

Provincetown School Committee Meeting Minutes

APRIL 14, 2015

PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER: AT 4:37PM BY TONY BRACKET, CHAIRPERSON

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

4. MINUTES

DISCUSSION	Minutes from 3/10/15 and 4/2/15 discussed		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Motion: K Adams Second: C.Benson 5-0-0			

PRESENTATION: SEUSSICAL, JR.: MARY ABT

DISCUSSION	<p>Mary provided over overview and update of the Seussical, Jr. school musical. 42 students participating with help from community members and school staff. S.Sawyer: Inquired about cost. M.Abt: \$10, students free and a senior citizens will receive a discount (to be determined). T.Brackett: Voiced appreciation for the work done so far by Mary Abt and community members. L.Lovati: Asked if there were any costs to students who were participating. M.Abt: No costs, using old costumes. Mary thanked the School Committee for their support. B.Singer: Referenced the fact that a sound technician would be coming to provide guidance and advice.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE:
CPR ON-SITE REVIEW**

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>Dr. Singer provided overview of day 2 of a 3 day compliance review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on practices and policies related to Special Education, English Language Learners and Civil Rights. ● Auditors are observing and interviewing teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, service providers and administrators. ● This happens every six years. ● All staff have been very cooperative <p>Dr. Singer discussed her interview in the capacities of Special Education Director, ELL Coordinator and Superintendent.</p> <p>The last interview, which is an exit interview with Dr. Singer and Kim Pike, will be conducted on 4/15/15</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE: FAWC Presentations

DR.SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>Dr. Singer invited friends and family to the culminating celebration of the MYP student poetry and artwork with fellows from the Fine Arts Work Center on Wednesday night (4/15/15) at the FAWC, 24 Pearl St., from 5:00-6:30.</p> <p>Dr. Singer spoke about how wonderful the district’s partnership with FAWC has been for students and the community.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

**5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE:
SPRING STUDENT LED PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>Dr. Singer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reminded the School Committee that April 28th and 29th are scheduled ½ days for these conferences. discussed how, in keeping with the IB philosophy, both PYP and MYP students will be participating in, and leading their meetings. referenced students' established goals for their learning and how they will in turn lead the conversation as to how they have progressed. <p>T.Brackett: While embracing the IB approach, he expressed his concern about this format citing that he believed that these conferences should allow for direct parent to teacher conversations, without students.</p> <p>B.Singer: Reiterated that this process follows IB philosophy and referenced the importance of students taking responsibility for their learning by reporting on their goals and challenges.</p> <p>C.Benson: Being such a small school makes it easy to meet with teachers at any time.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE: Grade 4 Exhibition

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>Dr. Singer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th grade exhibition is scheduled for May 1st at 1:30. This is the culminating event which marks the transition from PYP to MYP Students will be presenting their learning through collaborative inquiry. This is Maryanne Lynch's first time doing this. Dr. Singer invited the community to join in this celebration. 		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. Superintendent's update: MSBA Project

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>B.Singer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 10th, the School Building Committee met and agreed to submit the PDP (Preliminary Design Proposal) to the MSBA. The PDP includes a report on the present conditions, and possible solutions for roofs, windows and the HVAC system. The next step, which happens on May 7th, will be to choose remedies for these problems. <p>T.Brackett: it's been interesting...a great committee...excellent engineers L. Lovati: ...did you (Dr. Singer) select the engineers? B.Singer: Explained the bidding process. T.Brackett: I feel very comfortable with these professionals</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. Superintendent's update:

Town Manager Search Committee

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>B.Singer: The school committee expressed interest in a PSC member participating on the search committee for the new Town Manager. T.Brackett: Discussed being appointed to this search committee. K.Adams: Offered any help if needed. S.Patrick: Referenced that this was a huge step for the Town. B.Singer: I think that the feeling towards the school is now very positive. T.Brackett: Referenced how well Dr. Singer's presentation went. K.Adams: Concurred with Tony's sentiment stating that Dr. Singer did a brilliant job. L.Lovati: Asked if this was lowest budget. B.Singer: Stated that overall, the school budget has undergone a 10% reduction over the past seven years.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Monomoy Negotiations

Dr. Singer

DISCUSSION	<p>B.Singer: Stated that she was disheartened to tell the school committee that the 8th grade class has had a change of heart by deciding not to choose to attend Monomoy High School.</p> <p>B.Singer: Eight students had expressed an initial interest but that this number dwindled. At least four students were needed to make this an option for the district.</p> <p>K.Adams: If we just had a few kids go....they could report back.</p> <p>B.Singer: Hoped that Cape Tech would cooperate but they were not interested.</p> <p>L.Lovati: There is a constant conversation about this.</p> <p>L.Lovati: Questioned how parents could not choose Monomoy if they had seen how beautiful the campus is. Ms. Lovati questioned if parents were given an opportunity to see that school.</p> <p>B.Singer: Parents were invited.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE:
PILGRIM MONUMENT INVITATION

DR. SINGER

DISCUSSION	<p>B.Singer: John McDonough and the board of trustees have nominated Provincetown students to be honored at the lighting of the monument.</p> <p>K.Adams: Do they pick students?</p> <p>B.Singer: I believe they do....not aware of the criteria.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

6.1 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Background Policy (2nd Reading)

DISCUSSION	<p>B.Singer: This is the second reading of this policy and it's been recommended that we have a more extensive, national process for searching criminal records.</p> <p>B.Singer provided "Cheat Sheet" to School Committee for comparison purposes</p> <p>S.Patrick: what about volunteers...</p> <p>B.Singer:...if you're not alone with students...then it isn't necessary that...if we had a long term sub...</p> <p>T.Brackett: If you have fingerprinting...but something happens a year later...are you contacted or alerted....</p> <p>B.Singer:not sure how the FBI works this....my sense is that it wouldn't be direct to us...but to our local law enforcement....</p> <p>T.Brackett:....I'm a little skeptical....</p> <p>B.Singer: Provided example of the need for this process</p> <p>B.Singer:CORI's didn't talk to each other...this makes it national....it's much more specific with regard to information</p> <p>B.Singer: Discussed how she utilized CORI check in the hiring process</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Motion: S.Patrick - Move to accept Background Policy Second: C.Benson Vote: 5-0-0			

6.2 UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION			
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7.1 NEW BUSINESS: Ratification of PAE Article XXII (RIF)

DISCUSSION	Ratification of PAE Article XXII (RIF) B.Singer: referenced two PAE ratifications of articles (RIF, PEE)....process is more streamlined....in order for it to be enacted... T.Brackett: now it's simpler and a shorter Motion: T.Brackett - Move to ratify PAE Article XXII (RIF) Second: C.Benson Vote: 5:0:0		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7.2 NEW BUSINESS: Ratification PAE Article XXI (Professional Employee Evaluation)

DISCUSSION	B.Singer: ...now agrees with state law and the teacher's contract.. Motion: C.Benson - Ratification PAE Article XXI (Professional Employee Evaluation) Second: K.Adams Vote: 5-0-0		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7.3 NEW BUSINESS: Sculpture Garden Proposal

DISCUSSION	Motion to postpone discussion: T.Brackett No vote needed		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

7.4 NEW BUSINESS: High School Discussion for Future Planning

DISCUSSION

T.Brackett: Initiated discussion about options specific to high school for next year
T.Brackett: Are we interested in bringing back HS to Provincetown?
L.Lovati: Unless the numbers are up, and we're not trying to attract new students...it doesn't make sense....without more housing, jobs,....it has to be a wait and see...we can have a plan...but I don't want my kid to go to a school with eight kids.
T.Brackett:...a way of getting the numbers up is by discussing having a HS here...we don't have a plan....but if we were to pursue IB 9-12 with Sturgis involved...our kids would benefit and it would be a benefit for Truro, Eastham and Outer Cape because families K.Adams:...lack of athletics....kids who want to play...need to move
C.Benson: if we were to double the numbers....25 a class....I'm thinking a hundred...is that viable...we spend \$850,000 sending kids to Nauset...
K.Adam: where would you put these kids...we gave up the VCC?
B.Singer: We have options...we could move PK-2 to VCC...space would not preclude doing this....referenced past discussions....we had 20 to a class when we discussed this originally.
C.Benson: This would allow our kids to stay here, get IB and save money...
L.Lovati: It's all about housing and jobs....it would be nice to have a HS...but even with 100....
S.Patrick:...I think it's worth investigating....
K.Adams:...I graduated in 78'.....we got Airforce kids....we have an influx of Jamaican, Latin, students too
T.Brackett:...I feel that our children are fortunate that they are in an IB school...I'm still leaning towards exploring the possibility....what would it take to make this happen....
K.Adam: If Sturgis wants a campus here...then it could happen....
T.Brackett: They have 600 kids on a waiting list...
K.Adams: Would it be Sturgis/Provincetown....
B.Singer: It's complicated....they are a charter school and we are public school...they operate on a totally different way...legally, pay, charter, hiring....
L.Lovati: ...it wouldn't be impossible...
C.Benson: Can we explore being our own IB school?
B.Singer: ...I can only think of two examples of a public school with a charter school on the Cape ...Horace Mann...it has been done....a district elementary that went through the process of becoming a charter....
T.Brackett: Would our HS then have to be a charter school?
B.Singer:charter school discussions don't come from school committees....they might not know that this an option....their current head is retiring...they are in the process of searching....
K.Adams: They might be more receptive once this change happen.
T.Brackett: I think finding out couldn't hurt...it would be worth it to get hard answers....if it's something that they are interested in.
C.Benson: Lots of people have expressed an interest for a different HS.
B.Singer:...Maybe a CP (Career-Related Program) rather than a Diploma program might appeal to people
C.Benson: I think that people are seeing our school as a positive resource, asset,
S.Patrick: We set a precedent of what we accomplished...we are role model to our community.
T.Brackett: (to Dr. Singer)...this is a cherry on top of your career.....we should be very grateful to this lady...
S.Patrick:...we were a sinking ship...

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

8.1 OTHER BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION	<p>L.Lovati: Asked about Tony Brackett's presentation to the Board of Selectman. T.Brackett: Stated that he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gave the report for one of our articles ● Supported the need for affordable housing ● Talked about our year round population ● Referenced very negative racist comments from audience members <p>The School Committee and Dr. Singer discussed the housing situation in Provincetown and how it pertained to school families. B.Singer: We have two new Honduran families....they didn't have any trouble finding housing....this isn't the population that is having a hard time....they are figuring it out... S.Patrick: Referenced her background.....our community is constantly evolving... T.Brackett:in Nantucket...seasonal workers have decided to stay full time...so Nantucket built a 48 million dollar elementary school. B.Singer: Referenced the UU Church Racial Justice Committee in reference to addressing racial issues. C.Benson: (To Tony Brackett) I'm glad you spoke and let them know about how we feel...the town should make a public statement about this...we embrace all....</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

9. PSC Comments

DISCUSSION	<p>S.Patrick: Thanked all who have helped...parents who have yet to got to Costa Rica should help pay it forward... S.Patrick: Referenced the end of her tenure. K.Adams: Thanks to the voters for supporting our budget....thanks to Beth for a marvelous job, and thanks Shannon for 9 great years. L.Lovati:I'll just echo Shannon...thanks to Beth for her work with making the budget so clear, thanks to the town for supporting the PTA and our trip to Costa Rica...\$300 so far....\$2200 the PTA raised C.Benson: ...thank you Shannon....I look forward to being reelected...thank you Beth and the Town for supporting our school... T.Brackett:...Shannon, you've seen so much in the past 9 year...I enjoy this group...we have differences, but it's been a good group to work with....to the Town..Dr. Singer worked hard to trim the budget....very complex....saved the Town an enormous amount of money.....thank you to Beth....PTA - great job</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: C.Benson
Second: Tony Brackett
Vote: 5-0-0