

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

**Wednesday
January 13, 2010
5:00 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: none

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 said that she's here with the heart and hat of a town resident and also district teacher. She said that she'd like to speak about the process of the school budget. The process is that you're going line by line and then tomorrow night you'll vote to approve a budget and there's another public hearing scheduled. She encouraged people to attend the FinCom meetings, too, as well as the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meetings. Ultimately the budget doesn't become final until town meeting in April and up until then many changes can be made. The voters ultimately will speak to the budget and she hopes that everyone understands that process.

David McGlothlin, President of the PAE (union), then presented a 3+ page position paper stating the union thoughts on the impending budget process and the proposed cuts in personnel. He was given a great deal of latitude by the PSC which enabled him to speak beyond the 5 minute limit accorded to "Public Statements."

Both David and Amy were thanked for their comments and were promised that their comments would be taken under advisement.

Unfinished Business:

FY-11 School Budget Overview

Dr. Singer wanted to start by delineating the priorities of the district:

1) development of campus 2) strong middle school program 3) multi age grouping. She proposes school cafeteria consolidation. That means a decrease of one position and a savings of approximately \$30,000.

There followed an explanation on how positions were moved around by shifting some to the Central Office, etc. Beth also said that she's recommending that the District Principal have one secretary, a position also in the Central Office budget.

Since enrollments continue to decline she is making the following budgetary recommendations to the PSC in an effort to address the over staffing at both schools. Then it will be up to the PSC to make any changes they feel warranted. All Massachusetts' school budgets are mainly personnel costs. In Provincetown 81% of budget reflects personnel. This budget process is and will continue to be a painful process for all. But there is also opportunity for growth. Our recommendations are designed to strengthen the school.

Then line by line explanations were made for the changes. Both Beth and Betty White had worked long and hard on these projections and they welcomed any questions about their figures.

In defending the allocation for legal services, Beth said that the school has had 3 different legal issues to resolve this year and the expenditures have exceeded budgeted amounts for several years.

There was a question about getting onto the MUNIS system. MUNIS is free once a system is on.

The Supplies and Services budget reflects what people have asked for.

Peter Grosso wondered about the merging of the cafeterias and worried that children may get hurt walking from building to building – especially in this weather. Deb Trovato doesn't think there's any more chance of them getting hurt – any more than walking up and down the stairs at the High School.

Peter also asked, "Where do we stand with maintenance?" Beth said that there may be grants available for new windows and a new roof – in fact tomorrow the town is providing the schools with an engineer to give us assistance. Peter said that he has some things that he'd like to share with the engineer; there are certain things that he knows about the roof that can't be seen.

Beth is anticipating the need for more textbooks.

The MAC lab lease payment is in this budget – \$14K and the lab is being used 2 or 3 times/week by adults. This is staffed by local people under the auspices of the library.

Kerry asked, "How active are we as a district in writing grants?" Beth said that we've really not done anything with competitive grants. She continued by saying that we spent the 1st 3 months of our administration just cleaning up these grants. Kerry said that he would suggest having someone get involved in grant writing. He said that there is money out there.

Kim Pike said that we've had a lot of teachers who have applied for grants – and it always helps – they're small but it all helps.

At this point Beth completed her presentation and asked if anyone on the PSC had any requests for anything she might supply for the following evening's meeting. No one seemed to have any requests until they digested the budget.

Peter said that where we stand is \$200K under last year and next week is the public hearing (January 19th) and it is after the public hearing that the PSC will vote. Peter invited any member of the public to speak their opinions at the Public Hearing.

PSC Comments:

There was one main comment from the PSC and that came from Deb Trovato. She wanted to address David McGlothlin's position paper. She said that in years past she was part of a subcommittee that sat down with the PAE and it's something that she would like to see done again. It is a good way for us as a school committee to sit down and talk to the PAE – beyond negotiations– just share concerns with one another. Beth said that she has scheduled monthly meetings with the PAE and she's also had meetings with the union president. Deb expressed a desire to have more information on some of David's comments. Deb would like feedback from David directly and Carrie said that she would also volunteer to be on a subcommittee with Deb.

Motion: Move to appoint Deb Trovato and Carrie Notaro to a subcommittee to meet with David McGlothlin in order to discuss PAE issues.

Motion: Peter Grosso Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 5-0-0.

Kerry said that he is very happy with the budget format and he thinks it's good that everybody is in the room to share this.

Adjournment of the public meeting happened at 6:35 p.m.

Executive Session:

Discussion Union Contracts

Discussion Non-Union Contracts

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on _____, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson