

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

Tuesday
September 8, 2009
4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Vice Chair; Peter Grosso, Chair,
Carrie Notaro, Shannon Patrick (arr 4:55p);
and Debra Trovato.

Members Absent: none

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

Others: Lou Preziosi, Athletic Director, and others

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

AGENDA

Public Comments

Lou Preziosi, the Athletic Director, thanked the group for welcoming him and feels he's privileged to be here. He felt that by tomorrow, the first day of school, he'd be able to give the Committee a better understanding on where we stood. He said that he had 10 students on each team (boys and girls soccer) and in the student assembly which will take place tomorrow, he will be asking the District Principal, Kim Pike, to make an announcement regarding sports. This coming Saturday they kick off the season at a home game with Mashpee. He also will be meeting with a volunteer, Karen Silva regarding selling food at the games.

Debra T. asked if the games would be varsity level. Lou P. said that we were thinking about a combined program or varsity level. This has yet to be determined.

Minutes:

August 18, 2009

Motion: Move to accept the minutes as amended.

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

Carrie Notaro asked why the schools are anticipating opening later (8:00 a.m.) for the next school year. One answer was that there's a large tardy problem and adolescent brains work better later; the school day would be extended until 2:30 p.m. Peter G. said that they also want to align the two schools; lunch will be at the same time for both schools.

Superintendent's Update:

5.1 Memorandum of Agreement

Kim Pike and Beth Singer put this together and said that the police were excited about having this agreement as it is a statement of how we will cooperate with one another and communicate with one another. It will become (in reduced form) part of the student's handbook.

Kerry A. said that in the past there was a DARE officer in school at all times. Beth S. said that the plan is for Marty Menangas to become our Resource Officer and he will be available full time IF needed. It will be spontaneous as well as planned.

Debra T. wanted to know if the disciplinary rules in the handbook will be much the same, i.e., we have a chart of 3 offenses, etc. Beth S. said that we're not changing the handbook for this year BUT we will be redoing the handbook for next year and this will be in a line with that. The three levels of offenses is confusing concerning expellable offenses.

Kerry A. was ready to make a motion to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Police Department. Peter G. said that since this is our first reading, we'll have to vote on it at the next meeting. It will be put on the next agenda.

Carrie N. wanted to know the process for kids being hurt. The first person will respond to the injury so it doesn't have to be – "Go get Beth" Beth S. said we all need to come together about this issue and that in an emergency situation that is severe, a 911 call should be made first.

5.2 Recreation Department/VMES Coop after school program

Beth S. said we talked a little bit about it and we've formed a partnership with the Recreation Department; the after school program will be staffed by 3 people. One of them will be Brandon Motta along with someone from the Rec. Dept. and perhaps a teacher will be called in. The superintendent assured the group that it's not only a baby sitting program and we'll provide snacks as well. She feels it's a good partnership of schools and rec. and is hoping to have some enrichment activities, i.e., yoga, etc.

Kim P. said that the program won't be limited and also said that Beth Francis has done a lot of work on this along with another parent.

Carrie N. worried about a sliding scale and she would like to make it as affordable as possible. Beth said if we don't generate the income to pay a person we'll try to subsidize it. Kim P. said if they have a program that generates a lot of money – you just move funds over to the less popular happening so that it will even out.

Shannon P. wondered if there were any volunteers that might help? Beth S. said that – what we're providing – in addition to the facility – is one paid person.

Kerry A. asked, "We're providing an employee?" Answer: "We will pay a staff person and we will have a teacher from 2:30 – 3:00 and that's how we're going to keep the groups separate. There will still be a homework club.

Beth said that the greatest thing is that kids will go home free from homework

5.3 Personnel Update:

→ School Nurse

A .6 – 3 dys/wk school nurse has been hired and the days that she is not here – the high school nurse, Donna O'Brien, will cover.

→ Secretary, Special Needs Dept.

The school has had a very recent resignation in this position and so Kim was interviewing people today. She said that she'll probably have more to interview. Peter G. said that he had a person that he recommends and she has a special needs background. Her name was given to Kim P.

5.4 Computer Lab

Beth S. said that our tech people have spent the past week creating a MAC lab at the high school. The former high school computer lab has been relocated to the VMES Media Center. The equipment that had been in the media center can now be found distributed among the classrooms in the building.

Debra T. asked, "We're all set with money for this?" Beth S. replied, "This was an offer by Apple – it's a 3 year lease and there's no payment at this time." Kerry A. said, "It sounds too good to be true!"

Beth continued saying that leasing is the way to go because by the time the lease is up – the equipment is outmoded. MACs do all sorts of things, i.e., publications, videos, etc.

Carrie N. wanted to know how this will benefit the teachers in the classroom. She said she didn't want to see any faculty member on Facebook!

5.5 Performance Assessment Project

At the end of last year we had an audit conducted to see how we were doing. We are now in the process of creating a response in areas where we need to improve. Beth S. estimates that this will occupy a whole lot of time within the next couple of weeks. She also said that we will be bringing that before you in the near future. This response is all done electronically and we can e-mail this to you as we work on it. Beth asked, "Did you each receive a copy of the report?" Shannon said that she would like another copy and most of the committee agreed to having the Performance Assessment Project e-mailed to them.

6. Unfinished Business:

Debra Trovato had two issues:

1. We had questions about a .5 position and wanted to ascertain that .5s don't have to go to .6 to get benefits. That was deemed correct.
2. She had taken the April 9th minutes and presented them to the committee for a vote.

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the April 9th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 4-0-1 ab (CN)

(Debra Trovato has the minutes on her computer and will be sending the amended minutes to Alma Welsh so that they can be posted on the town's website.)

Shannon Patrick then asked who would be in charge if both Kim P. and Beth S. were out at the same time. Beth S. said that she could always be reached and it might be the Athletic Director who would

be in charge. Also, citing her work history in Northhampton, she said that many times none of the administrators were in the building.

Kerry A. said it would be nice to know someone is in charge.

Shannon P. insisted on knowing who would be making decisions. Beth said it would depend on what was presented that couldn't wait. Shannon and Carrie N. referred to an incident that had happened in the past and Shannon said she couldn't talk more specifically.

6.1 Other

Carrie Notaro wanted to know what happened to the **lunch policy dilemma**. She was asked to go to the previous minutes where it was stated that the lunch issue would be monitored during September and October and then a policy would be decided upon in November based on the data collected.

7. New Business:

There was a line item transfer for \$1K for the **superintendent's conference travel**. It will be coming from the high school to the superintendent's office. There was a retirement of a math teacher and a lesser priced one was hired, thus the \$1K excess.

Motion: Move to approve the line item transfer for \$1,000 for the Superintendent's conference travel.

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

Debra Trovato had a question. "Where will Beth Singer's salary be coming from?" It was thought that this had been voted on at a prior meeting but just to make sure another motion was made.

Motion: Move to transfer \$23,000 to the line item for the superintendent's salary. Initially the superintendent had been hired for a 1-day week but when the position became a 3-day week the additional amount of \$23K had to be funded.

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

7.1 Other

Kim Pike was thanked for the great letter she sent out to parents encouraging children to get enough sleep, listen to their parents, etc.

The main meeting adjourned by popular vote at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on September 22, 2009

Peter Grosso, Chairperson

8. Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining