

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

Tuesday  
February 2, 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 (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**PSC Student Rep Comments**

Brittany Dipinto, the student representative, told the group of anticipated happenings. On February 5<sup>th</sup> in the VMES Multi-Purpose Room (MP Room), a Haiti Fundraiser Movie Night is planned. The admission, snack, and drinks will be \$1/each. There will be two shows – 6:30 p.m. for preK-3 showing “*Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs*” and 8:30 p.m. for Grades 4-8 showing “*Inkheart*.”

On February 9<sup>th</sup> the Players Guild will perform *The Road to Vandalia* at 1:00p in the MP room.

February 10<sup>th</sup> is - Move up day for grade 6 from Truro - and it will be an all day event.

At the end of Brittany’s presentation, Dr. Singer mentioned an event that will be held at all three school buildings, i.e., High School, VMES, and the Center for Coastal Studies.

**Save the Date – February 11<sup>th</sup>**

February 11<sup>th</sup> is an important date for everyone to remember. The staff will be meeting with all families of Grades 4 thru 11 in the VMES Library to discuss their future plans and to ascertain the direction of the schools.

Beth said that we are inviting all parents at 6:00 p.m. on February 11<sup>th</sup> to talk about our

future and to get a sense of what our parents and students are looking for. We will provide food, baby-sitting, etc.

In March she is planning a meeting on how schools and other organizations can work together for Provincetown.

**Minutes: 12/8/2009, 1/7/2010, 1/13/2010, 1/14/2010**

**Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams      Seconded: Deb Trovato      Vote: 5-0-0.**

**Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams      Seconded: Carrie Notaro      Vote: 4-0-1 ab (DT)**

**Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> minutes.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams      Seconded: Deb Trovato      Vote: 5-0-0.**

**Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.**

**Motion: Deb Trovato      Seconded: Shannon Patrick      Vote: 3-0-2 ab (KA, CN)**

### **Superintendent's Update:**

#### **MOU Review**

Beth said that she had checked out all the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) and there are none that are outstanding at this point. Peter said he was under the impression that - at the end of the negotiations with the union FY 10 - he thought the agreement of the teachers to freeze their pay was an MOU. Peter said that we were done with negotiations and then the FinCom asked us to ask teachers to consider foregoing raises for one year.

Beth announced that she will be participating in a 10 trip to China with our school administrators from MA beginning on April 16<sup>th</sup>. She's particularly interested in getting a teacher for Chinese language and art.

Beth also said that she was hired for one year but if the PSC want her to continue she will have to apply for a critical need waiver for herself and she would be more comfortable having the request come from the school committee.

#### **Recreation Department Update**

Beth said that a meeting was held last week to explore the department's needs, etc. The meeting included the rec. dept. and the town manager as well Beth. The Town Manager needs an assessment of the actual cost of bringing the building up to code; some things have already been done. The Town Manager is doing a reassessment of all town buildings.

The Recreation Department will be having a meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in the near future. It was an interesting and passionate meeting.

Peter then asked, "Is the rec. dept. interested in coming in here – or what?"

Carrie Notaro, a member of the Recreation Committee, said that the problem is feasibility just because of all the adult programs and adults are not allowed in the schools during the school hours. They're just trying to find a happy medium.

**Unfinished Business:  
Budget FY-11 Update**

A new and final copy of the FY11 budget was handed out and it represents the changes listed in the minutes of prior meetings.

It was originally decided to eliminate a full time custodial position. Instead we will reduce two custodians to half time (.5) instead of eliminating one person.

**New Business:**

**Student Trip – Carol D'Amico**

The trip is a proposed trip to Washington, D.C. for approximately 25 students and 3 chaperones. The group would leave Provincetown on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and return on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the presentation was mainly to get permission from the PSC and the Superintendent for the proposed trip. The students taking the trip would be fifteen 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders, and five Human Rights Club students from 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The funding for the trip was widely discussed with as many ideas as the number of people involved in the discussion.

Beth worried about the ratio of chaperones to students and Deb worried about the wide age mix; 7<sup>th</sup> graders and seniors.

The idea behind the trip was educational but the timing of the planning and the funding of the trip were a bit tight.

Kerry Adams – after everyone shared their ideas – said that we're going through a lot of silliness – all they want is approval or not. Money, too, seemed on everyone's mind. Beth worried about the chicken & the egg and feels they should insist on a 100% refund stipulation; Kerry advised to look into trip cancellation insurance, and Peter with much the same concerns worried about refunds for possible cancellations. The following motion was made:

**Motion: Move to approve a Washington, D.C. trip.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams    Seconded: Shannon Patrick                    Vote: 5-0-0.**

(Beth has an issue with the age mix of the travelers and also she doesn't care for a blanket approval.) School Committee agreed that administrative oversight will continue to monitor the trip.

**Discussion MIS**

Kerry – at a prior meeting - had asked for the reason that the charge for MIS support was

so enormous. Beth said that she had spoken to Beau a couple of times. The answer: the school has access to 2 techs and the \$80K goes to the town. The amount gets added to the town's appropriation to MIS.

### **Process meeting teacher needs, supplies & texts**

This involved a rerun on teachers paying for instructional supplies and notebooks in the past. Beth doesn't know how this happened and she was asked what alternatives would teachers have for paying out of pocket? Peter said – so you want to give them an avenue to get more money? If they don't get approved do you want them to have an appeal process to come to you? Deb initially wanted the appeal process and Beth advised against it. She said it was similar to, "Ask Daddy and if he says no – then ask Mommy." Beth said that if a teacher has needs it is Beth's job to find the money somewhere. End of discussion.

### **Job Descriptions – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **School Nurse**

We don't have a lead nurse because that grant expired.

#### **Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent**

##### **- Human Resources**

Deb asked about evaluations of the position and Kerry wanted to know who would have access to CORI records. Beth surmised that they are shredded.

#### **Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent**

##### **Business & Finance**

There were questions about any follow-thru once grants are spent – and who makes sure that each grant is fully spent? The superintendent's office.

A January accounting of the enrollment of Provincetown students was handed out. The PSC will take this information under advisement.

### **PSC Comments**

Kerry said that he had recently read a sobering article on lead levels in water supplies on the Cape. He wondered if ours ever get tested and also, how is the water in the drinking fountains stored..... is it in tanks, or what? The Water Department does testing twice/year. It was decided to put this on the next meeting's agenda.

Adjournment happened at 7:05 p.m.

### **Executive Session:**

Discussion Union Contracts

Discussion Non-Union Contracts

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on March 2, 2010

---

Peter Grosso, Chairperson