 New Business**

### ***8.1 Substitute Pay Scale***

(See attached)

Provincetown Schools is having difficult accessing substitutes. We believe this is due to the fact that we pay less per day than neighboring districts. We especially have had a very hard time accessing nursing substitutes. You'll see our rates are not competitive.

What I did was take number of subs we needed in FY13 and did the math to calculate it at \$100 a day (instead of \$70)– we would have only been a couple of hundred dollars over.

**CB:** People also have to travel to get here, so it might be good to match Truro

**BS:** Our budget would probably not accommodate a significant increase in custodian sub rates

**Motion to increase sub pay for nurse to \$125/day, Teacher to \$100, Paraprofessional to \$75, effective immediately**

**Motion:** Anthony Brackett **Second:** Cass Benson **Vote 3-0-1**

### ***8.2 January meeting schedule:***

**Beth Singer:** I won't be available the 2nd week of January, we need to have a meeting with Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee. Do we want to meet with them together? Or Selectmen in January, Fincomm in February? Last year we did them together.

**AB:** I don't like the 3 at the same time – would rather have two separate

**CB:** Would rather just have them all in the same room.

**BS:** There are pros and cons for both

**KA:** In the past we've done joint meetings with both boards and it's worked, it depends on the personalities in the room and if there are axe-grinding issues.

**BS:** We're thinking about a substantial presentation - the board of selectmen and FinComm have different questions often. I would prefer to have one presentation, have everyone hear each other. I would also like to get questions in advance so we can be prepared. What do you think the town voter, the non participant would appreciate more?

**CB:** Hadn't thought about obvious frictions, but if you have more people in the room invested, maybe they can hash out more.

**KA:** If you have two meetings you end up having a lot of the same questions in different ways. The other side is, they've already had a chance to preview the budget, so there shouldn't be too many surprises.

**CB:** Would be very helpful if everybody would attend these meetings, particularly next week.

**BS:** The Board of Selectmen, which could be the triple meeting, would be Tues Jan 28. We will suggest that that be a triple meeting

**BS:** Do we want a school committee meeting before that meeting?

**AB:** It would be good to meet at least 15 minutes in advance of that Jan 28 meeting.

## **9 PSC Comments**

**CB:** We got another High School student, it's nice to see numbers increasing

**AB:** The winter concert is upcoming, there will be singing, dance, featuring the new piano, so hopefully some people will make some time for that, and/or the caroling Thursday afternoon between 1 and 2 with refreshments at town hall after.

I participated with a bunch of parents in the school this morning talking about Special Education, and talking about how fortunate I feel to have Beth as the SPED Director and our School Psychologist (Peggy Donoghue) as our School Psychologist and our SPED staff as our SPED staff; to have such dedicated professionals and teachers.

**KA:** Thanks to Beth and Betty for hard work on the budget that is easy to understand – used to have enormous budget in binders – these few pages are wonderful.

**BS:** Community education packets also went out today, you can register now through Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes start in January - there will be two sessions of 6 weeks each. There are lots of classes: The game of Go, Spanish, Italian, all levels and kinds of needlework, yoga, basketball.

**Motion to adjourn from regular session to executive session not to return to regular session**

**Motion:** Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Cass Benson Vote: 3-0-1

Respectively submitted,

Ben Williams

**Approved by the School Committee on January 21, 2014**



OPTION #2

TUITION CALCULATION FOR PROVINCETOWN AND TRURO	
<u>Rate Based on FY14 Per Pupil Assessments to Member Towns as Listed in the Nauset Regional Approved Budget</u>	
FY14 Total Assessment to Member Towns	\$ 19,709,992
FY14 Assessment for Capital (includes extensive infusion of technology)	\$ 459,000
Add back other local expenditures <sup>1</sup> :	
Transfer from E&D	\$ 555,000
Other Local Revenue applied to the budget	\$ 40,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 20,763,992</b>
Number of Pupils from Member Towns	1311
Net Per Pupil Cost for FY14 to Member Towns	\$ 15,838
Escalator for FY15	
Proposed net increase in Nauset Budget for FY15 will be approx. 3%	\$ 16,313
<b>TUITION RATE PER PUPIL FOR FY15 ROUNDED UP</b>	<b>\$ 16,400</b>
<b>NOTES:</b>	
1. These two local revenue sources are listed on the attached Nauset Operating Budget under "INCOME"	

**SUBSTITUTE PAY SCALES**

	Nurse	Teacher	Paraprofessional	custodian	cafeteria	secretary
Barnstable	\$120.00	\$75.00	12.12 to 14.74 hr	\$16.67 hr	no subs	
Dennis-Yarmouth	\$120.00	\$65.00	13.56 hr	outsourced	\$11.78 hr	\$15.81 hr
Falmouth	\$100.00	\$68.00	10.00 hr	10.00 hr	\$8.00 hr	\$10.00 hr
Monomoy	\$110.00	\$80.00	\$70.00	\$14.00 hr	\$70.00	\$70.00
Nauset	\$100.00	\$70.00-\$90.00 **	\$62.00	\$12.13 hr	\$9.15 hr	\$9.00 hr
Provincetown	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$15.00 hr	\$8.50 hr	\$8.50 hr
Sandwich	\$20.00 hr	\$70.00		\$15.38 hr		
Truro	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$18.00 hr	\$12.00 hr	

Nauset Teacher rates:  
 at least 2 yrs of college=\$70.00  
 at least 4 yrs of college=\$75.00  
 certified in any state=\$80.00  
 retired from Nauset=\$90.00