

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

**Tuesday
March 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**

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

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

PSC Student Rep Comments

There were no students in attendance but Dr. Singer chose to update everyone on their behalf. Today was the birthday of Dr. Seuss and a celebration was held at VMES to honor him – complete with a birthday cake! Kim Pike said the party kicks off the reading thermometers; the children will be measuring all they read for the next two weeks. Also, all the members of the School Committee – as well as members of the community - received e-mails inviting them to visit and read to the children over the next two weeks.

The Athletic Director coordinated an alumni basketball game fund raiser for this coming Friday night.

Kim Pike said that PHS had a poetry happening; it is a nationwide event and the winner will go on to compete. Victoria Ainsworth was our winner.

Minutes: 2/2/2010 and 2/16/2010

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the February 2nd meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Carrie Notaro Vote: 5-0-0.

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the February 16th meeting as amended

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Deb Trovato Vote: 4-0-1 ab (SP)

Superintendent's Update:

Water Purity

Dr. Singer mentioned that Kerry had raised questions in the previous meeting about the purity of the drinking water in the school. Beth researched the issue and found that it's the same as all the water in town. The water is tested twice a year – there are no holding tanks for the water fountains – and whenever the water sits, i.e., over a week-end or vacation, the water is run in order to get rid of what's accumulated in the fountains. Also, Beth said, we do have filters going to our boilers to protect them from any impurities. Kerry facetiously said that he is comforted to know that the boilers are treated better than our students.

Superintendent's Work Schedule

Beth had been giving the PSC her work schedule every month BUT she just added up all the days she has worked and feels that the PSC is getting their money's worth. Her contract calls for her to work 141 days; she will exceed that as she has worked 110 days as of 3/1/10.

PAAM Happening

A group of educators participated in a 4 hour art curator session at the PAAM. Their focus was on figure drawing they wrote about a painting and then drew their own figures with a live model. Beth said that it was a great opportunity for us as professionals to learn and bond and we're looking to have other happenings. It was challenging and we do intend continuing these types of sessions.

Outreach

Beth is in the process of organizing a gathering of Provincetown professional organizations in an effort to see where we overlap and to look for opportunities where we can work to benefit everyone in the Town. Some of the organizations that will be contacted are the COA, Public Library, Coast Guard, Counter Productions, etc. It is tentatively scheduled for the last week in March and it is hoped that Napi's will be the location of the gathering.

Haverhill meeting

The PSC has been invited to a meeting in Haverhill which will focus on the new ethics laws and the open meeting laws.

Unfinished Business:

Job Descriptions – 2nd Reading

Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent –
Business & Finance

Motion: Move to accept the job description as written.

Motion: Carrie Notaro Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 5-0-0.

**PSC Policy (District): ACAB Sexual Harassment,
Bullying & Hazing 2nd Reading**

There were a few questions raised on responsibility for reporting – does it have to be the child or an adult witness to the infraction? When all questions were satisfied it was moved to a vote. The policy will be included in our students' and staff handbooks.

Motion: Move to accept the policy effective immediately.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Deb Trovato Vote: 4-0-1 ab (SP)

(Carrie requested that “/guardian” be added to the word “parent” in section 9.)

New Business:

2010-11 School Calendar Review

The front side of the calendar holds the 2010-2011 School Year and the back side of the calendar contains the 2010-2011 Academic Calendar. Both Beth and Kim have been working with the Executive Board of the PAE on this review and now it is the PSC's court.

Motion: Move to accept the calendar as presented.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Carrie Notaro Vote: 5-0-0.

Proposed School Hours for 2010-2011

The conversation is about beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 3:00; PHS will have five one hour classes and one 1 ½ hour class which includes two lunch periods.

Peter wondered how this will work with the buses and the Truro students and he also was interested in how the teachers might feel about it. The teachers were enthused because they prefer longer periods and also feel that adolescents learn better with a later start to their day. Beth said that she wasn't looking for a motion for approval because she first wants to run this opportunity by Truro first. Beth will bring it back next meeting.

Job Description – 1st Reading

Paraprofessionals

A few minor corrections were made but no vote was taken as this was the first reading of the job description. Beth also said that this was probably the last job description.

PSC Comments

Deb Trovato wanted to know the whys of needing a waiver to renew Beth's contract. Peter Grosso said that he was told that you can apply for a waiver – but according to the guidelines – we have to do a search. Then after the search is completed a waiver form is written.

Deb also said that she wants a waiver for sports put on the next agenda. There is a petition now for the MIAA but they won't make a decision until July 11th. She would like her son to remain in the Provincetown public schools but be able to play sports elsewhere. Beth explained that the rules that the MIAA have discourage recruiting by larger schools; the rules are made for the vast majority of schools and aren't responsive to what we need.

Deb had yet another question regarding how stipends are handled for coaches, bus drivers, and people who wear two hats and do two functions. Beth will look into the

issue and report back to the school committee.

Deb and Kim Pike are collaborating on designing a logo for the organization Vets Fish Provincetown and when it's designed it will be put on a website which will have hats, t-shirts, etc. for sale. The design will be completed at the end of the day on Monday.

Peter Grosso asked about the trip to Washington that the PSC had approved. Beth said that the trip is now being planned for the end of May or early June; they are still fine tuning the plan. Beth who has final approval said that they have to be able to raise the money to go. Also they found a hotel that sleeps 4 or 5 in a room but it is still not all completed as a package.

Shannon Patrick wondered if - under public comments – do the people ever get an answer to their questions? Peter G. said that we sometimes address the issue at a future meeting.

Kerry Adams said that he was asked about a job fair this year? Do we have job applications – or anything related to this? Kerry was also asked about the possibility having a studio in the school to practice doing broadcasting, etc. A radio station would probably be the starting point.

Kerry asked if we have any idea what the adult education will look like next year? Beth said that it's on her radar.

Carrie held up a poster for a fund raiser the PTA is doing on Friday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m. at VMES. Information will be sent home on March 8th.

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 23RD – 5:00 P.M.

(There will also be an Executive Session.)

Adjournment happened at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on March 23, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson