

**Provincetown School Committee Meeting
Veterans Memorial Elementary School
Library Media Center – Room #73
2 Mayflower Lane
Provincetown, MA 02657**

Wednesday
January 7, 2010
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Peter Grosso, Carrie Notaro,
and Shannon Patrick.

Member Absent: Deb Trovato (excused)

Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, District Principal
Betty White, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Public Comments

Amy Germain rose to speak and said that her comments were unrelated to working for the school. She said she was speaking to support the school budget and will support it in any way that she can. She also spoke about her membership in the Recycling Committee and stated that the Town is now a member of the electric cooperative which gives us the opportunity to get better rates. She, too, feels most people forget about the solar voltaic cells and she encourages the committee to reach out to the electric cooperative. Amy said that she can volunteer to get the right people in touch with the school. She also spoke about the whispered conversations regarding having the High School closed. Amy hoped that there will be a solution soon and would like to suggest that - should the decision be made to eliminate grades 9 through 12 - she'd like the high school to be the building which is kept. It is the better building and is in better condition. She continued... "Give the VMES back to the town. We have a town hall and we've spent millions of dollars to restore it." She wants to keep the high school building.

Unfinished Business:

FY-11 School Budget Overview

Dr. Beth Singer said that she and Betty White will present the proposed budget for the New Year, FY 2011. First walk through the headings and layout – move from general to detail. There have been many shifts in the way the budget is presented, i.e., the District Principal, Kim Pike, has been moved into the Administration, etc. This culminates in an effort to develop a strong middle school and preparation for an international baccalaureate education.

Beth continued by stating that our declining enrollment mandates recommending a significant decrease in Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). She went painstakingly from column to column on the spreadsheet shown on the screen in the meeting room – detailing what each column encompassed.

During the entire presentation, Beth stopped every so often to ask if anyone had any questions.

Judging from the comments from the PSC, the current format was much easier to follow than any previous submissions and they appreciated its simplicity.

The proposed budget developed by Dr. Singer and Mrs. White was given to the PSC members for their perusal and/or suggestions or changes or questions. Any further discussions on this budget will be held at the next meeting on Wednesday, January 13th.

Beth also said that part of the cost cutting plan would have the two cafeterias merged into one which would be the one at the VMES. No particular personnel changes were discussed and any personnel issues will take place at the Thursday, January 14th Executive Session. An addition to personnel was a receptionist who would answer the phones for both buildings and would triage phone calls – s/he would also tend the locked doors at the VMES.

This budget includes other sources of revenue including revolving accounts, School Choice, and Grants. These also serve as an aid in tracking personnel and expenses. There was a great deal of thought expended in moving positions and allocations around for maximizing dollars.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Beth asked if any member of the PSC had any questions. They all thought that they'd like to go over all the material and at the January 13th meeting have their concerns answered. Peter Grosso had a question about graduation supplies and Kerry wondered about physician services. Both of these questions were satisfactorily answered. Seniors raise a lot of the money necessary for graduation and the physician services includes writing orders and giving the school medical advice in case it is warranted.

Under supplies by department, Beth has increased science supplies & textbooks in anticipation of more courses in science. Academic subjects were listed under a general category in the past and now they are identified. The MAC lab lease payment will be due in the amount of \$14,000. and the computers are now used nightly by the adult education courses as well as by students.

One of the items cited in the program review of our schools sited special education for not having things in place early enough in the year. Therefore, Beth is recommending an increase of summer time for the Special Education Director (2 weeks additional).

Beth feels that this budget is fiscally responsible and is condensed as follows:

Central Office	\$ 425,764
Veterans Memorial Elementary School	\$ 1,224,183
Provincetown High School	\$ 1,603,361
Special Education	\$ 159,657
Total:	\$ 3,412,965
Last Year:	\$ 3,556,648
Difference:	\$ (143,683)

Betty White said that this is a very new project for her and this is the best budget she's ever been involved with. Beth said that this is all set up to fold into MUNIS.

Accolades were showered all around for the work that Kim Pike, Betty White, and Beth Singer did to

pull this proposed budget together.

Peter questioned the teacher requisitions by asking, “Is this just a wish list?” Beth said that now teachers are asked for a list of what they exactly need (quantities, etc.) and it is preferable to the old way of saying, “Here’s \$200 towards whatever you need.” This way the need is definite and substantiated.

Kerry Adams asked Betty White if she could put the budget she had worked on – on a disk – just in case one of us wants to look it over. It was taken under advisement.

PSC Comments

Shannon Patrick wanted to know about the Rec Committee. Beth said that she is looking for a representative from the PSC but so far it looks as though she’s IT. Peter said that we’ll discuss this at the next meeting.

Kerry Adams said that he was intrigued with Amy’s comments regarding renewable energy. He is on the Pier Corporation and they have a turbine at the end of the wharf that was donated for free to the Pier Corp. The company who donated it wanted to measure the wind energy generated in that particular location. He wondered if the schools had anyone doing grants because he thinks that it would be a learning experience for children. We’re up on a hill and he thinks that something up here would be a great thing.

Beth said that the town is currently looking for a grant to replace all the windows at the VMES and PHS as well as other retro-fitting to the buildings.

Adjournment happened at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano
(PHS Class of 1948)

Approved by the School Committee on February 2, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson