

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

Tuesday
July 21, 2009
4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Vice Chair; Peter Grosso, Chair,
Carrie Notaro; Shannon Patrick; and Debra Trovato.

Members Absent: none

Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, District Principal

Others: Carol D'Amico, Petra Farias, Mr. Hadley,
John Hanlon, David McGlothlin, and John White.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

Mr. Hadley, who has two children who are students at the school and a daughter who graduated, volunteered to be on the search committee for the new superintendent and principal. Should we have the good fortune to go through this process again he said that it is imperative not to make the same mistakes that we made this time. There must be transparency and you must be role models. He said that his son was asked to be one of the students on the search committee and he refused the honor. When asked by his dad, Mr. Hadley, why he didn't join the search committee, he said, "Jessica Waugh won't listen to anyone and just does whatever she wants."

Mr. Hadley continued by saying that the search committee was told that they would have 2 rounds of interviews; the search committee was a group of 14 people. He took 2½ days off from work to conduct the first round of interviews. We were overly impressed with the current Superintendent but Jessica W. said that she couldn't possibly do a second round of interviews before July 1st. When asked about the two internal candidates, Ms. Waugh said that they were eliminated based on background checks and that was why they never got a shot at a 2nd interview. Those particular candidates were on the list for a 2nd interview. Two days before we met they made an offer to give us a written plan for implementation. Ms. Waugh called staff members and she told them that the meeting was illegal. Mr. Hadley really wanted to participate fully and he feels work needs to be done to mend fences. You need to have open communication with all of us. He's a parent and a lawyer and fully respects both the law and his rights as a parent.

Minutes: April 15th, May 6th, May 12th, May 28th, June 2nd, May 19th, June 24th, and July 7th.
Carrie Notaro wants to make a motion that we get only one set of minutes. She was referring to the

April 6th minutes which have already been approved. April 6th referred to the sick days donated by Jessica Waugh. At the time of the meeting, Peter Grosso had to check to see if this were legal to do. Shannon Patrick wants to table these formerly approved minutes?

April 15th Minutes

Motion: Move to approve as amended. The amendment was that the chair at that time was Terese Nelson and Carrie Notaro had been elected but had not been sworn in as yet..... thus the attendees have to be corrected.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Peter Grosso Vote: 4-0-1 ab (CN)

May 6th Minutes

Motion: Move to approve as amended. This amendment also had to do with a correction to the attendees.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: Approved by all.

May 12th Minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes as amended. These minutes seemed to have the most corrections, i.e., Peter Grosso (pg 1) made the motion to name Carrie Notaro secretary; change Ms. Trovato asked for the school to consider stopping becomes: Ms. Trovato suggested maybe 1 vacation could be without homework because kids need downtime, too; next pgh, Ms. Trovato stated she considers the amount of mail being sent home to be considerable; last page – strike 2nd pgh and replace it with “Superintendent Waugh asked about donating her sick leave and Peter Grosso said that he’d look into it with the school attorney.”

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: Approved by all.

May 19th minutes

Motion: Move to accept with correction dealing with the start time of the meeting; change it to 4:00 p.m. and mention that DT was tardy. Under new business both 6.1 and 6.2 really happened on May 28th. Under 6.2 state “if the sport is not offered.”

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: Approved by all.

May 28th minutes

Motion: Move to approve with a few corrections. First the meeting place was incorrect and the meeting happened in the library, also they voted to approve the donation of the sick days....Peter Grosso said that because it is a policy he asked the Superintendent if this should be an official policy and we’ll bring it up under old business. Right now it’s really not official.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: Approved by all.

June 2nd minutes

Motion: Move to approve with a few corrections: Add that John White was present. There were 7 golf kids and 9 soccer kids and DT voted against it. Debra passed out copies of the proposed rule changes regarding eligibility.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: Approved by all.

June 24th minutes

Motion: Move to approve with corrections. Debra T. said that 6.2 wasn’t what she was told so we

tabled the whole thing. Shannon was not in attendance. 6.4 Kerry A. made a motion to approve but the bus policy wasn't in there yet.

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

July 7th minutes

Debra wanted one of her suggestions regarding the job descriptions put into the minutes but since the job descriptions were going to be redone anyway – her suggestions weren't included.

Motion: Move to table the minutes of the July 7th meeting.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote 4-0-1 ab (PG)

(Beth Singer said that she would like the suggestions relating to job descriptions e-mailed to her.)

Boys Varsity Soccer Proposed Overnight Road Games

John White, the Athletic Director, presented a proposal for 4 overnight soccer road games. They would occur on September 25th and 26th and then again on October 23rd and 24th. There will be 12 or 14 children and 2 coaches on the two trips which would leave on Fridays and return on Saturday. John said that he would like to have teams that the children can comfortably compete with. The coach will also be the bus driver. Deb Trovato asked about the cost and John said that they are going to try fund raising to pay for the hotel. The rates are attractive (~\$50/night) and he feels the boys can share rooms. The question also came up, “what if they can't raise the money?” Answer: John said that he also has an athletic revolving account and he would request permission to remove some money from it for the trip.

Motion: Move to approve the schedule for the soccer overnight road games.

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

The superintendent asked if the girls' soccer team had been offered the same opportunity? Answer: Not yet – maybe next year after we see how it goes.

Golf

John White has also contacted the golf course and their golf pro, Jim Knowles, said that if any students were interested in golf – just contact him and they'd work something out.

Debra T. asked if the Elmer Silver financing were still available? This was unknown. One of the big problems is that golf would interfere with soccer since there are so few eligible students.

John also said that he's not too optimistic about the Mayflower League accepting Provincetown. We don't have football, hockey, etc. but Mr. White said that he's not discouraging anything. He doesn't know if we want to be in it – because we may not be competitive in that league. The worst thing a coach can do is to just go out daily and have the team beat up - so he wouldn't want to put his athletes in that position – Mayflower is just too big from us. We're in the lighthouse league and Nantucket is, too, and that's the answer on why we keep playing Nantucket.

Beth Singer asked if there are any co-op leagues in hockey teams. Answer: It ended up folding – we were paying half the amount and had only one student from here involved so it wasn't sensible for us to continue. Mr. White said that you have to have two groups that are struggling because of numbers to make a coop league work..

John Hanlon's Field Trips

The October 17-18 Race Point Lighthouse Trip was discussed first. Mr. Hanlon teaches

Environmental Sciences and this trip seemed like an ideal opportunity to learn more about solar panels, wind turbines, and water filtration systems. This proposal was enthusiastically received. Carrie Notaro suggested that John H. could make a proposal for help from the PTA at their first meeting in September; Carrie also volunteered to provide transportation over the beach to the lighthouse. She can seat about 8 people.

Motion: Move to approve the Race Point Lighthouse Trip for Oct. 17 & 18.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Carrie Notaro Vote: 5-0-0.

The Sept 17 – 22nd Yellowstone National Park Trip was discussed next. The cost would be approximately \$800/student and would be available to 6 students. They have been fund raising but their efforts are ongoing. Most of the committee felt that it was a very ambitious trip and they wondered why it had to be done so soon. There were valid reasons for the timing but it still seemed cost prohibitive. Mr. Hanlon has already reserved a cabin in his name and paid for that but he said that shouldn't be a consideration. He said he would pay for the whole thing himself with reimbursement from fund raising at a future date but he was cautioned against that.

Beth Singer wondered aloud about where the cart and horse belonged, i.e., shouldn't the money be in place and then the trip planned???? Shannon also thought that the kids should raise most of the money themselves. After these comments the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to approve the trip to Yellowstone National Park without a specific date.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Carrie Notaro Vote: 5-0-0.

Unfinished Business:

2009-10 School Year Master Schedule

The new superintendent, Beth Singer, said she has been searching for a master schedule. She also said that the elementary school hasn't been done at all. She has found conflicting pieces of evidence; we have teachers' schedules that were printed and Alma has nothing. Petra Farias, the guidance counselor, was told that everyone was given a copy of the schedules in June. Peter Grosso said that the teachers' assignments were given out.

There was a bit of a discussion on teaching assignments and Beth S. wants it put on the agenda for the next school board meeting.

Motion: Move to table the master teaching schedule for a later meeting.

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

PSC Policy: School Lunch Charging

This subject, too, spawned a lot of discussion with the final conclusion being: The lunch issue will be closely monitored by the school administration for the months of September and October 2009 and around the first of November a final determination will be made as to how to proceed.

Pre-School Bus Policy Review – 2nd Reading

Peter Grosso told the board that it voted illegally because there's a policy which states that you can't vote on a policy until the second reading.

Motion: Move to rescind the last vote on the bus policy.

Motion: Peter Grosso Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0.

Motion: Move to approve the bus policy as written.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0

PAE Job Descriptions

Margaret Phillips and Jessica Waugh were going to do the job descriptions together. David McGlothlin, the union president, when asked for his input said that the school system develops the job descriptions and then they come to the union who is asked if they are acceptable to them. It wasn't done the way it was supposed to be done. The School Board goes to the union with the job descriptions and as the union President, he's not doing job descriptions because it's not his job to write up the job descriptions for the schools.

Carol D'Amico, the union treasurer, said that she would like to see some of these job descriptions, too.

The new superintendent restored calm to all by saying, "Tear up all versions, copies, whatever of the job descriptions that are floating around and I will begin working on them immediately." She will then send out each one as it is completed. She also said that this is a typical example of the confusion she has faced over the last two weeks.

Everyone agreed to stop talking about what used to be and to start fresh from this moment on.....

Motion: Move to accept the donation of Jessica Waugh's sick days.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Debra Trovato Vote: 5-0-0.

Discussion Financial Policies

Motion: Move to table the discussion for another meeting.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 5-0-0.

New Business:

Discussion regarding communication with school committee attorney

Shannon Patrick said that there was a circumstance and she wanted to consult with the school's attorney. She was told that she had to be given permission to consult with him from either the superintendent or the chair of the school board. She resented the word "permission" and stated that repeatedly. The superintendent said that – since there are 7 people (5 on board and 2 in administration) who could seek answers from the attorney it only makes sense that the funnel should be narrowed for approaching the attorney. Shannon maintained that it was a personal matter but school related. The answer was the same – get permission after stating the problem.

Motion: Move to accept the policy just discussed regarding consulting the school's attorney as it should be a committee decision on who will access.

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

Adjournment happened at 7:20 p.m.

Executive Session:

Discussion Non-Union Contracts

Respectfully submitted,
E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on _____, 2009

Peter Grosso, Chairperson