

Provincetown School Committee Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 10, 2015
PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** AT 4:30 PM BY TONY BRACKETT, CHAIRPERSON
2. **ROLL CALL**

MEETING CALLED BY	Provincetown School Committee
TYPE OF MEETING	School Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON	A. Brackett
NOTE TAKER	Tal Zamir
TIMEKEEPER	
ATTENDEES	Members: L. Lovati, A. Brackett, C. Benson, K. Adams Others: B. Singer, K. Pike

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Cary Notaro spoke, asking board to consider serving lunches planted & harvested by Provincetown students. She believes that involving children in the making of their own food encourages them to be more adventurous with food choices; she also believes that this will cut costs. Stated that she will teach a cooking class to students, and volunteered to head a sub-committee to spearhead change in school lunches. No discussion by board members followed.		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

4. MINUTES

DISCUSSION	MINUTES FROM 1/13 DISCUSSED; A. Brackett stated that he did not say "pseudo" administrators.		
CONCLUSIONS	Motion made by K. Adams to amend minutes to remove "pseudo," seconded by C. Benson.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Minutes accepted as amended.	Kim Pike		

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE: COSTA RICA TRIP

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	K. Pike and B. Singer will have first meeting with EF Tours this week. Several more students are expected to go in 2016 than went in 2014, so we need to get going early on fundraising and planning. 25 expected to go; 12 students went in 2014. L. Lovati stated that Board needs to raise \$70,000 so that there's no cost to families. A. Brackett asked if there was a grant for this; B. Singer said that she is unaware of such grant. A. Brackett then suggested Kickstarter; board members agreed that this was a possibility. A. Brackett asked if the destination will always be Costa Rica; B. Singer said not necessarily, but the location has a lot to offer. There was also discussion on chaperones; K. Pike said that they agreed for every 6 students, there would be one chaperone, but stated that last year they were overstaffed, which was necessary for first year of program. K. Pike also said that there was travelers insurance. L. Lovati asked if students could be more involved in fundraising process; K. Pike agreed that next time, students should be more involved.		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None.			

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE: MSBA PROJECT PROGRESS

DR.SINGER

DISCUSSION	Have Atlantic in place; interviewed architectural firms; in last stages of negotiations; expected an answer today, but haven’t received it yet; if yes, then send to MSBA, expect an answer relatively quickly, after which project begins. Chosen firm asked to come next week for a visit when students not in the building. B. Singer hopes that this will occur.		
CONCLUSIONS	On schedule		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE: COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSION 2

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	New booklet shown. Classes 4,5, or 6 weeks in duration. Some classes offered include: Sushi at Mac’s, Zumba, Hatha Yoga, R.I.P.P.E.D., Ballroom Dancing, French for Travelers, a writing course, Singing class, Build a Beach Table. L. Lovati asked if there was an age minimum for the class; B. Singer said there was no age limit, but permission of teacher would probably be necessary.		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

6.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Monomoy Visit

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	A. Brackett said the visit went well; the facilities are beautiful, languages taught are plentiful (French, Spanish, Latin, Mandarin). The drive was 50 minutes, door-to-door. L. Lovati said she was impressed with the school and the atmosphere, where all students seemed happy even though it was a test day, noting also the diversity of the student body, the athletic program, the alternate and special education program, and the facilities. K. Adams asked what time school starts there, and wondered if the school buses would take too long; said he likes the idea, but thinks the only thing that might turn parents off is the bus ride. B. Singer stated that she believes providing bus service would encourage parents to enroll students in the school. Monomoy is not available to Provincetown Students as School Choice, but if there is a tuition agreement, they would take the group; Monomoy does not believe in school choice. Bus options discussed. After research, it would be \$35,000 minimum to bus students to Monomoy; if four or more 8 th graders go to Monomoy, the cost (including bus) would be less than Nauset (\$16,640/student). Took 8 th Graders to Monomoy, who were all excited to go; until Provincetown takes responsibility for busing, the school is not a real option. Cary Notaro asked if there was an application process for the current 6 th grade class; B. Singer clarified that there was not, if there was a tuition agreement. K. Pike said a letter will go out to families, and there is the possibility that older students would be interested in the school as well. Cary Notaro asked if there was a possibility of reopening the Provincetown High School. A. Brackett answered that Board is interested in the possibility, but the challenge is class/grade size, and regionalization with Truro. Board is not against the idea, will continue that discussion. There is also a possibility of opening up an outpost of Sturgis in the Provincetown community.		
CONCLUSIONS	Monomoy is a possibility, but depends largely on number of students who decide to attend.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7.1 NEW BUSINESS: PEREGRINE THEATER COMPANY PROPOSAL

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	In packet – correspondence between Peregrine Theatre and Provincetown Schools; interested in housing their summer program in school auditorium. Peregrine is interested in the space, the stability, the parking, but we don’t offer adequate sight & sound technology, total access to building, or total creative freedom. B. Singer has questions: 1, can they name the theater something, perhaps a summer name; 2, could they sell alcohol (they would have liability insurance, and the town would have a say in this); 3, could we use their expertise to guide our auditorium renovations (upgrades that they do would be ours, even if we paid for it, and B. Singer assured that they would not do anything without our permission). A. Brackett stated that he would be interested in a real partnership, mentioning school musical; A. Singer stated that they met with Mary Abt. A. Brackett said he had issues with their proposed dates; A. Singer assured that they would only be here at night. K. Adams asked for a presentation from the group to assure the Board of all questions. B. Singer also stated that we won’t be able to staff their custodial needs at our expense, and that they would have to have a custodian themselves. Board was ok with that. B. Singer also asked if Board was ok with ceding artistic control to the group. Some board members uncomfortable with some of the choices (Carrie the Musical, e.g.), given that this is a school, but Board agreed that a meeting with the group is necessary. Audience member asked for straw vote to gauge Board’s interest in the project. Board is in agreement that no one is against the proposal, but that a presentation by the group would be beneficial. Re: Alcohol, they would need to get permission of the town. Re: artistic control – depends on the extent of the artistic license (nudity might be a problem); C. Benson said that she would like to revisit this issue. Re: outside custodian – board is fine with that. L. Lovati asked if there was the possibility of a trial session; B. Singer said this would be a possibility. L. Lovati asked what the cost of holding event would be; B. Singer said that the first year might be a test of this. A. Brackett also asked about security of lockers, if the group is there during school session.		
CONCLUSIONS	Board is in agreement that no one is against the proposal, but that a presentation by the group would be beneficial, and a review of their qualifications.		

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	Dr. Singer	

7.2 NEW BUSINESS: AUDITORIUM RESTORATION PROJECT

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>1. Wrote a CPA grant for the curtains to be replaced to historic standards; first part of the grant process has gone through; hopeful that the grant will be successful.</p> <p>2. Theatre needs to be upgraded; seats alone will be tens of thousands of dollars</p> <p>K. Adams asked if we have an idea of the cost of the restoration; B. Singer estimate a quarter of a million.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

8.1 OTHER BUSINESS: Any other business that shall come before the Board and could not be anticipated within the 48 hour minimum posting requirements of the Open Meeting Laws.

DISCUSSION	<p>S. Sawyer asked about what happened with plowing of Bus at Harbor Hotel; B. Singer has said that today was the only day the bus couldn't go in to the stop. Today was also the only day that more than four students have been at the stop (probably because parents didn't want children to drive). B. Singer assured that today was a fluke, and that this it is not normally a problem for students to board at this stop. A. Brackett asked what the responsibility of the school was to notify students that roads were hazardous; B. Singer said this was not the responsibility of the school. L. Lovati asked how it was determined that the Harbor Hotel would be the pick-up spot. B. Singer said it was not the Harbor Hotel, but the side of the hotel, and that the presence of the snow was the only impediment. It is the hotel's responsibility to plow that space, not the town's. B. Singer acknowledged that she is responsible for which spots are chosen, but doesn't believe that we should change the spot due to one day's difficulties. L. Lovati asked when the school is responsible for the students; B. Singer replied that it is only when students step onto the bus, not when/where they wait for the bus.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

9. PSC Comments

DISCUSSION	<p>Kerry – congratulated B. Singer on her presentation to the BOS and Finance Committee.</p> <p>Tony – said Board received congratulations for working well together.</p> <p>Liz – nothing.</p> <p>Cass – nothing.</p> <p>Shannon – nothing.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

10. ADJOURNMENT: Tony Brackett motion to adjourn at 6 PM. S. Sawyer seconded. Vote: 5-0-0.