

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

Tuesday
August 18, 2009
4:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Carrie Notaro (excused)

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

Others: David McGlothlin and Pru Sowers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

David McGlothlin asked to speak regarding comments that Mr. Hadley had made at the last meeting. David has served on at least four search committees and he said that they did have input; he also said that all members of the committee had questions and collectively decided on the questions to ask the applicants. They looked at every resume and then they chose the candidates. He felt the process was very open and everyone was involved. This was the most open interview process he has ever seen.

July 7th, 2009 minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the July 7th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams **Seconded:** Debra Trovato **Vote:** 3-0-1 ab (PG)

July 21, 2009 minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the July 21st meeting as amended.

Motion: Debra Trovato **Seconded:** Kerry Adams **Vote:** 4-0-0.

Superintendent's Update:

5.1 Master Schedules:

VMES, 5/6 Program, PHS

Dr. Singer said that they actually have 3 schedules and have made structural changes. She began by explaining her rationale and also cited that she had very little time to plan prior to the opening of school. She and Kim Pike had focused on prioritizing math and English. Also all students (elementary and high school) will begin the day at 7:45 a.m. with an end to the school day at 2:15

p.m. They have also put in combined classes and tried to equalize and maximize their strengths. They feel that they've created a very exciting 5th and 6th grade program and have eliminated some academic classes that had limited enrollment. Next year we will begin this process again in February for the following year and at that time we'd like to move the school day to 8:00 a.m.

Debra Trovato asked about recess and was told that the children will have one but it will have flexibility – up to the teacher's discretion. Kim said that this schedule isn't perfect but still has to be shaken down.

At this point, Kim took over the schedule discussion and had even more detail by following along with the hand-out schedules.

Some of the school committee members asked about the language requirements for different colleges. They were told that UMass would like to see 3 years of a foreign language but each college has its own requirements.

No special needs schedules have been completed since they have to be so very specific depending on the needs that are presented.

Both administrators stressed the need for flexibility and Beth also envisions high school students helping elementary school students.

Debra wondered how all this information would be getting disseminated to parents. Kim said that she is putting together a letter to be sent out to parents detailing all the schedules.

Personnel Update

Dr. Singer said that they have hired a .8 math teacher and are in the process of doing some reassignments. Then the school nurse position was discussed. A grant had been received for \$40K which wasn't enough to hire a full time nurse; a position which requires specific qualifications. Right now some juggling is going on in an attempt to achieve full coverage.

Superintendent's Schedule

Dr. Singer gave the School Committee her work schedule for July and August and said that she would update it a month in advance for them.

Unfinished Business

Job Description – School Psychologist

A job description for a school psychologist was handed out to the members for their input on format, etc. In the future several job descriptions at a time will be developed for everyone's opinion. Peter Grosso worried that .5 positions (half-time) would not get any benefits. He was told by Dr. Singer that the holders of the part time positions would be eligible for benefits.

Motion: Move to accept the School Psychologist position as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Debra Trovato Vote: 4-0-0.

New Business:

FluMist Vaccination

Earlier in the summer Dr. Parker Small had made a presentation to the School Committee regarding

the upcoming flu season and made a strong plea for early action since children were the most susceptible to the spread of the flu virus. Dr. Singer with a lot of help from Jane Evans, the health agent, is orchestrating a program to get all elementary students a FluMist vaccination. It will be offered free to the elementary school children. It is not being offered to the High School students because it could prove dangerous to anyone pregnant since the vaccine consists of a live virus. It will only give you limited protection from seasonal flu and is not a vaccine protecting against the H1N1 flu. The H1N1 vaccination will not be available until some time in October or November.

The school nurse will review the permission paper that the parent completed and determine whether it's feasible for the child to receive the FluMist.

Patricia Pajaron from the Truro health department has made arrangements to have Truro's elementary school students receive the FluMist at Truro's Community Center.

After a bit more discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to endorse the FluMist vaccine for Provincetown elementary school students.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Peter Grosso Vote: 4-0-0.

Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining

Adjournment at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on September 8, 2009

Peter Grosso, Chairperson